

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, July 20, 2017 – 7 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with Commissioner Bauss presiding.

ROLL CALL: Bauss (Present), Dooley (Present), Jewell (Present), Pratt (Present), Staab (Present), Thomopoulos (Present), Torimoto (Absent), Student Representatives Joohe Lee (Present), Sanidhya Singh (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved that the agenda be approved as amended by Commissioner Dooley and seconded by Commissioner Jewell.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of June 15, 2017 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for May be approved by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Thomopoulos & Bauss
Commissioner Thomopoulos said the meeting just took place before this meeting. Had some updates from Engineering on the 2016 pathway program. The 2017 pathway projects include the south side of 14 Mile from East Lake Drive to the Beachwalk Apartments approaching Novi Road. There are some changes going on with the easement and owner of that property, but that's expected to go out to bid soon. There's also some activity to work on replacing a failed sidewalk segment at the northwest corner of Grand River and Haggerty. And also investigating the southwest corner of Haggerty and Nine Mile where there's a failed segment. There is a project planned for this year that is somewhat stalled, to get right-of-way acquisition on Pontiac Trail from West Park Drive to Beck Road. It is an important segment because it is utilized by kids going to the middle school, which is across the road there. Hopefully we can resolve the right-of-way acquisition quickly to get the project underway. And there's a project on the Eight Mile pathway from Garfield to Napier Roads where we have to work with DTE to move some poles. Negotiation has started. And also, the pathway that runs from Eight Mile to connect with the ITC Community Sports Park pathway at the north end of the ballpark that ends near the ball field, to complete that connection to Eight Mile and that goes out to bid in August. The team is quite busy and making some progress.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioner Torimoto
Commissioner Staab said the third-annual Pour on the Shore is a week from tomorrow at Pavilion Shore Park. VIP reception at 6 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Parks office or online through

the Parks Foundation's website. Bigger and better than last year. Rachel's been working really hard on it to get a lot of sponsors.

Commissioner Bauss said the Novi Parks Foundation is an amazing organization that creates a lot of opportunity for developing our parks and recreation throughout the city and that event is a highlight in raising funds.

Commissioner Staab said it should be duly noted since its being held at Pavilion Shore, that they were involved in one of the first phases of development of that park with matching funds. Our money is at work. Would like to see you all there.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt & Dooley

Commissioner Pratt said Senate Bill 76 was passed, which goes to the governor's table for his signature. That's for state land acquisition and recreation projects.

Director Muck said, for the property at Nine Mile and Garfield, we did receive a draft of a project agreement from the DNR. That will go to Council 7/31 for a resolution and allow us to begin the acquisition process with the property owner.

Commissioner Pratt said DNR's Steve Debrabander is retiring.

Director Muck said we have not gotten word yet on Nine Mile, which we applied for this year. We had a visit where they walked the property and we haven't received feedback yet, where we can go in and update our application before it's scored in December.

D. Parks Updates

1. Pavilion Shore Park – Commissioner Dooley

Commissioner Dooley said it's a little different than when he presented during the winter months. Wanted to point out some safety features. When people are walking or riding their bikes, it's really well marked for peoples' safety. It's designed for the safety of our citizens, whether they're from Novi or visiting from another city on vacation. When you're coming up on the north side of the park, there's a speed bump that really controls traffic when you come around the blind corner that really controls traffic and keeps the speed limit at like 10 miles per hour. It is designed for the safety of those that are walking. Very friendly signs. We're always touting how to take advantage of the parks we have in Novi, so there's a site listed there as a reminder. The facilities are very well maintained. With Pour on the Shore coming up next week, it's impeccable. Some of the features we talked about in the winter, the power grids are locked, the facilities are very clean. A reminder of things and why they're there.

Director Muck said, when the park was constructed, they installed organic logs to stabilize the base. Since then, the waves have deteriorated the logs. Had a meeting a few weeks ago to plan for that erosion at Lakeshore Park. Will inform Commission and Council as we plan for that.

Commissioner Dooley said he thought the lock and key action for the bike racks were interesting. The grass where Pour on the Shore will be was in fantastic shape.

Director Muck said there's the first bike repair station in the city, provided by a donor, and includes tools to repair your bike. You can actually put your bike up on a rack on the top. When we complete the ITC Trail, we want to put more of these along the corridor. We posted this on social media last week and the response was people were glad to have it and it had a lot of likes and shares. Commissioners Thomopoulos asked if one would be added to Lakeshore Park. Director Muck said that's the plan, most likely near the trailhead.

Commissioner Dooley said the only other thing he can say, which no one can control, is the geese. The City does a remarkable job getting rid of what geese

leave. They leave it on grass and cement, but a good rain will wash it away. A lot of ideas have been submitted, but they do what they do.

Commissioners Thomopoulos asked if more trash cans could be added along the lakefront, as it's overflowing on weekends.

Commissioner Dooley said it was clean when he was there.

Commissioners Thomopoulos it's a capacity issue, not an attention issue.

2. Lakeshore Park (June) – Commissioner Dooley

Commissioner Dooley said Camp Lakeshore is pretty incredible. It was jam-packed when he was up there. Sand volleyball courts were very clean, very nice, like brand new. Took a picture of the grill just to let everyone know they're being used and maintained. A lot of signage out there reminding everyone of the great activities in the City of Novi. The Novi library is well represented and leave books in that bin right there. There's some neat books in there and thought that was a great feature. Transportation and shelter areas very well marked for where to go during inclement weather. Rubbish can was very clean. You could eat inside that rubbish can, not that he would. A lot of activity, families, moms up there that day. A lot to do. Front playground was very clean and well maintained. The back area where the mountain bikers go is a great feature. Very clean, the signage was excellent. No surprises. "Growing, not mowing" was an interesting feature. This is protected land where they're letting nature do what it wants. It's a reminder we and birds and wildlife can do what we want. There were soccer drills going on. There were buoys on the beach that were very well marked. Beach was clean and lifeguards were on duty.

Commissioners Thomopoulos suggested a bike share for the mountain bikes based on two aspects. We want the children to use that. A lot of families will go there and don't realize the trails are back there and they need to bring their bikes. And also for adults to try out the mountain bike trails because not every adult has a mountain bike or a bike rack to get their bike to the park. We could initially start it out on the not so expensive side by asking for donations of bikes to get it started. Something for the team to think about.

Commissioner Staab said it's a great idea. His only concern would be from a waiver and liability standpoint, especially using used bicycles.

Commissioner Dooley agreed with Commissioner Staab.

Commissioners Thomopoulos said we have that risk because we have the trail.

Director Muck said Detroit and a lot of communities have done the bike share and he's never seen a mountain bike one due to the intricacies of the mountain bikes and the sizes and everything out there. They're very particular to their features. It's not riding from point A to point B on sidewalks.

Commissioner Dooley said the bike trail is designed for those where that's what they want to do, not for an amateur who's just learning how to ride a bike.

Commissioner Staab said he knows someone who's out there with his son, riding every weekend.

Commissioner Bauss said he thinks it's an interesting idea. He's seen them downtown where he works, but doesn't know how it'd work for mountain bikes.

Commissioner Pratt said it'd be a good question to bring up to the MCMBA.

They're currently in our state parks, as well. DNR doesn't have them in any of the state parks.

Director Muck said reaching out to them about more days for beginners, they always have their Tuesday nights out there. We could ask if people have extra bikes and then others could come out and join up with their group.

Commissioner Bauss suggested having an outdoors vendor there who could rent a standup paddleboard or a bike or something. Adding a liability form and checking it out might be an interesting way to do it.

Commissioners Thomopoulos said, if it's your intention, that's fine and you can probably find a way to run a bike or whatever. But if you're new to the park and exploring the park and see this trail with the kids and are thinking you wished you had brought your bike, that's her thought. Was thinking to introduce them, not to use that as their ride. Just to try it.

3. Fuerst Park – Commissioner Staab

Commissioner Staab said he was last there back in March. He was out on Sunday and, as you walk in from the parking lot, you see the old Township building that was moved and reconditioned back in the '80s. Around to the side is a restroom that was well maintained and clean. Lots of flowers. Well groomed and didn't see any dead flowers. Has a commemoration plaque from 2009. The Fuerst sisters donated it to the schools, the City bought it from the schools and we developed it into a park in 1999. Amphitheatre is well maintained also. Signage there promotes our programs with lots of good information on our programs and not only Fuerst Park, but all the parks in our system. Pathways and rock landscaping was well maintained, grass was cut. Trash receptacle was nice and clean. Nice sculptures in the park, too. It lends to the aesthetic value of the park. Block pavers and garden looks really nice. The only negative was, at the end of the weekend, there were some Coke bottles and pizza stuff.

Commissioners Thomopoulos said it's kind of a good news/bad news thing. It means people are using the parks, we just need more capacity to handle it.

Commissioner Staab said maybe just someone to police it Sunday mornings.

Director Muck said his first thought now that we've heard from two instances of a Sunday where we've seen trash, to talk with our parks maintenance superintendent about having some staff on the weekend. We have seasonal staff on the weekends and what can we do to improve that.

Commissioner Staab said that's the only bin he saw. Again, the gardens have been developed.

Commissioner Bauss asked whether the gardens are maintained by a volunteer or City staff.

Director Muck said City staff maintains it.

Commissioner Staab said the location near City and school locations, and multiple neighborhoods, makes it a good location.

Commissioner Dooley said so many different ages are walking that park at all hours of the day and early evening.

Commissioner Staab said he saw a young lady with a small dog on a leash and reminded her we have a really nice dog park, too.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Lakeshore Park Presentation by Director Muck

Director Muck said this PowerPoint has been online for more than a month and was done as a presentation by City Manager Pete Auger at the 6/19 City Council meeting. We did update the Lakeshore Park Web page, which is where we post updates to any park or construction. Information has always been on the City CIP Web page. That's not only Parks CIP, but also sidewalks, fire truck purchases, everything along that line. We did email you the link to both the park Web page and CIP Web page around 6/23.

So, how did we get to a need to renovate Lakeshore Park? In 2014, the Parks Department did a Capital Needs Assessment. We hired an independent company, MC Smith & Associates, to come in and do an evaluation of needs for all the parks needs throughout the city. They looked at park shelters to accessibility, to the status of our playgrounds, to the status of our fences in our ball fields. They put together a list of items that needed immediate attention. They put together a list of items that could be pushed out and looked at in future years. Lakeshore really rose to the front of that. Out of the more than \$10 million the study concluded we needed to make in park improvements, Lakeshore Park really rose to the forefront with about a \$5 million price because of how outdated everything had become at that park due to the handicap accessibility. We looked at why do we need to do this. Camp Lakeshore is limited to 60 kids per day due to licensing. As we talked about at our last meeting, there have been times we have 60 kids on the waiting list. We can't even take additional kids in this program and we're turning families away on a day-to-day basis who want to come to the camp and use the park, and that's due to the size. That's due to the restrictions of day camp licensing. We knew that Shelter1, the large shelter at the front of the park, needed to be replaced. It was built in 2000 and we're consistently having electrical issues with that. So that needs to come down and be rebuilt. The current camp building was built around 1980. We're going to talk a lot about ADA accessibility. The door that the kids enter does not meet ADA accessibility requirements currently. We do have a plan in place to make things and this building accessible, and this building does not currently meet that. The large playground on top of the hill was built in 2002 and the typical life expectancy of a playground is 15 years, so we're pushing that, as well. The gravel parking lot has always been commented on by park users as needing to be paved. It's not large enough for current users. People have always commented over the years that we need more parking, as well.

An interesting part of this is looking at what we'd do with our Clerks Department at Lakeshore Park. The Clerks Department has struggled with where to locate precincts 11 and 12. Precinct 12 is the largest in the city with almost 2,800 voters and they currently vote at Crosspointe Meadows Church on Meadowbrook. That is quite a distance from any of the Precinct 12 voters. It is not a walking distance or a biking distance except for the most fit people in Precinct 12. Precinct 11 has more than 1,700 people and are currently voting at Hickory Woods Elementary. As we talked with the Clerks Office, they said they are constantly getting calls about people frustrated with the voting precincts on the north end, the distance they have to travel. We've heard from Council members, we've heard from residents that we should make voting available to people by biking and riding. You can only fit 3,000 people in a precinct, so our Clerk has to look at that. She asked if we could make space for that if we're renovating. Voting precincts have to be in a public building. At the last election, there were issues at the voting precincts on the north end due to space and time and size, plus the school had double booked and ran their own event. Our Clerks Office got into this conversation and then our library got into the conversation, as well.

We have the Read Box in several parks, but the library came and they want a presence on the north side, they have residents who want them on the north side and be able to check out and return materials in a more convenient

manner without having to fight the traffic you'll find on 10 Mile or Beck Road or Novi Road. So the library came forward with the idea that they could put a kiosk in this building and, for lack of a better word, it's like a Redbox. So, when the building is open, people could access the materials and drop off their materials, and have a nice library presence.

Mainly is the safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists using the park, and more accessible for those with disabilities. These are architects, they're landscape designers. What they brought forward to us as part of the Capital Needs Assessment is a conceptual design. A two-story building for programming, classes and a polling location. On the very first draft of this they mentioned receptions, which is what really got the misconception of a banquet facility going. That was never the intent, but it still gained steam on that. They had recommended adding a different entrance and flowing traffic differently through the park. They recommended replacing the playground, replacing the shelter, pave the parking lots, get better traffic flow, get people moving better through there.

So this went out to residents in August 2016 as part of the CIP millage and it was approved by voters. The voters saw on the CIP millage that this was a \$3 million project. The \$3 million was the price of a building. It didn't include the parking lots, all the parking, the shelters, the pathways. It was more the building itself. We started talking with Council and the CIP Committee, and it became more clear we wanted to bundle these projects together. If we were going to do Lakeshore, we should do it as one big project. Looking at cost savings, marshaling, contractors and economies of scale. That's now why there's confusion that we said \$3 million at the CIP and its now \$5 million. We got direction from the CIP Committee and Council to bundle those projects together. Don't do piecemeal things. We want to get this done and do them together. That's how we're looking at other parks, too. We're not doing one-offs here or there, we're doing large projects together and getting cost savings.

So, this conceptual plan was out there and we started getting feedback from Council, from the public. Some of the flaws with this plan that people pointed out was there wasn't a lot of love for the second entryway. As we dove into it further, engineering-wise, we realized that wasn't feasible, wasn't the best. The recommendation was to maintain the current entryway. We already had that existing. We wanted to improve access to the mountain bike and multi-purpose trailheads. We wanted safety improvements again. The two-story building, people didn't seem in favor of that, so it was reduced to one story. There were concerns about the size of the building, about a 10,000-square-foot building. Some people wanted to go even bigger than that. That's now been reduced down. We've listened to that feedback and it's been scaled back. There was concern about accommodating large events. The banquet center myth was out there, Council reassured everyone that was not the case. We're not renting that facility, receptions are not included in this building. Green space was a concern. Where are we going to park everybody. We want to maintain green space, maintain the back of the park and the natural feel of the park. Part of that was moving the volleyball courts back to the active area of the park. On the original conceptual plan, you can see the volleyball courts were at the front of the park. We got feedback from residents to put active-type of loud activities in the back of the park. There was other

feedback. We've been gathering input on this park for years. There's been concerns about the parking and the gravel and the dust, the safety of people moving from the park. We also had a suggestion that we should put an entry in at 12.5 Mile and tunnel through the back of the park, through the mountain bike and multi-purpose trails and put an entrance in that way. We've had a suggestion to put the building in the back of the park, that we don't need to take advantage of the lakefront, so move it to the back of the park. That would tear up the green space in the back of the park. We've heard from parents who want a splash pad in there. We've also had pickleball courts mentioned. As we go through this and get the phone calls, emails and Facebook posts, you have to weigh what is right, what is feasible, what are we going for in this park. You can't be everything to everybody, but we do need to be looking at the whole city and what residents want. Things kept coming to the top; accessibility, parking, paving the parking. So we took that feedback back, some done here and at Council, Facebook, calls, email, interactions with Parks Maintenance staff has had with people on a daily basis, our lifeguards hearing the feedback about how old the restrooms and changing facilities are, and we landed on this conceptual design with our architects. What we've looked at now is this design has really brought us into ADA compliance with everything in regards to parking, the shelters, the pathways through the park, the beach access, the restrooms. Everything we do in here would make us ADA compliant, which we currently are not.

A reminder that the building is used primarily for summer camp and parks and rec programs such as senior fitness, cultural arts dance and crafts, senior social programs, winter and spring camps, yoga and other programs that aren't currently offered in the north end of Novi. We are currently out of room here at the Civic Center for a lot of those programs, too. Our theatre program is now back and healthy and growing, but that requires that quarter to be filled up for weeks at a time, which doesn't allow us to put other programs in there at the same time. This enhances pedestrian flow and safety through the park. We've moved some of the large groups through the park, as we've moved this large shelter. We're moving the volleyball courts to the back of the park and we still maintain the soccer field and open space at the back of the park. The park building is an inviting space, a meeting space for volunteers on park improvement days, a place for the Michigan Mountain Bike Association to potentially do more programming than they do right now with us. Putting that building at the front of the park also makes it very visible. As we consulted with our Police and Fire Departments, they agreed it would be a good location because it's a very easy to monitor spot.

The existing park is shown with a yellow overlay. Utilizing the existing entryway and moving to the back of the park, right now the driveway bisects the park. We have shelters, we have kids, we have families crossing roads. Our park building, for our camp kids to get down to (the back of the park), they're crossing parking lots and potentially crossing roads twice. Now, we'll have a dedicated pedestrian pathway from the front to the back of the park. And to be cognizant of our neighbors. Now, they have a buffer. We moved the volleyball court away, so now they'll have green space. A lot of this will turn into green space. We have some opportunities here with the playground is how to design the playground. We don't have to do what we've typically done by taking a circle or square and placing some tunnels and slides. We

can use the topography we have here to do slides on the hill or new features you don't see anywhere else in Novi. The playground will be usable for our youngest kids, our toddlers under 2 all the way through 12. We had some discussion too about potentially incorporating a design with fitness for adults that would allow us to put a few pieces in to allow adults to work out on their way back to the trails. This slide really shows how things are moving around why the redesign was thought out as it has. Our Engineering Department has been involved in this, our Planning Department has been involved in this, our police and fire have been involved in this, we've taken Council comments, we've taken public comments and really started looking at how we can improve the park, which has been a long time coming. You see the pathways as we move people through the park is the highlight on this.

As we dive into the actual building, we've had some concerns about the size of the building. Right now, we're anticipating this building being 8,200 square feet. While that might sound like a lot, you have to remember a lot of that is taken up by bathrooms, storage and mechanicals. The actual program space is 4,400 square feet. To give you some perspective, the Four Quarters here at the Civic Center are 6,400 square feet and these Council Chambers are 2,700 square feet. The largest room we're putting into this building, we're anticipating to be 2,800 square feet. So you're looking at about the size of this Council Chambers. That'll hold about 100 people and that'll allow us to expand our Camp Lakeshore summer camp and also accommodate those elections. In regards to the smaller rooms, we have two smaller rooms that you can see the configurations and see how many people those hold (about 20). With the bathrooms, these bathrooms are only accessible from the outside. We really thought this through, too. We wanted to make sure people from the beach and regular park users weren't coming into the building and tracking the sand and mud and everything like that through a brand new building. They'll be routed out here near access to the beach. They won't have access. We're talking about the sand and the drains and the floor and how to get the sand off the floor. We'll have a foot wash station leading from the beach up to the building and restrooms. Lobby area will be where the kiosk will be. The rest is mechanicals and a small room. If you want to expand the summer camp, a lot of times they want to separate the group, as well. A lot of times one will be doing arts and crafts and another will be doing nature stuff. This may be more quiet space for kids watching movies. The other idea for elections is you can do your large precinct here (in the large room) and open up the walls to do your smaller precinct here (in the two small meeting rooms) at the same time.

Finally, we wanted to show you the conceptual plan of the building façade. We heard from residents, we wanted it to blend in with the character from the lake to look not too institutionalized. We wanted to tie it in to Pavilion Shore. We mentioned here several times we wanted to tie in the scheme from Pavilion Shore and Lakeshore. You can tell with some of the colors and stone we selected, as you can see with the pavilion we just built, that matched more of the Clare story at Pavilion Shore. The larger shelter will also match that, as well. The next steps for this is for it to move on to Planning, I believe in August.

Student Representative Singh asked if the park renovation is being done all at once, would it be done during the summer months or offseason?

Director Muck said the intent is to do most of this during the winter. We would like to get shovels in the ground in November because there is some demolition that needs to take place, the old camp building, the old garage needs to come down, the large shelter. Our friends at the Motor City Mountain Bike Association asked a similar question if we're going to be able to maintain access to the trails throughout the project, and we'd like to do that. We can't guarantee it'll be that way every day of the construction process, but that's our intent. If we don't have it done by next summer, we'll have to look at holding our summer camp Camp Lakeshore in a school or different location. We'll lose out on all the people that count on us for shelter rentals for family reunions, so we'd like to really get this moving, get it going so we have as little down time during the heavy summer months as possible.

Student Representative Singh asked how long it would take?

Director Muck said the engineers and construction firms have said 6-8 months potentially.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said thank you for the update. There are quite a few things she likes, like the bike and pedestrian path that goes through the whole park. The concern for the safety of crossing the parking lots and reaching the bike trails in the back. Really likes the façade of the building compared to the more contemporary one that was shown previously. This is really quite attractive with the exposed rafters and craftsman columns and stone. The stone is more in keeping with the park theme. Also appreciates confirmation, as did the mayor and city manager, that this is not going to be a banquet hall, not a place for private rentals and that it will be a parks and recreation facility. Does have some questions and concerns. Look at the location of the building and its proximity to the pedestrian entrance to the park and the access from the beach to the bathrooms. It's going up quite a grade, as opposed to going up from the beach to the restrooms. A little concerned whether that will really be ADA compliant or easy for someone to negotiate that grade. Also concerned about not seeing an outside shower or foot wash, so it's good to hear that will be added in. Was wondering if the beach restrooms are really large enough, with just two toilets per restroom, so suggests that's something we look into. Given the concerns with the ADA compliance to get to the restrooms for beachgoers and knowing that we've heard a lot of feedback, people would be disappointed building right at this location because that is a preferred picnic spot. There's about 5-6 maple trees and picnic tables right there and there are people who come every year and that's their spot, that's where they like to picnic. Suggests moving the building back into the park 20 feet, saving some of those trees, using some of the current grade that's already there. Maintenance cars can drive up to the volleyball court currently, so that slope already exists as a way to potentially solve all of that. Moving towards the back, there's really not any vehicle access to the back pavilion; the new one and the volleyball courts. We're losing quite a bit of parking there where the new maintenance garage is. Clearly the City trucks are going to go back there to get to the garage and their equipment, so there will be a path for vehicles that will be negotiable. Suggests adding some parking back there so people have easy access to that pavilion if they're bringing party decorations or food. Also, the main pavilion, the location, grading is not shown on here and you'll be changing it, the spot that's shown there is quite a low point in the park. You moved it north,

if you had moved it south a little bit, the visibility to look over the parking lot and at the lakefront is really quite good. If you stand on the current edge of the playground, you really have a good view of the lake, which is really unsuspecting because it's a distance, but it's actually a pretty good view and gets a good breeze. If you move maybe the whole thing 20 feet back, you can also take advantage of those breezes and that view. Was wondering if, with this concept, we have a gate that's closed seasonally? Will we still be closing the back parking?

Director Muck said another benefit of the redesign, that we're heard from trail users, is they want the trails open year round. The prevalence of fat tire bikes makes these trails usage nearly year round.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the toddlers trying to get to the snow hill, too. Director Muck said exactly, there are multiple benefits as well as paving all the way back.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the hours of the park right now are 7:30 a.m.-dusk. Asked if there was thought on what the hours would be?

Director Muck said all parks of the City by ordinance are supposed to be 8 a.m.-10 p.m. unless otherwise posted. The building hours will depend on programming. We want to try a lot of different programs and fill this building as much as possible. That's why we're building this building. Right now, we're looking at potentially a 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and Fridays-Saturdays from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. But that all depends on programming. Not sure on a Friday or Saturday we'll have many programs running that late, maybe a family campout. We see a lot of the programming being more of a 7-9 p.m. when a lot of the fitness classes and kids classes are offered. During the day, we'd like to offer a lot more senior programs up there. Our social programs here – the Euchre, Mahjong, Bridge – are bursting at the seams here. I think we'd get a whole new crowd up on the north end of people who'd want to participate in those activities up there.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked, in the winter, if there weren't programs going on, would the building be made available for restrooms for those using the snow hill?

Director Muck said that's been discussed and heating those restrooms at a lower temperature. We don't have that at the current existing one. Can talk with the Parks Maintenance staff about that. Typically, in the winter, we winterize our outdoor bathrooms, but it's something we can make note of and consider.

Commissioner Thomopoulos thanked again for the update.

Commissioner Bauss asked about any activity on the beach side of the property?

Director Muck said that has not been included in any of these plans. We also heard from Council that they want to eliminate the park entry fees as part of this. Our plan is to eliminate the park entry fees. One reason why that's key is, in order to qualify for some development grants through the trust fund or Recreation Passport, you cannot charge park fees. So, we wouldn't be able to do any beach improvements through grant opportunities with currently charging fees. That opens us up to the potential to do some renovations on the beach.

Commissioner Bauss said there's some unused space along there that could be conducive to a picnicking area that could be developed.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said it's very packed.

Director Muck said Parks staff have had some internal talks about that area and geese really get at that area. It's pretty well behind where the existing guard shack is. We've talked about doing a different surfacing there and adding more picnic tables and benches in that area. The grass does need some work down there.

Commissioner Dooley said thank you. Personally, being there, this conceptual design is the smartest thing they did. There's a lot he likes. What he likes the most is the entrance and the way the entrance is designed, being on the back end of the park so everything is right in front of where you want to go. As you go through currently, there are a lot of blind spots. There won't be with this design. If there are kids running from the playground to the soccer facilities, you really have to keep an eye out. Is sure there will be speed bumps there, as well, but it's one of the smartest things they did and it opens up the park tremendously.

Commissioner Staab said he likes it the way it's been presented. It's long overdue, especially with the building. With Commissioner Dooley's presentation earlier, he was amazed at how clean the inside of the building is currently, because there used to be times it looked like a rummage sale in there. This is going to have a lot of aesthetic value with the building and facility on the north end. Likes the redesign of the entryway, too; that takes a lot into consideration as far as walkers and people traversing the different parts of the park. Looking forward to it getting through Planning and getting the shovel in the ground and getting it over.

Commissioner Jewell said thanks for sharing. It looks like a great conceptual drawing and you did a wonderful job listening to all of the citizens and the different concerns. Thanks for squelching the rumor that it's going to be a banquet hall or dance hall. Has filtered a lot of questions for a lot of nonsense. The building looks beautiful. If you made it bigger, you'd be able to utilize the space and make the bathrooms bigger. They'd be utilized because the kids of the city are growing. You'll find usage. If there's a way to squeak that up to 10,000-12,000 square feet, he'd be all for it. You'd have some additional space for bathrooms. Has come to the City when programs are going on and it's packed. Has ridden his bike through there and there's a lot of activity out there, which is good to see. There's a lot of growth right now. With all the home buildings, Beck building again, he'd like to see it bigger. You guys did a great job. You can sit here and say add this, minus this and so on, but you guys did an outstanding job.

Commissioner Pratt asked, when you look at the conceptual overlay, is there a bike path coming in from the entrance all the way to the back?

Director Muck said yes, it's a dedicated bike path, which is something brought forward by Council that they definitely wanted to see included for the safety of the bikers and walkers coming off South Lake Drive to the back of the park.

Commissioner Pratt asked if parking would be moved to the other side so bikers aren't going behind the cars, to keep the same flow of parking?

Director Muck said we haven't gotten there as far as the back of the park. We've been focused on the front.

Commissioner Pratt said he likes the building and the rooms, but asked, if camps will be in there, will there be storage for the tables?

Director Muck pointed out the space on the diagram. On the conceptual plan, there's an overhang and patio area that will be available year round for people to use. The space will most likely have some tables or benches so people can enjoy the lake views from here year round. That area is being designed specifically to be a gathering spot, a meeting spot for the camp kids. Like a terrace so the counselors can put the kids out there and do their daily instructions, or maybe there's a nature walk and they meet up in that area. And this is still evolving today, as staff are still talking about it. If you remember the big wind storms we had, we opened up the Civic Center and Ice Arena as heating centers. We don't have anywhere like that north of I-96 in the event of an emergency. We started talking about that today, what are the other uses of this facility. If there's an emergency, this can be a rally point for the community. We have the ability put up a backup generator, getting this as a warming/cooling center, especially for our most at-risk population, the seniors on the north end. We have the Civic Center to come to, but north of I-96 we don't have that. This is just another building that can be utilized for that. Commissioner Dooley said it's one more reason why the building should be up front.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked about trees being removed between the building in the lake.

Director Muck said no trees on the beach side will be removed and any trees removed on the park side will be replaced, if not more trees added. We are committed to adding additional (tree) screening to protect our residents. Also planning to take a look at the plantings and species along the edge of the park.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said any trees replaced would still be a loss of shade for picnics. A lot of feedback she's received has had that concern. Commissioner Bauss said the vistas have to be thought out with the positioning of the building.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said you wouldn't be able to see through the trees, as shown in the conceptual drawing.

Director Muck said he wouldn't agree with that. Had taken some pictures from the approximate location and the view from the new building, so there will still be some lake views. One of the reasons we oriented the shelter this way is so anyone who rents the shelter will get views of Shawood Lake. That's really been underutilized in the park, as well. This shelter gets a view of Shawood Lake and another shelter gets a view of Shawood Lake.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if those trees would be clear cut?

Director Muck said they'll look at the tree line and the health and species of it, but don't plan to clear cut anything in there.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said you cannot see Shawood Lake when the trees are in leaf. Photo displayed shows a winter picture.

Commissioner Bauss said trees could be trimmed up and cleaned up. Still provide shade and a good vista, too.

Commissioner Thomopoulos agreed.

Director Muck said we've had to do that with some beach trees. Had to do it at the Civic Center throughout the last year or so. We've got a great forester in place. They've trimmed up the campus and that's allowed more of the landscaping and grass underneath to grow.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Updates

Director Muck said ITC Trail Community Sports Park segment is hoping to break ground in August or September. That is the segment that runs from Eight Mile up through Community Sports Park to the current section on the north end. We're in the engineering, design and permitting phase of the Nine Mile-to-11 Mile phase segment, anticipating construction of that in 2018. Suburban Sports Park irrigation system is fully operational. We've hit that with some additional seed and fertilizer, growing that turf and anticipating fall usage of that. Pavilion Shore we've done the expansion of parking has been engineering approved. We're targeting post-Labor Day construction for that. Commissioner Dooley touched on the bike repair station. We are going to be adding the display board underneath the pavilion in the niche. We've worked with the Historical Commission and Community Relations and hope to get this in before Pour on the Shore. The final thing about Pavilion Shore is, for some of the long-term commissioners, if you remember former Commissioner Paul Policicchio, when he passed away, some of you were involved in raising funds in his honor. That has now been installed at Pavilion Shore. It just finished up Tuesday. Has been a long time coming, but is a nice way to honor a former commissioner.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if there would be a plaque?

Director Muck said there is. One of the Council members is working on wording for that, who was very close to him. Power Park spectator bleachers are scheduled for a September install. Greg Morris has been working on that. The Fuerst Sisters Estate/Four Quarters renovation is scheduled for most of the work to happen in September. A lot of projects.

B. Recreation Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Program & Services

Director Muck said Deputy Director Ringle isn't here, so just a few things. The Cultural Arts Advisory Board continues to meet bi-monthly. Board member Mary Robinson suggested we try a makers event with local organizations and various groups putting on demonstrations. Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy-Ketchum put this idea into motion and we held our first-ever Makers Fair Fun Fair 6/16 at Fuerst Park. The event hosted more than 10 organizations that hosted various activities such as miniature sailboat making, robotics demonstrations, yarn art which were called yarn bombs and a community art project. The Cultural Arts Advisory Board was also present at Spring Palooza and spread word about getting involved in the arts in Novi. That committee has come back and been resurrected under Amelia and has been really strong.

A subcommittee of the Friends of Villa Barr group met last month to investigate partnerships for an artist-in-residency program. Representatives from the Michigan Legacy Art Park, Parsons Center for the Arts and Science, and Eastern Michigan University were in attendance. The Parsons Center is located in Lake Ann near the Interlochen Center for the Arts and is the home of Jean Parsons, a founding instructors at Interlochen. The Center is run jointly by the Art, Biology and Psychology Departments of EMU. This group is optimistic they could do a shared application, shared studio space attracting artists and grant funding. There's a target of hosting our first artist in summer or fall of 2018. The Parks Foundation, such big supporters of Novi parks, contributed \$70,000 to be used to

upgrade the home to meet building requirements and living requirements. That work is scheduled for this fall and winter. There's a lot more work to be done on that artist-in-residency program, but having those big hitters in the arts world in Michigan at the table is definitely something that's pushing us forward and can make Villa Barr a real showpiece in the area.

Continuing on with Cultural Arts, we have a cultural arts programmer position posted to help Cultural Arts with performance and other theatre-based programming. Cultural arts programming and revenue have increased by more than 40 percent in most areas in the past year, so making it very difficult for one person to program. Now, as you're looking at Lakeshore, even expanding that program even more with cultural arts. So we've added that part-time position to work 10-30 hours per week. It's a very seasonal-based position depending on the programming schedule. That's posted right now on Novi's jobs board as a part-time position. The cultural arts Sizzling Summer Arts Series continues with Wednesday performances at 10:30 a.m. through 8/16 and Friday evening 8/18. There will also be a Movie on the Shore at Pavilion Shore Park 8/22. As you came in tonight, you may have noticed we're hosting a dance here at the Civic Center as part of the Oakland County adaptive program. We host four dances per year and we're looking for more partners to host adaptive activities. Again, Lakeshore Park is another perfect opportunity to hold adaptive and handicap programming up there. That would potentially serve some residents with those disabilities on that end of town, as well.

Lakeshore beach will remain open will remain open until 9 p.m. this Friday. We've gotten some feedback in the past about keeping the beach open later at night. Last year, I think we tried that two nights during the summer and we're going to do those and try and track attendance for that. If the weather stays like it was today, I'm thinking we'll have a good turnout tomorrow night. We're blasting that out on social media.

House and rec travel soccer registration still continues through 7/29. If you're still thinking about registering your child, do it now because after 7/29 we can't guarantee it. That is the largest program we run.

Marketing plan as Deputy Director Ringle has mentioned, we'll have that in Friday's packet for review for you. We'll touch base on that more at the next meeting.

We've been working with our Community Relations team and Engage! will be in mailboxes in mid-August.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said the Enhance newsletter was mailed out last Friday as part of Novi Today. It highlights all the programs with the older adults, along with Sizzling Summer and some other activities throughout the city. Our July/August volunteer is Jean Radke. She's volunteered with us for 13 years, ever since she moved into Meadowbrook Commons in 2004. She does the Sunday shop there and also helps with Meals on Wheels and other events. She says the best part of volunteering is the satisfaction you get from helping people. Those are the kind of volunteers we really feel is very important with the self-satisfaction from what they're doing.

We're going to start a new Friday evening event 8/4 called a Piece of Paradise, our summer luau party from 7-9 p.m. We're just changing up the special events

instead of just having them during the day. And then our famous 85+ birthday party will be held 8/24 and we'll be partnering with BrightStar Care and having a magic show there. For the Piece of Paradise we'll be partnering with Waltonwood of Twelve Oaks and Novi Lakes Health Campus. It's great to have that partnership and those two particular groups can also bring their residents to our activity.

For our social service updates, our durable equipment loan closet services approximately 800 individuals a year. That's individuals coming to ask to use a wheelchair, a walker, a wheelchair bench, a commode, kits for hip replacements. Tools and accessories. Usually in the summer and spring we see a lot of people doing garage sales or cleaning and all of a sudden we end up getting equipment. This year we ended up receiving 147 pieces of equipment just from individuals wanting to donate, whether they're donating or loss of a loved one. And then we had about \$140 donated to the closet so we can make improvements and buy small parts. We do have Providence and Beaumont who refer individuals.

For transportation, we have a new program, but something new we're starting with Councilman Wrobel chairing is a committee. This is a great opportunity for us to listen to what the riders have to say, get them engaged and look at ways to enhance the program through extended hours, special trips, etc. The first meeting was in July and from there we'll go into focus group meetings. We'll set up a meeting in September at Meadowbrook, Fox Run and then at Novi Civic Center. Just to get a feel for what users and potential users' thoughts are. Commissioner Staab commended the department on the new parking lot. It looks nice.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Leanne Link of 210 Bernstadt Street said she lives right next to Lakeshore Park and could've given Commissioner Dooley's speech since she walks in that park every day with her dogs since 1988. Has seen a lot of subtle changes along the way. Really appreciates squashing the banquet thing, as she was very concerned about that. Likes a lot of the things she saw tonight. The green space, moving the road and bike path along the south end of Bernstadt, make sure to addressing green space along that area, as well. We constantly have people parking along Bernstadt to avoid the \$5 fee. It's usually young folks, my kids' age, who then walk through. There's broken down fences. The City put a fence up years ago. Dick Dipenski lived on that corner of that park. Appreciates pushing the play structure away from the lot lines. That's really going to benefit us. You could add more heavy foliage trees along the end of Bernstadt. It's not a through street and we get a lot of people driving down our street looking to get to the park, and sometimes walk through there due to the broken down barriers. Some neighbors of ours have requested fencing be put along there or the fencing be repaired and the response from the City has been you don't have the money to do it. We're just policing it. People are allowed to park on a public street, but we go out and tell them the park parking is over there. Doesn't call the police, usually just let it slide. They're young folks, college age. Has three of them and knows they don't have money. In the drawing of the building, doesn't know if a family bathroom is building, but that's an important aspect. People with little kids are coming through there, so hopefully you have one. The ADA to the park. Do you have any improvements for people getting to the beach area. Has always

been one who doesn't welcome change very well, but thinks this is a nice concept, a nice addition to our area. Way better than when you put the two-story building on my neighbor's fence line. The whole thought of a banquet hall there. Was thinking of the driving along Pavilion Shore Park, when we try to exit South Lake Drive to get onto Old Novi Road or 13 Mile Road, her hands are on the steering wheel and she's a defensive driver in the respect she knows not everyone along there is from there. Maybe half or 75 percent of people are new or not from that area, and they're like "Oh, look at that" at the S-curve there and can't even tell you the number of times she's had to lay on her horn. There's curbs there, so you don't want to take out your tires or rims. Feels there's a safety issue there. Appreciates the safety concerns that were addressed. When that park first went in there, was a naysayer, thought they were throwing money at this, but does realize it is utilized and people are walking out. Wants to protect that residential feeling where people are walking and out with their kids. All three of her kids went through Camp Lakeshore and she lives a block away, would take them over there at 9 a.m. and they'd be there all day and have stories and she loved that. Really appreciates you protecting that and allowing more kids to go do that. The dirt parking lot was OK for her, but she can see the accessibility issues. Appreciates you addressing that, as well.

Maureen Zack of 359 South Lake Drive said thanks for the improvements to this building, relative to the last plan we saw. It's actually a very nice looking building. Unfortunately, looking at the layout of the building, it looks like it functions as a Civic Center building, which we already have right here. Perhaps this one needs to be expanded if more meeting rooms are needed. It's not appropriate to a park building. It's too big and still ruining, although not as badly, the "up north" ambiance which is so nice at Lakeshore Park. Buildings should be concentrating on parks-type stuff, like kids camp should have a reasonable-sized building for that. A changing area for swimmers. Sees there's one in the women's restroom and one in the men's restroom. More would be desirable; changing stalls for changing areas, as there are a lot of people using the beach, especially on the weekend. A concession stand with pop, chips, hot dogs, things like that would be a very nice amenity to have in this building. Likes the foot wash idea. ADA access is very important. One of her concerns with this building is all these civic-type functions in it is it would be increasing the traffic on South Lake Drive and in the area. There's already so many bikes and cars and stuff driving through there, it's already pretty congested right now. Having an extra-large building is a burden to the taxpayers and, as a voter, she's in Precinct 11 and lived in that house since 1992, and we currently vote at Crosspointe Meadows Church. But, in the past, we've voted at the assisted living on West Park Drive near Pontiac Trail, at Brightmoor Church, at an elementary school on Novi Road between 13 and 14 Mile Road, and it's always been a breeze getting in and out of any of those voting places. There seems to always be places around for voting. To wrap things up, the building should be much smaller and more park-oriented.

