

drop-off and a dumpster next to the neighboring home; or that it's shifted further back into the park. As a park planner, she always considers the location of any new facility considered to not negatively impacting neighbors. She's also cautious to not using public funds and not use capital funds without properly vetting them. Living on the lake, homeowners are very aware of how sound travels and a mitigation study on the banquet center should be done. Suggests shifting the building further back, closer to Shawood Lake than Walled Lake. Homes on Shawood would be further away across Shawood Lake. A cost study on staff needs should be done if it hasn't already. A larger venue may require adult staff to deal with unruly renters, as opposed to the student summer staff the park currently uses. People walk through their yards to get to the beach and lake now, and that would increase with a new venue. Before moving this project to City Council, she requests the due diligence be done on the items she discussed. She appreciates the Parks Director's stance on lower impact, but also understands that, if the Mayor and other City employees want a banquet facility, he will be overruled. She's lived in her home for more than 11 years and are on their fourth parks director and second mayor. Understands employees wanting to make improvements, but these positions are not permanent and Lakeshore Park and the surrounding neighborhood are.

Resident Gary Zack of 359 S. Lake Drive is one house away from the park. Definition of "park" is "an area maintained in its natural state as a public property," "an area of land, usually in a largely natural state, for the enjoyment of the public, having facilities for rest and recreation, often owned, set apart, and managed by a city, state, or nation," and "in a town, an area with sports fields and places for children to play." Personally thinks, of all the parks in Novi, Lakeshore Park best meets these definitions. It's a jewel of Novi, as the mayor said. What does he personally enjoy about the park? He believes many residents probably feel the same way he does. He doesn't consider corporations and wedding parties residents, but in some cases they may be. Lakeshore Park is personally relaxing to walk in and even just to look at it. The green space and lack of structures and pavement offer a welcome respite from the overdevelopment that's in much of Novi. He likes the access to the beach and nearby picnic tables. He likes being able to enjoy the space without having to leave the City. Being a neighbor, there are some things he doesn't like about having a park as his neighbor. The increased bike and car traffic on the already overcrowded residential street; and some other people already mentioned some studies may be needed for the impact of adding more events there. The noise pollution and garbage coming from large gatherings he doesn't see from people picnicking at the park. These large events cause a lot of issues. He thinks the park has been poorly maintained. The mayor alluded to this building may be there 100 years; he doubts any building in a Novi park would last 100 years with the way maintenance is provided now. People mentioned it needs to be factored in what it costs to run these large structures. I think, in Novi, we're famous for building things and letting them go. He doesn't like that. Trespassers coming from the park onto the private property bordering the park, using the docks, lawns, leaving trash, etc. He doesn't think a lot of residents around the park do this, but when you have weddings, corporate events and big parties using the park, a lot of this happens. Things get out of control, people have too much to drink. Another thing is people at night causing disturbances, racing around, burning picnic tables, etc. The last thing he doesn't like is little to no police response when there are disturbances at the park. His feeling is the proposed upgrades do nothing to upgrade the attributes he enjoys about the park. To the contrary, most of the "upgrades" only amplify the already negative things about the park. Said, if you look in the private sector, you will find many

entrepreneurs who are willing to build big facilities to accommodate weddings, big events and corporate events. But you'll be hard pressed to find someone to purchase land to set aside as open green space. He hopes the Park Commission and City Council will consider this and not destroy the jewel of Novi by overdeveloping it and building it up to be just like the rest of Novi.

Resident Greg Iszler of 621 S. Lake Drive was a past president of LAHA. Concerned as a neighbor that you would significantly overburden an adjacent property, but he'll hold that off for tonight. Said he's speaking tonight as a father and avid cyclist. Like most communities around Detroit and around the country, he said Novi is experiencing an increase in cyclists around this lake in addition to more walkers and more runners, he would actually suggest that there's more cycling and pedestrian activity in this stretch of road than any stretch in Novi. It speaks to the special draws of this being the jewel of Novi. All these outdoor enthusiasts are on a narrow South Lake Drive with unprotected lanes eastbound, no protection or lanes westbound, which families with their kids are supposed to be cycling. If you live on the lake, you see all of the near misses between distracted drivers, texting, migrating out of their lanes or being oblivious or antagonistic – which he's experienced personally – about those cycling or running in this area. Said commissioners are also not the ones cringing as families careen down the hill toward the Lakeshore Park entrance relying on the drivers exiting to look both ways before turning right, which they're not doing. He said, given the number of close calls he's witnessed from his close vantage point, it's shocking there hasn't been a more serious incident there. As someone who has had a close call with those visitor cars in the past year, he said tripling or quadrupling traffic through this stretch area is insanity, a liability for the City and, at minimum, an ethical concern for the leaders for putting citizens in harm's way, potentially. Before doing anything, he challenges commissioners to spend a couple weekends in the summer, in the recreation lanes, firsthand. And then, multiply that risk by three or four. He's truly horrified at the thought of this commercial development being considered for this area. He encourages commissioners to reconsider the scope of this project to remain the original intent of an intimate park space. He appreciates their patience.

Resident John Duneske of 357 S. Lake Drive said he's lived in Novi for more than 40 years. He agrees with everything that's been said so far. He heard some comments made at the last Council meeting about the facility that was going to be built and where it was going to be built at. It started off as a single story and they thought it needed to have a second story so they could see the lake better and have a cup of coffee. He thinks the City can find a better use for money than to build a two-story facility right there at the road to facilitate seeing the lake and having a cup of coffee. He agrees with one comment he heard that most of the shelters at Lakeshore fill up very quickly and are used for corporate parties and activities like that. But no one uses the lake at that time. To put any type of building up at the front takes away the jewel and would be tarnishing that jewel.

Resident Maureen Zack of 359 S. Lake Drive has lived there since 1992. She is opposed to a big building at the park because it destroys the ambiance of the park and therefore is a waste of taxpayer's money. Additionally, it's using taxpayer money in competition with private businesses who pay taxes, so she's opposed to it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of Dec. 15, 2016 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for December be approved by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Thomopoulos & Bauss
 Commissioner Thomopoulos said the master plan is now published on the website. Couldn't find it on the website when searching "Walkable Novi," so mentioned that to Sri Komaragiri, but it is on there under Community and search for "non-motorized master plan." Our next meeting is May 18.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioner Torimoto
 Commissioner Staab said it was held Jan. 9 and went over financials. Awaiting opinion letter as to 10 percent of the naming rights being used for expenses. In addition to Pour on the Shore July 28, looking at another fundraiser either September 16 or 30. Details to follow on that. Considering some of naming rights funds at Villa Barr to co-op with the City to bring the building up to code. Will finalize that before our next meeting.
- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt & Dooley
 Director Muck said the next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 16 prior to this meeting. Attended the MRPA Public Policy meeting in Lansing last Friday and discussed future use of the trust fund dollars. In two weeks, there will be a roundtable discussion with representatives from DNR and MNRTF at the mParks Conference in Grand Rapids that he will be attending.
- D. Parks Updates
 1. ~~Villa Barr Art Park (Aug/Jan.) – Commissioner Jewell~~
 2. Lakeshore Park (Dec.) – Commissioner Dooley
 Commissioner Dooley said thank you to the audience for their comments. We encourage participation and passion. He walked around the park and what was open. Explained the park updates commissioners perform. There wasn't a lot of activity, but the park was well maintained. The structure and picnic benches looked clean and well maintained. Maintenance did a good job of winterizing Lakeshore Park. It was a nice day when he went out. Liked that there were birdhouses out there and wildlife had the ability to walk around. Envis those with Lakeshore access. Things are locked down so there aren't any unwanted guests. Commissioner Thomopoulos said the phragmites are overtaking the wetlands. Those who live in the neighborhood have had our bushes eaten by the deer. Wondered if there could be a study on the phragmites. Spoke with a Council member about \$30,000 set aside for treating phragmites that are clogging ditches. If you take the long bike ride, you will see these in other wetland areas, as well.
 Director Muck said city landscape architect, city forester and water and drains have been working with the fire department, as well, at some controlled burns across the city. Ordinance just passed last year. We did some removals of buckthorn at Rotary Park and now we're going to be moving on to phragmites, a lot of which is in ditches. Lakeshore Park is on the docket for some phragmites and some burns, but not sure on exact location.
 Commissioner Thomopoulos said it has jumped the waterways and is growing in her yard. Also wanted to mention about maintenance along the east and west fencelines, we've had a lot of evergreen tree dieback. They trim them up, but nothing gets planted underneath. Those weeds are the noxious kind that we're not supposed to have. Tiffany mentioned last month that we'll be doing tree replacement only. I'd like to ensure on the plan either for the Lakeshore

