

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Thursday, July 16, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Jewell presiding.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARK, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER:

Jay Dooley

Commissioner Jewell welcomed Commissioner Dooley back to the Commission.

ROLL CALL: Jewell (Present), Bauss (Present), Dooley(Present), Pratt (Absent-Excused), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Wingfield (Present), Student Representative Thakore (Absent-Excused), Student Representative Wei (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved that the agenda, with an addition by Director Muck, be approved by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Wingfield.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Drew Lathin talked about the decline of Monarch butterflies and other insect species due to loss of native species of plants, invasion of non-native plants and the effect this has on the ecosystem. He asked Parks and Recreation to help by restoring and actively managing natural areas for biodiversity supporting native species and in more formal planting areas of the parks to use native plant species.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of the June 18, 2015 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for June be approved as written by Commissioner Dooley and seconded by Commissioner Torimoto.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Torimoto and Bauss

Commissioners Torimoto and Bauss had no report.

B. Novi Parks Foundation - Commissioners Staab

Commissioner Staab gave information on the “Pour on the Shore” fundraising event.

Director Muck stated approximately 200 of the 300 tickets are sold. He also stated on Monday night representatives of ITC Holding Corporation presented their first installment check of \$50,000 of their 5-year commitment of \$250,000 for Naming Rights of ITC Community Sports Park. That is part of their 10-year \$750,000 commitment.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Jewell and Wingfield

Commissioner Wingfield deferred to Director Muck.

Director Muck stated later in the meeting appointments will be made to several Committees. The Grants Committee will meet in late fall or early winter and will talk about grant projects to possibly apply for during the 2016 grant season.

STAFF REPORTS:

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Pavilion Shore Park Update

Director Muck stated Pavilion Shore Park will celebrate its second year of operation in August. We are adding six benches and two mingling tables to the shoreline to be installed next week. Over thirty trees were planted in the park this spring. A catalpa tree, donated by State Representative Kathy Crawford, was also planted. It is a seedling from the catalpa tree at the State Capitol in Lansing. Signage will be updated and a sign added about Lakeshore Park which is within walking distance. Pour on the Shore will be held at Pavilion Shore Park on July 31st. Prior to the event, David Barr's sculpture, Fate of Empires, will be installed from a donation from the Novi Parks Foundation. There will be a "Movie on the Shore" there on August 30th. An RFP is going out for a restroom and shelter building to be built next year. We are asking the designs for this to reflect the historical character of the park.

Shuttle service for Pour on the Shore was discussed.

2. Adult Exercise Park

Director Muck stated research has been done on the feasibility of an Adult Exercise Park per a request by a City Council Member. We are proposing to build a pilot program at Meadowbrook Commons and would monitor use and evaluate upkeep and maintenance before potentially expanding to other parks.

3. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants

Director Muck updated the Commission on two Grants. One is for property acquisition at Nine Mile and Garfield which we will know more about in December. The other is the Twelve Mile trailhead property for which we hope to have a ribbon cutting in the fall.

4. ITC Corridor Trail Update

Director Muck stated this trail runs along the ITC Corridor transmission lines from Maybury State Park to Providence Hospital. It will be a ten foot wide asphalt path with boardwalks over wetland areas. On Monday night the Novi Parks Foundation committed \$118,000 to the construction of Phase A which is from the north end of ITC Community Sports Park up to Nine Mile Road.

Commissioner Staab asked about possible articles in the Novi News. Director Muck discussed marketing efforts that are being worked on for the ITC Corridor Trail.

B. Recreation Division

1. Cultural Arts Presentation – Rochelle Vallance and Amelia Purdy

Supervisor Vallance gave an overview of a Cultural Arts survey done to better understand the Cultural Arts needs of the community as outlined in the 2015-2019 Master Plan. A large percent of those who responded were Older Adults. Programmer Purdy presented some of the new programs for Older Adults for this fall including an art class with some High School art students, craft workshops and an open art studio. There are three groups at Meadowbrook Commons for knitting, stitching and quilting. There are also other art and music programs for all ages.

Commissioner Bauss asked about re-establishing the theatre program. Supervisor Vallance stated considering staff time, facility space, community interest and that other communities are offering productions, we are focusing on classes with small productions at the end, workshops and after school programming. This allows us to increase programming efforts and serve a wider audience.

Programmer Purdy stated they are piloting an afterschool Musical Theatre Workshop and gave the details. An acting class is also offered at the Civic Center. Director Muck praised the Cultural Arts team for their work and efforts.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Programs & Services

Manager Kapchonick talked about the “Happy Trails” Luncheon which was sponsored by Novi Wellness. They also had a Fourth of July party with over 100 attending. She thanked Student Representative Aria Thakore for helping with this event. Information was given on the August 20th 85 years and Beyond Birthday Party which they have every year in August.

Friday, September 4th will be Senior Day at the Fifth/Third Bank Michigan State Fair. They are looking for nominations for a Senior Recognition Award. They are also looking at an essay contest about a memory of the State Fair. The Enhance newsletter and distribution was discussed.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Appointment of Commissioners to Committees

1. Walkable Novi
2. Novi Park Foundation
3. Grants Committee

Commissioner Wingfield asked that the Commissioners be given time to discuss and decide on which Committee they would be interested in serving.

Director Muck told who was currently serving on each Committee and what each Committee does.

It was agreed to decide Committee appointments at the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Wingfield thanked Supervisor Vallance and Programmer Purdy for their presentation and also Mr. Lathin for his presentation on Monarch butterflies. He asked about the Dog Park.

Director Muck stated the gate access issues at the Dog Park were due to weather and electrical outages but are now resolved.

Commissioner Torimoto thanked Supervisor Vallance and Programmer Purdy for their presentation. He stated it is good to see the progress at Pavilion Shore and to use it for the fundraiser. He is looking forward to and will volunteer for Pour on the Shore.

Commissioner Staab stated he appreciates Commissioner Torimoto’s support at the fundraiser.

Director Muck stated there are about 20 volunteers for the event so far.

Commissioner Staab commented on the Tim Pope Memorial Playstructure at ITC Community Sports Park.

Student Representative Wei commented on Mr. Lathin's presentation and commented in support of planting native species.

Commissioner Dooley thanked Mr. Lathin for his presentation and Supervisor Vallance and Programmer Purdy for their presentation. He stated he has heard nothing but great things about Manager Kapchonick. He will return to calling Bingo at Meadowbrook Commons.

Commissioner Bauss welcomed Commissioner Dooley. He appreciated Mr. Lathin's presentation this evening. He volunteered to help with Pour on the Shore.

Commissioner Dooley encouraged everyone to visit Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Commissioner Jewell stated he appreciated the presentations and thanked Mr. Lathin for coming. He welcomed Commissioner Dooley back to the Commission

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Wingfield and seconded by Commissioner Dooley.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Jewell at 7:59 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jerry Jewell, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson