

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, June 20, 2019 – 7 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. with Commissioner Dooley presiding.

ROLL CALL: Dooley (Present), Thomopoulos (Absent), Joshi (Present), Muzzin (Absent), Pratt (Present), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Alex Fortsch (Present), Ananya Kamalesh (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved that the agenda be approved as amended by Commissioner Pratt and seconded by Commissioner Torimoto.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of May 16, 2019, minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for May be approved by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Joshi.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Muzzin & Thomopoulos
Director Muck said the committee was scheduled to meet tonight, but the meeting was pushed back to July while a report is being updated. Commissioners will need to be temporarily appointed to this committee since Commissioners Muzzin and Thomopoulos' terms finish at the end of June. Temporary appointment would last until October and the July meeting could be the only one the temporary appointee may have to attend.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto
Commissioner Torimoto said the June meeting was canceled. Commissioner Staab reminded everyone Pour on the Shore is Friday, Aug. 2. It will be different this year with not only food trucks, beer and wine, but also bourbon. The last Foundation meeting was in May and we were looking good on sponsors. Foundation President David Landry made a presentation to City Council in May awarding/donating monies to the City for the play structure at ITC Community Sports Park and monies for pickleball courts. Director Muck said one initiative the Foundation wanted was to allow for online giving, so the Parks Foundation website now has a spot for people to donate specifically to Villa Barr Art Park, the Tim Pope play structure, youth scholarships, general projects or to anything else, as well as the option to donate in remembrance of somebody. It's up and running through PayPal. As Commissioner Staab mentioned, the Parks Foundation committed to fund up to \$150,000 for the Tim Pope play structure, so we're more than willing to accept personal donations for that project. Muck said he and Landry went to ITC headquarters today to meet with ITC staff to recap the last 10 years of the

naming rights agreement for ITC Community Sports Park. We outlined all the different projects the Parks Foundation has contributed to across the city, from Villa Barr to Pavilion Shore, to artwork, the playground at Power Park, ITC Trail and scholarships for youth. There was a lot of different items we were able to show them where their money has gone and had a productive conversation on future naming rights and projects they might be interested in. Commissioner Torimoto asked if the PayPal marketing would be passive or blasted out? Muck said it just got up and running within the past week and there are a few kinks to get worked out, but there will be more social media blasts.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Joshi

Commissioner Dooley said there wasn't a meeting tonight.

Director Muck said he emailed out earlier today. The Recreation Passport program is the sticker you can opt in to put a sticker on your license plate to get you into all the state parks. It's an opt in that started in 2010 as a recommendation as a more stable funding source for state parks and to support local recreation projects. It was done because there is a decaying state park infrastructure and a need for more local park infrastructure. Legislators approved it as an opt in, not an opt out, so you have to check a box if you want to purchase it. The fee at the time was \$10, but there was a consumer price index clause, so it's now \$11. They've seen participation rates increase from 24 percent to now 33 percent, which has provided \$5 million to now \$13 million via \$632,000 to now \$1.6 million for local recreation grants. We unfortunately haven't seen any of that in Novi. We have applied for that, but haven't gotten it. If you're talking \$1.6 million spread across local parks and rec agencies across the state, it's a very minimal amount, which is partially why we didn't get funded for Tim Pope. There are some legislations coming forward that would change it to an opt out basis, which would increase funding to local state parks and trails. Initial estimates they're putting out say it could increase participation up to 50 percent. That would increase current state park funding from \$13 million to more than \$24 million, so we're talking a significant increase. Officials are saying moving to opt out would increase funding for local recreation grants from \$1.6 million to \$4.7 million. It is being spearheaded by a couple legislators. Muck said he sits on the state association's Public Policy Committee and they'll be meeting next Wednesday to talk about this and roll out more information. We'll push that out to commissioners for your input and, if you choose to advocate, that's your prerogative.

Commissioner Pratt said he approves of that program.

Commissioner Dooley says he has the Recreation Passport sticker.

D. Parks Updates

Commissioner Dooley explained monthly park updates to the audience and how the commissioners visit different parks each month on a rotating schedule.

1. Lakeshore Park – Commissioner Joshi

2. Power Park – Commissioner Staab

Commissioner Staab said he was at Power Park a week ago Sunday when it was dry. He started at the back and came forward. The play structure was in a good state of repair and people were having fun. The Parks Foundation contributed to the poured-in-place surfacing. Director Muck said it's the only poured-in-place surfacing in Novi parks. Staab said the park was very active and a tournament was going on that week. The fields were in pristine shape. He said he spoke with several people participating in the tournament Sunday and all they could do

was sing the accolades of how well the facility was kept, the fields were kept and how they love coming to Novi. Staab pointed out the shade structures and mentioned the concession stands were open and quite busy. He also took pictures of some of the supporters there with Escape Room, Provident Dentistry and Tom Holzer Ford, a naming rights sponsor. All in all, it was in good shape, had good activity and was busy. He spoke to people from Hartland and Downriver, so it was very diversified.

3. Wildlife Woods Park – Commissioner Pratt (May)

Commissioner Pratt said the sign is the only thing that distinguishes between Wildlife Woods and everything else there. There's nothing that says there is two fields back there, directional signage or wayfinding signage. There were 3-4 people out there golfing, taking practice swings, so maybe posting some rules or directional signage. He said he's spent a lot of time out there for his daughter with the middle school softball team, but there's no easy way to get to the fields. Visiting teams didn't know which field to go to. The middle school could also improve there, as well. There was someone out there doing golfing lessons and Pratt said he's got a whole bag of golf balls. There were some ruts that were still out there recently. Now that the school year has completed, people shouldn't be driving back to the fields. But there's no sign that says you can't drive back there to drop off your equipment. It needs a little bit of TLC. The trash cans out there are the rusted ones. Electrical boxes were not exposed throughout the whole thing. The whole park was clean, but a refresher on the cans would be good. There's a stump that people were tripping over or snagging things on. The cement under the shelter looks like it has some work going on there and out in the field. The ball diamonds were very wet. He said he's not sure if there is any drainage on the lower diamond. The higher diamond was fine.

4. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Pratt (Feb.)

Commissioner Pratt said this park was well groomed and well maintained. He said there was one picnic table out there and a lot of people were sitting in the grass. Pratt said there should probably be more amenities out there than a picnic table since a lot of people like to walk back there along the trail. There's not a lot of mulch left at the trees back there. It looks like they've been raked, cleaned and cleared, but he doesn't know if they plan to replace the mulch. The trail was very nice and new rocks had been laid down. He said he liked the way the whole park looked. It's a beautiful landscape and a hidden gem actually. Pratt said there appears to be a net out there where people are catching fish. He lives on the lake, so he asked his neighbors and they said there's a guy who throws out a net and comes back after 2-3 days and reels them all in and walks away. Pratt said his neighbors have said a few dogs have gotten caught in the net when they go to try and bathe. Director Muck said that may be a call for the DNR. Pratt said the DNR doesn't maintain inland lakes and ponds except for larger ones like Walled Lake. Muck said if the guy is fishing without proper gear or a state license, then it could be a DNR issue. Pratt said local police would first look into it, then call the DNR hotline and DNR would take it from there. He said DNR cannot just show up. All the neighbors keep it all nice. Way back it was almost high rises, but he likes that it was instead turned into a park. He said neighbors would like a connection to Meadowbrook Road through the wetlands. Director Muck said a lot is coming up at Wildlife Woods. Info was posted to the website, too. There will be a memo coming from Chris Jackett Friday with info about what's going on at the park. In a nutshell, there's a new development

going in north of Wildlife Woods Park. As part of that development, the developer requested to build an access road into the existing gas and oil well out there. That would need to be on park property. We agreed to it because he agreed to build a new parking lot in the field below the shelter. With Wildlife Woods, there's not parking by the shelter, so we'll have a new road coming in for picnickers off of Wixom Road to access Wildlife Woods. The new parking lot will include signage, so we'll have a new Wildlife Woods Park sign off Wixom Road, with park rules and directional signage, as well. We'll also be adding those at the school lot, but hopefully directing people more to the lot at the shelter. We also have plans to put in pickleball courts at Wildlife Woods by the shelter and part of that is being funded by the Parks Foundation.