restructuring or in the planting plans that those pine trees along the property lines have planting plans for trees in the young stage so we don't have weeds growing up.

3. ITC Community Sports Park (Oct.) – Commissioner Pratt

Commissioner Pratt said it was a muddy mess with the weather we've had. Have some erosion issues with the parking. Was surprised to see the wooden structure playground was in decent shape structural-wise. The slides are losing their color, monkey bars are losing their grips and chain ropes starting to come apart. The mulch is good. The basketball courts need a little attention with paint. The cracks aren't too bad. The tennis courts don't have any puddling. Noticed some tire tracks near the baseball diamond outfield. The first sidewalk near the southern soccer fields was flooded. The north playground needs new mulch. The soccer fields looked really nice even with the weather the way it is now.

4. Novi Dog Park (Sept.) – Commissioner Pratt

Commissioner Pratt said he spoke to a good crowd of people. The biggest issue they had was a lock-out issue. They said the dog park is open until dusk and they don't know what dusk is. Some said they got locked in, but they're very happy with it. It was a muddy mess out there. They wished there was some sort of dog cleaning bath there. They wondered if there was some sort of cover to put on the electrical structure in the corner. The grass isn't coming in like it should. It's very patchy.

Director Muck said they did some test plots with different seed mixtures. May install fencing to section dog park off to allow for rest and growth, which is the only way to handle it.

Commissioner Pratt said the only thing that stood out to me is that people work out there while their dog is there, walking up and down the hill. Wondered if some exercise component like a track could be installed.

5. Novi Ice Arena (Nov/Jan.) – Commissioner Torimoto

Tabled to February.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she wanted to note Director Muck's email responses to questions from the last meeting. On Brookfarm, we had talked about the trail not maintained. We talked about the potential of establishing the trail as a scout project. Director Muck said the trail was abandoned due to the emerald ash borer issue a few years ago. Commissioner Thomopoulos said the dead trees could be mulched and used for the path. On Power Park fence issues, they are being repaired this winter. On Wildlife Woods, the old blocking sleds from the Novi Bobcats are being removed and recycled. Will also have new signage to reflect and north and south areas of the park. Thomopoulos said Director Muck was able to verify only tennis courts 1-6 can be reserved.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

- A. Presentation on City of Novi Employee of the Year Greg Morris
Director Muck asked Recreation Supervisor Greg Morris to proceed to the podium. Morris knew the pressure he was under when he took the lead on the CAPRA evaluation process. Novi is now one of only four in Michigan and 151 nationwide to achieve this honor out of about 10,000 agencies nationwide. Greg was recognized for his positive attitude, his passion for Novi. He was one of five finalists for the award, which was handed out at the annual Night of Appreciation in December. Joining him as finalists were Geospatial Application

Services Manager Keri Blough, Community Relations Specialist Nathan Mueller, our Parks and Municipal Property Superintendent Matthew Turco and Building Attendant Torry Yu. Read quote from City Manager Pete Auger that said "all the finalists are not just outstanding employees, but outstanding people who are committed to making Novi a great city. Anyone who knows and interacts with Greg sees he truly cares about his job and the people he works with. It's easy to understand why he was selected as the Novi employee of the year." Greg wasn't just nominated by one person, but by multiple people across different departments.

Supervisor Morris said it was truly an honor to be nominated, let alone win and receive the employee of the year honor. When it happened, City Manager Auger looked in his direction and he looked around like "you're not looking at me" because none of the nominations even knew they were up for the award. More importantly it's an honor to be part of such a great team; Parks and Rec staff, leadership. He's been a part of three different organizations over the course of his career and this is an organization where we get things done. We get the opportunity to take part in projects and we value citizen feedback. I'd like to thank our employees in our Parks and Rec Department, and also across the entire City, my family, my wife for putting up with my long hours. She at some points came out and said "you're still working on this?" and it was midnight and we had a 1 year old at the time. Just a lot of people to thank, but I appreciate the parks commission taking the time to recognize me tonight.

Commissioner Staab said he wanted to personally congratulate Greg for his accomplishments. Figured it out and it's a little more than 1 percent of the whole country.

Commissioner Bauss said Morris' enthusiasm is infectious and he's sure other departments have reached out to him about implementing new policies and procedures since he's an expert at documenting things. Morris said he knows more about Human Resources than before.

Commissioner Dooley said he wanted to acknowledge Greg, too. He's at every single City event on any particular weekend. He gives back to the community more than anybody I know.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said congratulations.

Commissioner Pratt said he's known Morris for a while and, every department he's gone to, he's shown top-notch professionalism in the profession. Congrats on getting this and being honored. CAPRA's a big deal. We're on the map for Police Department, for school district. This put us on the map for recreation department. People talk about us on the state and national stage.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Project Updates

Director Muck said he wanted to first update on the Capital Improvement Program from City Council and CIP Committee meeting. The committee consists of three Council members, two Planning Commission members and members of City administration. They're tasked with looking at how the millage that recently passed would take priority and be divided across the years. A meeting was held last night and the committee recommended a plan to take forward to the Planning Commission, which included quite a few parks projects. Lakeshore Park is obviously on there and still up for discussion. The DPS building is on there. That

impacts Parks because that's where the Maintenance Department is housed with their equipment. There is a line for park property acquisition and subsequent improvements. Including a possibility of the expansion of ITC Sports Park. ITC Trail completion is on the list and was also mentioned at the Council goal setting on Saturday. It would complete the Nine Mile to 10 Mile segment. The trailhead at the 10 Mile part of the trail that would serve as an access point with parking, a bike repair station and help fill some of those sidewalk gaps that would help enhance the access for residents to access that trail was also discussed. Villa Barr property may receive a parking lot and pathway. Ella Mae Power Park spectator bleacher upgrade which is phase 2 at Power Park. Last year, we improved dugout covers and bleachers. This would essentially be the same, but for spectator bleachers, which is necessary for national tournaments. Pavilion Shore, looking at additional parking space on the east end of the park. In regards to Lakeshore Park, residents who came out tonight, I appreciate your feedback. To clarify where we stand in the process from the parks and recreation staff, step one of this whole process was a conceptual plan that was put out when the CIP millage was originally developed. Residents are correct, we had a two-story 4,800-square-foot building on that conceptual plan, but that's exactly what it was, a conceptual plan. It was a plan to give us a starting point for discussion. As we've moved further in, meeting with our architects, with Council, with the City Clerk, we realized that type of building and that square footage wasn't going to serve the needs of a polling place. If you remember, we've been pretty clear we wanted to move precincts into that building. Parks staff continue to be adamant our intent is Camp Lakeshore, it is meeting space, it is senior citizen programming and fitness class and those types of activities. That is what we presented to Council. Council has discussed other options and we will take direction from Council. As Commissioner Dooley or Bauss mentioned, we are going into the next phase. Council gave us a lot of direction last Monday night. It was a half hour discussion. We've gone back to our architects and incorporated some of Council's feedback in going back to another plan. One thing was a debate of one versus two stories. The conversation included where in the park this is located, the views of the lake or farther from the lake, how much parking should be there, elimination of entry fees, Council wants to eliminate toll booth and park entry fees as part of any redesign of the park. Bike path access from South Lake Drive was a good discussion point with Council. They wanted a dedicated bike bath to the trailhead from South Lake Drive, so that'll be incorporated into the next conceptual plan. Size and occupancy were also discussed. As Council members discussed, those shelters are highly used and there was discussion among Council members about how many shelters are needed, should we add more shelters, should we increase the size of shelters. At this point, we took the feedback back to our architects, who were also there. Next step, we'll go back to Council again when these are done and again ask for feedback. Council will hear what you said, they had their internal conversation with us last Monday at Council and we'll go forward on the next step. If you did not see the conceptual plan that was put forward last Monday, it is under the Council agenda from January 9. More to come as we vet out the best use for that park.

