

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Thursday, June 20, 2013 – 7:00 PM

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with Commissioner Policicchio presiding.

ROLL CALL: Policicchio (Present), Ferrell (Present), Jewell (Present), Staab (Present), Tecklenburg (Absent), Torimoto (Absent - Excused), Wingfield (Present), Kodali (Present), Singh (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Wingfield to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of the May 16, 2013 minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Wingfield to approve the minutes as written.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi - Commissioners Policicchio & Torimoto

Commissioner Policicchio stated there was no Walkable Novi Committee Meeting this month.

B. Novi Parks Foundation - Commissioners Staab and Ferrell

Commissioner Staab stated last Saturday they hosted the pre-Gala reception at the Barr Property attended by forty or fifty people. It was well received and was an eye-opening experience for him since it was the first time he had been there. He congratulated the department on the grounds looking so good and well kept.

On August 1st is the Golf Outing at the Links of Novi. People can call the Parks Department or a Foundation member for information. They are still looking for golfers and more sponsorships.

They had their first round of interviews for the Executive Director position.

Second round interviews will be held in the near future.

STAFF REPORTS:

A. Administration Division – Director Jason Mangum

Director Mangum thanked the Commissioners and Student Representatives for being there and for volunteering their time.

1. MRPA Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Director Mangum stated he currently serves on the Public Policy Committee of the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association. They put on a Day at the Capitol to declare July as Parks and Recreation month on the state level. They provided a camp day at the Capitol. Kids from all over the state attending camps got on buses and came out to the Capitol and participated in recreational activities. There were people there with wildlife. The kids could try things like disc golfing or geocaching and learn about different aspects of recreation. Our camp was there. Commissioner Jewell represented the department as the citizen advocate. Director Mangum thanked him for being there and asked him to give a brief report. Commissioner Jewell stated he met with the Executive Director of MRPA. The Executive Director spoke very highly of Director Mangum and Recreation Superintendent Pratt and all of the things that are going on in Novi. She is appreciative that Novi is taking a lead. He spoke with the Director from Dewitt who spoke very highly of Director Mangum and stated that he speaks to Director Mangum several times a week. He is trying to get Dewitt to emulate what is going on in Novi. The activities were all very well received. There were many buses. The weather was cool and he got there just as it opened around 9 am and he stayed until 10:30 am. Buses were coming in and dropping off kids. It was very well organized with many stations where kids could learn and there were tasting stations. The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) was there educating kids about the different aspects of wildlife. They also had a gaming and fishing guide there talking about the different species of fish. They had examples of many different kinds of sports. The lawn was packed. June and July were declared "no kid left inside months" encouraging people to get out to their parks and enjoy the outdoors. He gave kudos to our City and the Parks and Recreation staff because everyone he talked to was impressed and aware of what Novi is doing. It was great to hear those accolades about Novi. Director Mangum thanked Commissioner Jewell for taking time out of his schedule to be there and not only represent the Novi Parks Commission but to represent the citizens of Novi and send a message to our legislators. Advocacy is a very important role. We feel what we do is very important for our community, the lives of those who live in our community and for our economic development. Sometimes we have to speak up so that people who make decisions will keep in mind what we do when they make those decisions. He again thanked Commissioner Jewell for being there.

2. CAPRA site visit – Cleveland

Director Mangum stated the reason he was unable to attend the MRPA Advocacy Day at the Capitol was because he got a call from the National Recreation and Parks Association asking if he could fill in, last minute, for a CAPRA accreditation site visit which occurred on Monday through Wednesday of this week in Cleveland. Cleveland Metro Park is maybe the equivalent of our HCMA Metro Parks and one of the best departments in the country. They are a three time Gold Medal winner and had never been accredited. He had the opportunity to go and serve on the visitation team that reviewed their documents. It was the roll of being the eyes and ears

for the Commission of the accrediting body. By going down there he had the opportunity to “steal” ideas. He had the opportunity to look at their policies, procedures and best practices and see what might work for us in Novi. He and Superintendent Pratt have designated a team to lead us through the CAPRA accreditation process. We have begun the organization side of how we are going to tackle this project. We set a goal to have all of our policies and procedures in place by November, 2014. That gives us eighteen months to get everything in place with the goal of having visitors come and visit us and go through our documentation in 2015. Our goal is to build leadership through all levels of the organization so this is an initiative coming from everyone. We will become the third accredited agency in Michigan. We are excited and confident about that. We will be implementing policies, procedures, plans and other things where we may not have had things in place before to make sure that we are operating with best practices. As a Commission, we will be bringing many of those policies, procedures and plans to you for review and input. We recognize that you bring a different set of eyes and different viewpoints. Over the next eighteen months we will utilize these meetings to bring different policies and procedures to you so we can be advised and move forward.

3. July is Parks & Recreation Month

Director Mangum stated July is Parks and Recreation month. At the last City Council Meeting the Honorable Mayor Bob Gatt declared July as Parks and Recreation Month in Novi. This year for Parks and Recreation Month we have decided that we want to have a little public outreach campaign to let people know that it is Parks and Recreation Month. Every year the National Recreation and Park Association designate a theme for July. This year the theme is “Parks and Recreation Love” encouraging us to use lots of social media. We have come up with the idea of using some white boards. We want to engage the public to write on these white boards what Parks and Recreation is to them. Is it fun, engaging, creative, green, exhilarating or relaxing? We are going to let people write down what they feel their Parks and Recreation is, take their pictures and have a massive album on Facebook where people can come and tag themselves and see all the things Parks and Recreation is. Be thinking about what Parks and Recreation is to you because before you leave today you are going to be the first ones on that Facebook page.

4. Pavilion Park Update

Director Mangum stated Pavilion Shore Park is on track to be open in late summer. We are hoping for a late August opening. We had to add a few days for some additional scope items which include removal of foundations and footings which were below the surface and weren't identified during the bid process. Due to the history of that site it was to be expected. If you have been out to the site lately you can see that the waterfront is nearly complete. We are looking forward to our newest park opening in late August.

Commissioner Wingfield stated Director Mangum had mentioned there were two other communities in Michigan who had received the CAPRA accreditation and he wondered who they were.

Director Mangum stated one is Canton Township, who was the first to be accredited, and have been for five years. They are getting ready to go through their first reaccreditation, which is a process you go through every five years. The second one is the City of Dearborn and they are going on three years of accreditation. We have decided we want to be the third one.

Commissioner Wingfield asked if this is tied in to the NRPA National Gold Medal Award or is it separate.

Director Mangum stated it is totally separate. Accreditation is all about best practices, policies, procedures and plans. It is to make sure all of the processes are in place and to make sure you are running a department in the best possible manner. The Gold Medal deals more with programs, amenities and how you run an organization in comparison to your Master Plan. That is given to one agency every year in each of five different population categories. We would be a Class Three population out of five so we are a middle sized city. Both are big honors. Accreditation you have control over because it is something that you earn. The Gold Medal you don't have control over. It is something you win and is more subjective.

B. Recreation Division – Superintendent of Recreation Scott Pratt

1. Playground Update

Superintendent Pratt stated the playgrounds at Lakeshore Park and Rotary Park are fully complete and are great playability playgrounds. Many people have called about the playground at Rotary Park because the old structure did not have good playability so they are very pleased with the new structure. The tennis courts at Rotary Park have been resurfaced so that section of the park is beautiful now. There is now more interest in the shelter there for rental. One of the Homeowners' Associations is hosting their Association picnic there this year. The playground at Lakeshore Park turned out really well also with the tree stumps, and log climbers. The unique thing we did this year is that we have a 2 year-old to 5 year-old structure and a 5 year-old to 12 year-old structure and separated them. When you connect them you can't really call it a 2 year-old to 12 year-old structure. Those two parks have two separate areas so you can bring two age brackets of children to play and the structures are in close proximity to each other and are both close to the benches for adults.

2. Tennis Courts Update

Superintendent Pratt stated the tennis court resurfacing at Rotary Park is complete. The DPS people are calling the color of the courts "smurf blue". They are blue with forest green on the outside. Many of the residents like it. Today ITC Community Sports Park tennis courts should have been completed. They were doing the white stripping today. They were both resurfaced. There was a lot more work that had to be done at ITC Community Sports Park because there were a lot of cracks and water was gathering in places so they filled in cracks and smoothed everything out.

3. Upcoming Programs

Superintendent Pratt stated we recently had our "Sizzling Summer Arts Series" this past Tuesday and the Dakini Circus was there. It was a standing crowd at Fuerst Park. Every inch of the theatre seating was full and people

were standing around the outside to see the Dakini Circus. We did move the Farmer's Market there this year. We did not realize that produce in June is low. The farmers only had radishes and lettuce and did not want to come out with just that. Next week we will have a produce person come out. In July there will be more produce. We did have six vendors selling things like apple pies, pickles, pastries, honey, jam and flowers. They were all natural, Michigan made products. With about 500 people in attendance it is a great lead in to the Tuesday Farmer's Market.

This Saturday we have the Great Novi Campout at Lakeshore Park. We are currently full. We have 38 tent sites and those tent sites can range up to 6 people per site. There will be over 200 people for this inaugural campout. There will be a movie and the beach will be open a little later. There will be activities in each of the shelters and food. There will also be games.

Superintendent Pratt added next Tuesday John the Magician will be at the "Sizzling Summer Arts Series". If last time was any indication we should be packed again. He is a very good magician. This Friday is our "Friday Family Fun" night which is a free event. The theme is "Out of this World". The performers will be Cosmic Groove and the movie will be "Robots". We changed it a little this year. There will be a performer, food trucks and a movie. It will start at 6:30 pm and go to around 10:00 pm or later at Fuest Park.

Superintendent Pratt stated we are offering a motor coach trip to see "Wicked the Musical". They are selling right now and will go on August 17th. The Senior Variety Show will be "How the West was Fun". Marilee Dechart is organizing that and there are a lot of participants this year. It will be in September but we are advertising it now because tickets sell out quickly. Superintendent Pratt stated one of the programs that is hot and popular this year is Camp Lakeshore. We went from 20 kids the first week last year to 60 the first week this year. He gives kudos to Greg Morris for marketing Camp Lakeshore and changing the program style and format. He is having an earlier drop off and a later pick up and throughout the day is programmed and very organized. We are at capacity at 60 children because the building at Lakeshore Park can only house a little over 60 kids and in case of bad weather that is the only building we have there. He has a Hollywood theme coming up for the next week. We have only about 10 spots available for next week. The fieldtrip is going to be the Emagine Theatre and the Putting Edge on Friday.

Superintendent Pratt stated Shauna Lewallen is our Sports Programmer and she wanted him to mention two of her sports camps. They are the Olympic Sports Camp and the Girls Lacrosse Skills Session. These are two new programs but there is a lot of interest in the community and they are starting to fill.

Wendy DuVall has been working with Oakland County Parks for adaptive recreation. We have been trying to offer more programs in the adaptive component of recreation. She has worked tirelessly to get this program up and running. We are hosting a Novi Picnic called "The Ants Go Marching". It will be held at Lakeshore Park in Shelter 1 on Friday, July 26th. The program

we held in the winter was a dance here at the Civic Center and that sold out.

Superintendent Pratt stated there will be more adaptive programming because the need is there for our community.

Superintendent Pratt stated the Art Club Exhibition in the atrium is ending July 26th. It is through the Art Institute of Novi.

Commissioner Policicchio asked if Parks and Recreation is involved in the Walled Lake fireworks.

Director Mangum replied that we are not involved in putting on the fireworks. We are having our Great Campout at the same time so people can come out to Lakeshore Park and watch the fireworks. We will keep our beach open and will have extra lifeguards and staff to make sure things are safe and that people have a good time.

Superintendent Pratt stated that because of the size of the group coming out for the Great Campout we are shutting down the back half of Lakeshore Park at 1:00 pm to allow those people camping to drop off and set up for the campout. We have already reserved shelter one and shelter two so it is just the play area we are trying to coordinate. This will allow campers to have a parking spot close to their site. People can still park in the front half and also mountain bike if they wish. We want less car traffic at the back where a lot of campers will be walking.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Student Representative Singh had no comment.

Student Representative Kodali stated he liked what was being done at Lakeshore Park.

Commissioner Ferrell thanked Recreation Supervisor Lewallen for the great job she and her staff did for the soccer season, especially with all of the bad weather and make up games. She was impressed with how organized it was. She stated that Director Mangum and Superintendent Pratt are doing an amazing job and is excited for all of the programs this summer.

Commissioner Jewell stated he agrees with Commissioner Ferrell. There are so many great things going on in Novi. If there is anything the Commissioners can do please let them know.

Commissioner Wingfield stated kudos to the staff for everything they have done. There are a lot of creative and new things going on. Camp Lakeshore has been around for years. His kids went and it had gotten stale. It has been updated and has come back. He asked Director Mangum what the latest is with the Bosco Property. He asked if it is correct that the schools own it but we have the potential to program it.

Director Mangum stated the schools own it and is theirs to utilize for whatever purposes they feel may be appropriate. We would like to reach out and discuss potential ways to co-use or program it or construct fields. Those talks are ongoing but there is nothing to report.

Commissioner Wingfield stated he is involved with "Taste Fest" at the High School which will be Friday, September 13th. He asked Superintendent Pratt if that is also the day of "Fire Up Fest".

Superintendent Pratt confirmed that is also the date for "Fire Up Fest".

Commissioner Wingfield asked if Parks and Recreation are running the concession stands this year or if they have been contracted out.

Director Mangum stated the concessions have been contracted out. We have concessionaires at Ella Mae Power Park, both the soccer and baseball concession stands at ITC Community Sports Park and one at Lakeshore Park.

Commissioner Wingfield gave kudos to Commissioner Jewell for representing the City of Novi at Lansing this past Tuesday.

Commissioner Staab thanked Commissioner Jewell for representing the City in Lansing this past Tuesday. He reminded everyone of the Novi Parks Foundation Golf Outing on August 1st.

Commissioner Policicchio state he has lived in Novi for 37 years and he continues to see the progress it has made and the bright future it has. He hopes the citizens realize not only are things being done today, as reported very well, but the future is bright and reflective of where the demographics are going. He believes that a lot that we can be proud of is attributable to the leadership we've had and now have in the City and also the staff, whose faces we do not often see. He also commended his fellow Commissioners, who not only serve on the Commission but do things above and beyond, like serving on the Novi Parks Foundation or representing the City.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Policicchio at 7:41pm.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Paul Policicchio, Chairperson

Harry Torimoto, Vice Chairperson