~~5. Rotary Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos/Student Rep. Fortsch (May)~~

6. ITC Community Sports Park – Commissioner Dooley (Apr.)

Commissioner Dooley said this report was supposed to happen in April, but it was very, very wet in April. Dooley said he wanted to commend the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services employees who take care of ITC Community Sports Park. They had a very difficult job and probably a lot of tears. Every weekend, families and soccer was out there and it was always an issue. They were predicting a sunny weekend and it rained. It'd be sunny in the afternoon after 2.5 inches of rain. Despite that, the soccer and baseball season went off tremendously. Greg Morris, Chase Root and others did a tremendous job. When you see them next, give them a pat on the back or shake their hand. Despite everything, they had a tremendous season. Dooley said he went out there in May. He displayed images of the park and signage. He said it was very well marked. The beacon at the front tells a nice story. The fields are marked very, very well for those coming to play from out of town. Dooley showed images the City Explorer Girl Scout project and of the sponsor fencing, and said Commissioner Staab is among those listed on the fencing. He said he noticed the treasure chest on the playground was marked as "1997" for the year the playground was built. Dooley said the playground was pretty close to being immaculate. He said the library exchange is a great idea and you see it in a few different parks throughout the community. Dooley said he believes it's now set up where, if you call 911 from the park, it'll go to Novi dispatch instead of one of the surrounding communities. Dooley said any good sunny day in the City of Novi, the fields were manicured correctly. The grass may have been a little long, but no one complained. The fact that there wasn't a lot of standing water was a testament to the City of Novi. Dooley showed a picture of volunteers from Dooley Dog Day and said they cooked more than 1,000 hot dogs. The smile on the face of a youngest or even a part is our way of saying "thank you." He said neighboring towns were playing with Novi teams and those parents came up and thanked us for the conditions of our fields compared to the condition their fields were in. There's a reason people come to Novi and see the condition of our fields and our parks. He said we live in a great city and should be very proud of that.

Commissioner Staab thanked Commissioner Dooley for sponsoring Dooley Dog Day. Dooley said it's always a joy.

Commissioner Torimoto verified there are tennis courts at that park.

Commissioner Dooley said they're well maintained. Torimoto said he's playing in the City tennis league and it's hard to get courts. There are some courts at Rotary, but Torimoto asked how heavily used the courts at ITC CSP are? Director Muck said they're not as heavily used as at Rotary, but they'll be putting down

some pickleball lines this fall as a test pilot. They won't be putting pickleball lines down at Rotary. Both Rotary and ITC tennis courts are scheduled for resurfacing and crack repair if it ever stops raining. Dooley said you could play on those courts right now and you wouldn't have an issue. Torimoto says he remembers them being in pretty good condition.

Commissioner Joshi asked what was on the sign. Commissioner Dooley it was something to signify where the party was.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. NRPA Parks Matrix Comparison

Director Muck said there was a proclamation from Monday's City Council meeting of July as Parks and Recreation Month. He read the proclamation in full and passed it around the dais for viewing. Muck said what he's presenting tonight is looking at how we measure up nationally and about National Recreation and Park Association parks metrics. This is annual agency-submitted compilation of budget size, optimal staffing and revenues generated from agency activities. The agency performance review is a customized report looking at an agency in comparison to all other agencies responding to the survey and agencies that serve a similar population density. The data in this review was derived from 2016-18 data in the database and formed a matrix of information comparing our department's agency to national averages. Muck showed statistics on parkland and how we serve people. It does not include our parks maintenance team of seven people because those are measured separately. We're talking about our programming and administration staff. Muck said you can see we in Novi do more with less. Full-time staff per 10,000 residents we have two and the national average is 8.3. Our programs are more highly attended on average, we have more residents per park and, where we really exceed the national average, is we have more acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Moving into some spending and operations with cost recovery, our park operating expenditures are significantly less with the national average. When you're hearing our parks are well maintained, you can see how we're doing so much more than less with the national average. Operating expenditures per acre of parkland, we're very low compared to our peers; per capita, as well. We bring in more revenue per capita than our peers and, when you look at revenue as percentage of operating expenditures, we almost double what other agencies do. We don't have that big operating millage that other departments of comparable sizes have, we operate off our program revenues and bring in a significant amount of revenue as cost recovery. To touch again on CAPRA as a reminder, it'll be coming and we'll be reapplying and hoping to get reaccredited. We were awarded in 2016. We met 151 of 154 national standards. We're one of four agencies in the State of Michigan and one of 165 out of about 10,000 nationally. That puts us in a 1 percent. We review each chapter annually and one chapter per month in our staff meetings. It's an ongoing process. We're always striving to be the best and update CAPRA. Muck said Parks Commissions activities are referenced in CAPRA and everything with the park reviews. Hopefully it opens us up for reaccreditation again.

Commissioner Dooley said the obvious one that jumps out to him is that we do more with less. It's a testament to the employees. Dooley asked if that number of staff per 10,000 residents would possibly change and if there was room in the budget for that? Director Muck said there were no full-time staff approved Citywide this year for fiscal year 2019-20. That'll be another challenge when we go into the budget for 2020-21 process, but we'll have those discussions with City Council, Finance and City administration.

Commissioner Torimoto said he has something since we're talking about data. He said he thinks these numbers look fantastic. Looking as a service function with the customer being the public making it so much more difficult, how is the trend? Is the participation rate going up? Are you maintaining efficiency? This as a snapshot looks really good, but are we going better or maintaining that? Deputy Director Ringle said our programs do continue to increase. Trendwise, we may see a decrease in one sport, but our cultural arts numbers continue to increase at a steady pace. The City also does the National Citizen's Survey every year or two, so we're able to get a statistically valid report of people who use the programs, who use the parks, who think they're in excellent shape, so we have that data, as well. Torimoto said these numbers look fantastic.

Commissioner Staab asked how do these numbers compare to, rather than the whole nation, drilled down to other CAPRA districts? Director Muck said he's never seen those pulled out, but that'd be an interesting question to pose to our national association. Staab said, if you're always raising the bar, that's the elite.

Commissioner Dooley said we're one of four in Michigan and one of 165 nationally. Deputy Director Ringle said those four associations in Michigan are people we consider our colleagues across the association, so we are always comparing in a more causal manner of what programs we're offering, who we're impacting, what we need to do and what trends are. It's not statistically valid, but we do work with those communities that are accredited. Dooley asked if it was based on the size of the community size by size or all sizes for CAPRA? Ringle said not for CAPRA. Dooley said that's even better if you think about it. Director Muck said the other three were Canton, Independence Township and Dearborn. Commissioner Staab said he thought it was just Canton. Muck said, being CAPRA accredited, we're one of the first calls other departments make when they're looking for a policy or procedure. He said he just had another one from a community up north looking for a park asset management plan. When you're CAPRA accredited, people know you have all that stuff and you do it right, so we get all those calls and emails all the time, and we're OK with that. Commissioner Pratt said what's nice is, throughout the whole parks and rec profession throughout the state, there isn't one of us that will get requested something who won't give it up. We're all trying to benefit the community no matter where you come from. That's the great part about parks and rec that Pratt said he's enjoyed over the years.

B. Commission Committee Appointments

Director Muck acknowledged outgoing Commissioners Thomopoulos and Muzzin, and said he's looking forward to Commissioners Riggins and Smith joining us in July. Both were sworn in today and are excited and ready to go. That means we have two things to do tonight, procedurally. We need to appoint a new vice chair to sit if Commissioner Dooley is not present and we need to appoint two commissioners to the Walkable Novi Committee. If we can get those three commitments appointed tonight in June, in July we'll welcome our two new commissioners in and ask you to start thinking what committees you'd want to be assigned to and/or what positions you'd want to sit in for chair/vice chair. In August, we'll give you the ballots for that and September we'll announce the results of those ballots and October you'll take on those chairs and assignments. Vice chair is really somebody for the next three months and the same for Walkable Novi. That may be one meeting, possibly two, and those meetings are right before Commission meetings.

Commissioner Dooley clarified that July we'll welcome new commissioners, August we'll ballot, September we'll vote and October everyone will take the new park assignments, as well. Dooley acknowledged the level of passion and preparation Commissioners

Thomopoulos and Muzzin had both here on the Commission and with Walkable Novi. He asked if any Commissioners would be interested in the vice chair position? Commissioner Staab said he'd be willing to be the stop gap. Dooley motioned and Commissioner Pratt seconded the motion. Staab unanimously elected to interim vice chair role.

Commissioner Dooley asked if anyone would like to volunteer on Walkable Novi. At least one, but two if there's enough interest. Commissioner Joshi said she'd volunteer. Dooley verified Joshi can do both Walkable Novi and Grants Committees.

Commissioner Pratt motioned and Dooley seconded the motion. Joshi unanimously elected to Walkable Novi Committee.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck said it's been raining. It's put us behind on several projects. Bosco Fields are five weeks behind. They're trying to do drainage out there right now. He said he has a progress meeting out there tomorrow morning. We need to get that to seed and need two seasons of growing before getting kids out there. He said the same thing is going on with ITC Trail. They need to get final cuts in there and the final course of asphalt. The last progress meeting on that was 3-4 weeks ago and they were a month behind and hoping to have some completion by late July, but since then, we've had all this rain. Lakeshore Park has been closed down except for access to the trails. All the playgrounds, shelters and bathrooms are closed. The only parking is space for about six vehicles that could come in and then ride their bikes to the back at the trails. We've put that out on social media, on our Web page and are encouraging people to park at Pavilion Shore because there is very limited parking. In July, we anticipate starting to conduct beach stabilization (weather permitting) at both Lakeshore and Pavilion Shore, and hoping to start demolition of the building at Lakeshore, with actual construction out there next week. The weather's not helping us, but they have been out there staking, tree marking, silt fence and some of those pre-construction items. Some big news from the City Council meeting Monday is there was a matter for Council matters related to roads. City Council will be doing a work session on July 17 in regards to roads and prioritization of road projects. What specifically came out of that was widening of Beck Road and also a potentially overpass connecting Taft over I-96 along with a pedestrian bridge. From that conversation came, if Council would have this discussion, they also wanted to seriously look at how this would be funded and they're seriously considering bonding for those projects. What was also included in that conversation was the community center was brought up. So this work session July 17, it looks like they'll be talking about some significant road projects, a community center and if they want to go out and bond for that, and if so, how much. Keep your eyes out for that. Muck said he just got notice that it'll be July 17. It's open to the public as a public meeting. Also Monday night, we had a Council member bring forward her interest in bringing a water feature to Pavilion Shore. Some initial conceptual plans at Pavilion Shore had a water feature, as well as some other things that haven't taken place up there, but there was support for that from Council to direct staff to bring back some potential options for a water feature at Pavilion Shore, so Muck said he'd be working on those over the next few months.

Commissioner Staab said, if there's support for a water feature at Pavilion Shore, wouldn't it be better to locate it at Power Park since its more centrally located in the city? Director Muck said, what the Council member referenced was that there are already long-term goals to put up a water feature/splash pad at the water tower property. And now we have a long-term goal of a community center. That's going to be something for Council to talk over and hash out is whether it makes sense to have a water feature at Pavilion Shore or spend that money on a community center that may or may not feature a water feature, as well as the water tower. That will be at their discretion and direction to us with which way they want to go.

Commissioner Staab asked if the community center would mirror the project back in 2008? Director Muck said they're really evaluating what a community center could mean. There are community center questions out in the master plan survey and we're getting feedback back from the public. That'll be shared with you and the public, and potentially help determine where we want to go. Commissioner Staab said, about bonding, wasn't there a bond in 2016-17? Director Muck said there was a CIP millage. Staab asked if that was the one that got Lakeshore to where it is? Muck said those dollars are already allocated and you're talking many, many more dollars. Over the course of 10 years, you're talking about approving \$30 million dollars. If you're talking two road projects and a community center, you could be \$80 million and up potentially, based on what they spoke about Monday night.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said hopefully you have received the new Engage! in mailboxes. The new two-month edition has been well received so far. We're going to continue to move forward and the next edition will come out in mid-August and cover September and October. This Wednesday was the kickoff for our Sizzling Summer Art Series. It was not raining and they had a crowd of more than 300. Tomorrow, which has a good forecast as well, will have a '60s theme of Peace, Love and Parks tied in with a movie, as well. The evening dates beyond this week continue July 12 and Aug. 9, and the Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. continues through Aug. 14. We're looking forward to much-needed sunny days for those. We've talked about rain. Last weekend was select soccer tryouts and that is a state-mandated date to be held on that weekend. Recreation Supervisor Morris and Recreation Programmer Chase Root both were looking at opportunities and options for holding those tryouts. They reached out and were actually able to hold those tryouts at the high school on the turf field. That was a great solution and was very well received. It was a great area, contained area, bleachers for the parents and they're going to look at doing that again. That was a move in the right direction. The rain has wreaked havoc on a number of programs, most significantly on our adult softball leagues. We're at the limit point of what can be rescheduled in the spring season, so we're looking at shortening some of our nights so we can get the summer season underway. Recreation Supervisor Morris has been looking at those dates, looking at options as far as where those teams land. It's out of our control. Also, The Great American Campout, which was scheduled for this weekend at Wildlife Woods, was canceled, as well. Wildlife Woods is just too wet and muddy tents and muddy kids is just not fun. We're going to hold a really great campout next summer at

Lakeshore, as we have in the past. We're in the process of achieving a KultureCity designation. KultureCity is about sensory inclusion and being a part of that program allows our staff to receive train on how to recognize people with special needs, both kids and adults. Some things include the noise-canceling head phones, which we already do; the weighted blankets; the hand tinkering things to keep busy hands; and so on. More information will come with that. It's a designation the MetLife Stadium has in New York. It's growing in popularity, there's a logo for it. As it continues to grow, it's a recognizable thing and people will be able to recognize that our department has it and the accommodations to make that assessable for everyone. Also alluded to, July is Parks and Recreation Month, and in Engage! is an overview of a scavenger hunt/photo contest that we invite people to participate. There are clues for a number of parks and where to find things, so it gets people out into our parks and sharing their experiences with us. We look forward to sharing photos on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Stay tuned for those come July. Villa Barr is actually in the running for a Community Excellence Award from the Michigan Municipal League. The winner of that award is chosen from online voting, so we're asking everyone to vote. The website is cea.mml.org. Lastly, sadly, Amelia Purdy-Ketchum has resigned her position. She's moving on to a position closer to her home, so we're going to miss her. She did our cultural art programming for us and established a really great program that we will be able to move forward with, with another member of our team as we move forward with our cultural arts and move forward with who will lead us. Her last day with us is July 2. Commissioner Joshi asked for the website again. Deputy Director Ringle said cea.mml.org.

- C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Derek Stogner
Commissioner Dooley introduced new OAS Manager Stogner and asked him to tell everyone a little about himself.
OAS Manager Derek Stogner said he's a native of Michigan; born and raised in Flint. He went to Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids and then Nashville, Tenn. and has been there 10 of the last 12 years with an organization called FiftyForward. It's a social services nonprofit in the Nashville area that does services for older adults. His last two roles there were directing two lifelong learning centers. Coming back to Michigan is coming home for him. He said he's thrilled to be here and this is a great community. He's learning through even the assessment center hiring process, it was very different and there was a high standard of excellence here that he's excited to be a part of. The program has existed for a long time and he's really excited to help it grow into the future. He's really just been getting on his feet. He's four weeks in. He's been meeting people in the community, at Meadowbrook, getting around to know people and a sense of community, needs and what needs updating and what can we do that hasn't been done before. He said, as he comes on, the face of aging is changing, specifically as baby boomers and Gen-Xers get older, we're going to have to change a lot of things we do, specifically with marketing and the programs we offer. We'll do that over time transitionally. We have to do things for two different generations, so it's an interesting time for older adult-type services.