Gary Zack of 359 South Lake Drive said he appreciates it being mellowed out a bit. Thinks you missed one of the biggest points the residents brought up, which is the traffic. What really scares him is, he was feeling pretty good until the end when people started piling stuff on about backup generators, warming. If you want to build a north-end Civic Center, this is not the place. Nature center, kids camp, that's all great. After listening to you, if you sit down and think about it, the kids camp doesn't need the view. That might have been there when it was

thought of for receptions and stuff. Now you're saying that's not needed, so maybe the view isn't needed. Voters certainly don't need it because that's at night. The kids camp should be closer to where the activities are, which he hopes is in the back. Doesn't like to hear about kids watching movies and they shouldn't be sitting in meeting rooms when there's a soccer field there, a volleyball field, mountain bike trails. Heard the police thing, and that's good, but maybe the police should drive into the park and drive to the building to give the police presence in there instead of just driving by on South Lake Drive. Those are just some of my comments. A Civic Center in the north end, if you're going to do that, maybe over near the water treatment plant, maybe there's a place there. Director Muck, you're not going to be able to talk the library into let you put a horseshoe rink over there or at the Civic Center to letting you put a basketball court in, so don't let them steal our park to put in these Civic Center things. That's a problem for me. It's horrendous now and endangers everyone driving down that road. Keeps hearing we're going to do it until 9 p.m. and more functions and dancing and Euchre and cards. Let's watch out. Please think of us. The building location, in the back would be better or maybe on the existing footprint to save some money. About the voting and biking and riding to voting, unfortunately most people in Novi don't vote. Doesn't think you'll get a lot of people biking to vote. He wishes. You can't even get them to drive to the polling place, so think about that. Under transparency part of it, doesn't know why there isn't a sign up in the park talking about this. Spoke with people about this and nobody knows about this hardly. Is sure you're hearing from people, but the majority of the residents are not even aware. Has spoken to several people who picnic up in that area where this building is going and they've been doing it for years and like it. If it could be moved back a little bit or it belongs back where the kids camp stuff is, he doesn't know. That is a prime area for picnicking to be near the beach. It has a nice breeze and a good view. Something to think about. We should have a sign up there telling them this is coming and giving them a chance to give input. On the parking lot, you might want to think about permeable blocks. And he knows you have to watch ADA, but doesn't think you need the retention basins and stuff where you get all the runoff. Something that's a little more green. They do that at a lot of places, where they have pavement blocks that has holes in them where you have grass in between. You'd have to think about that. Also wants to make a couple comments on the presentation about Pavilion Shore and Lakeshore Parks.

Commissioner Bauss warned Zack to watch his time.

Zack said he was just in Lakeshore Park yesterday on the trails hiking for eight miles and there is a lot of litter. There was a lot of litter up near the front, stuff laying on picnic tables and on the grounds. It was one day. He found beer bottles in the back. Several of the signs on the trail are defaced beyond being able to read. Several of them are broken off. Supposes you guys haven't made it onto the back of the trails. Maybe you should. That might be interesting because those signs are important to find your way out. That's something to look at. Some of those signs are snapped right off.

Commissioner Bauss told Zack to wrap it up.

Zack said you need to think about enforcing the no parking. Claimed, since putting in parking at Pavilion Shore, there's been several break-ins at peoples' lakefront areas that we think are coming from people staying parked in there at night and coming over and kicking doors in and stuff. Doesn't know, but thinks if

there's no parking after 10 p.m., your car gets towed or you get a ticket. You see cars parked there all night. The same should go for Lakeshore Park. When it's closed, it's closed. If you're in there, you get a ticket so we don't have people parking in there. One last comment, along the road on South Lake Drive they should clean up. When the guys clean the park, they should go out on the road and pick up all the chicken bones and stuff that we pick up every day, too. Thanks and it does look a lot more parky. We should maybe think about getting the Civic Center stuff out to a north-end Civic Center that's not in the park, and do the park stuff, the camp kids.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jewell said thanks to everybody for doing an outstanding job. Everything at the City shows they're doing a lot of great things and parks are foremost. Just to see these things is great. Thanked Director Muck for sharing the conceptual drawing and the things that are coming up. It's an exciting time to be in Novi. You can move the building here, move buildings there, move trees here and you're never going to please everybody. The bottom line at the end of the day is you're moving forward and some progress is better than no progress. An analysis of an analysis is paralysis. Likes to see progress going, make it better than what it was and we will. It'll be better than what it was yesterday. Thank you and looking forward to everything coming down the pipe.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she had no additional comments.

Commissioner Staab said he appreciates the conceptals on Lakeshore Park and the buildings. It's long overdue and the facilities to be provided up there for the campers and the residents of all of Novi to use and avail themselves to. Looking forward to it getting kicked off. Appreciates everyone's comments and input. Thank you.

Representative Singh said it was good to hear what is happening at Lakeshore. Really had no idea before he came here. It's more of a citizens' comments to increase publicity of what's going on, to get more input on what's happening. It's a good idea. Good to hear things are moving. Thanks.

Representative Lee said he's glad to be back here since he couldn't attend last month. It's good to see and hear about a lot of the efforts going on at the parks. For Lakeshore, it sounds like there's a few issues to talk about. One of the things to look at is Fuerst Park, because there's all sorts of things with kids his age, younger and older, who go there to hang out, or there's clubs that go on and go there for photos. There's all sorts of events, like today he was passing by and saw tents. That's really good that efforts are being made and it's good the way things are now.

Commissioner Pratt said congratulations and thank you for staying on top of all the grants and keeping us posted on that. You've been doing a lot for parks and recreation by keeping up on that, so kudos to you for looking at that and offsetting the funds locally. Other than that, he likes all the changes coming to Lakeshore. It's one of those, what do you utilize, what do you do. With those changes, it brings a little bit more of a family atmosphere and flow. So, congrats.

Commissioner Dooley said we always encourage our citizens to come to our meetings. Don't think we're not listening; we are. We really appreciate the passion. You have your own convictions and your reasons for coming here. Encourage your friends and neighbors to come to our meetings. We do welcome it, so thank you for coming. We've run out of time, so he'll task the commissioners and those listening. There was a great article in the latest Parks and Recreation Magazine, July 2017. Will forward to commissioners, it's from www.parksandrecreation.org and is a great article about how neighborhood parks can attract new users. When you listen to Director Muck's

presentation this evening, it speaks very high to the reasons why he presented what he did this evening.

Commissioner Bauss said thank you to everyone for being here. Thank you to the citizens for your comments, and to Mayor Pro tem for his vision and the Novi Parks Foundation and all that it's done for our city. Thank you for sharing this update. It's obviously updated a lot of citizens' comments and other peoples' insights and it looks like we're moving to where we need to be. It's time to move forward, so thank you for that.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Staab.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Bauss at 8:50 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Doug Bauss, Chairperson

Jay Dooley, Vice Chairperson