1. Program & Services

OAS Manager Derek Stogner said June 15 we had the first of the year presentation for Medicare participants, with 15 attending. We had a

presentation from the Rose Senior Assisted Living Center on aging in place, which is the big new gerontology field to keep people healthy and in their homes longer. A lot of our activities have to do with that and socialization. We did three demo classes in April of chair yoga at Meadowbrook, so we're going to make that a regular class. We were getting 20-30 students at the free class, so that seemed like it'd be popular. That's going to be an ongoing program. There are a few new fitness programs that are new or going to be starting soon. One's called WERQ, which is a dance fitness class. We're starting to speak to someone about kickboxing classes offsite and aerobic kickboxing classes here at the Civic Center. Stogner said another big push of a program that started just before he arrived was an outdoor awareness series of classes. Our Programmer, Brittany Leick, spearheaded that with a couple sessions before he started. We have a whole series going July into the fall. A couple topics include birding, invasive species, pollinators and these are evening classes ages 18 and up here at the Civic Center. He said he was glad to see this starting because a lot of his focus that he's seen be successful has been educational programming, cultural programming, arts and music. He said those have been successful in the communities he's come from, so he's looking to grow those here. The next luncheon we have is Red, White and You June 22 and that's essentially sold out with 121 of 127 tickets sold. That's a popular event we do every year that Programmer Judy Klein does. He said he's getting to know everybody and is really excited to be here.

Commissioner Dooley said welcome to the team.

Commissioner Joshi asked what the aging in place program was? OAS Manager Stogner said it was a talk about the philosophy behind it and the shift to home health care. The old model was senior assisted living facilities, so the new thought is to keep them out of there by staying as healthy and active as long as they possibly can. Joshi said she works with people who are certified at aging in place. Stogner said there's a program through Oakland University they're working on called Hop Up PT. It's a study going on we're recruiting participants for regarding preventative physical therapy. They're doing a study on preventative physical therapy and how physical therapy assessments in the home before and injury can help people stay healthy regarding being stable and avoiding falls to stay healthy as long as possible.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Resident Dorothy Duchesneau of 125 Henning said, when talking about the water feature at Pavilion Shore Park, you can't go swimming at Lakeshore Park and you can't really go swimming at Pavilion Shore with the shoreline either. She said, having grown up in a middle class home in Detroit in the early '60s, it was called a garden hose and a sprinkler system and you could keep an entire block of kids entertained with one garden house. She said she doesn't know what's out there or available to put a temporary sprinkler or shower head that could be utilized, but there won't be any place to go for the kids to get wet and cool down on a 90-degree day this summer. She said she doesn't know what the sprinkler system or hose situation is at Pavilion Shore, but maybe on a super-hot day, we could get some sprinklers and hoses out there for a few hours in the afternoons and, within 10 minutes, all the kids will know about the water feature. And the water will water the lawn.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Pratt said he's got nothing to bring up.

Commissioner Torimoto said the parks matrix comparison and always trying to improve is always impressive to try and see the numbers. It's always hard to measure your customer and public satisfaction. Someone mentioned the creativity staff goes through with how to handle the weather. Still being able to show success with elements like that is pretty amazing. Welcome to Stogner.

Commissioner Joshi said she wanted to congratulate all of PRCS about the success of the matrix and welcome to Stogner.

Representative Fortsch said welcome to Stogner and prepare yourself for July. He's going to get his presentation and you're all going to love it.

Representative Kamalesh said sorry she was late.

Commissioner Staab said thanked Commissioner Muzzin and Thomopoulos for their work on the Commission and also the other ad hoc committees that they worked on, plus their insightful information they brought on the different park evaluations. Staab welcomed Stogner and said he knows Nashville well. He was there a week ago. He said he appreciates the matrix and metrics of how we compare nationally. He said he likes to see the meat and potatoes.

Commissioner Dooley said it just goes without saying that we are very lucky to have all of you. He welcomed Stogner. He thanked the citizens for coming out. Dooley said we do this for you, for all the right reasons, parks and the citizens. He said he wanted to mention the Novi Ambassadors and there's going to be a reunion in July after the Commission meeting. A lot of ambassadors have gotten involved in boards and commissions such as the Parks Commission. The great thing about being an ambassador is getting to see the different sides of the City. He'll report in August. He thanked Novi Ambassadors. The program was started 3-4 years ago and it is a great way to get involved, including our Parks Department.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Torimoto and seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:24 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Interim Vice Chairperson