- B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle
 - 1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said Daddy Daughter Dance tickets are on sale now. Saturday night is already sold out with 450 tickets. Still availability Friday night and Saturday afternoon for those interested. This Saturday's Chili Chilly Softball Showdown is postponed to 2/11 due to soft field conditions. Registration has reopened. This Saturday we'll be hosting auditions for "Alice in Wonderland Jr.," a collaborating with an outside group. We're looking to be able to offer full-scale theater productions back here at the Civic Center with performances March 24-26. Also coming up is our Mother-Son Dance, similar to Daddy Daughter, with the theme being chucks and tux, with chucks being Converse All-Stars. Part of the registration you can pick to purchase a tuxedo T-shirt for the little guy. For midwinter break, we're offering opportunities for kids with Camp Arctic Adventure at Novi Ice Arena. For spring break, we're offering a farm camp, art camp and LEGO camp. All are ways for our youngest population to stay active and opportunities for parents to keep their kids busy during break times. If you have registered for programs in the last two years, you should've received an email from us today highlighting our text messaging service. Our intent is to do so for weather updates, program changes, notification issues. We're encouraging all of our families to participate and opt in to that. You would need to go back into Rec1, our software account, and login, update your phone number and phone carrier. We aren't going to use it extensively, but we are going to use it for pertinent information for our programs.

2. Mid-Fiscal Year Update

Deputy Director Ringle said we are on a July-June fiscal year. We look forward the next two years and we in the department take it a step further and really look at where we're at each year to make sure we're hitting the goals for both revenue and expense. We do that by looking at, line by line, where our numbers have been to make sure we're on target; and we are. The good news is we are, we expect to be on target for both revenue and expenses. Our group of supervisors are fiscally responsible and look for sponsorships so we can increase our revenue over expenses. Just a few highlights, our park shelter reservations for the first 10 days. We had a 4 percent increase this year. Our Daddy Daughter Dance, with Saturday sold out, is already 6 percent of where we were last year. Our sports camps and clinics are up 19 percent from last year. Volleyball alone is up 15.5 percent over last year. Our revenue for the Civic Center here where we host a variety of events is up 4.2 percent over last year. We're looking good in a number of areas. We've had a number of successes this past year and new programs, so we're looking to share good news with the commission.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Karen Kapchonick said the Valentine's Mad Hatter's luncheon, followed by our St. Patty's Day Honorary Irishman luncheon, are both coming up. Tickets are on sale now and typically sell out. Our New Year's Eve party had about 84 attendees for a first-time event. Art classes at Meadowbrook Activity Center have started, and a colored-pencil program and creative card making are both coming up in February, March and April. The individuals that come do not come to our other programs, but because of the kind of event come and enjoy being there. We had some younger attendees in December who were about 18, so we're encouraging this as an intergenerational program. We have our popular throwback Thursday program coming back where we work with five

other communities. In September, the first event was a '50s Sock Hop. In April, we'll have Seniorstock: Music of the '60s and '70s. That will be held at Northville and tickets went on this week at all five communities. January-March is tax season and one of the popular programs we offer through AARP is tax aide service. Last year we served about 300 individuals. On Jan. 3, we opened up registration and had 50 people call to make reservations. So far, we have 100 reservations taken. It's a great service for residents and non-residents. For the summer, we started our golf registration and that'll run until April 11 for our three leagues; men's, women's, coed. Last week, we started our fitness programs. We have more than 25 classes and continue to grow that both at MAC and Novi Civic Center. Our transportation program went live last Thursday, 1/12, and we had training two weeks and support of the company with us for the past two weeks. We have increased our rides by 4-5 per day, but it's a learning curve for the dispatch and a lot more work for dispatch, but it'll be great in the long run for accommodating our seniors and providing more rides. Meadowbrook Commons we began putting security cameras in this week and should wrap that up next week.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Resident Gary Zack of 359 S. Lake Drive said one thing that would improve the Lakeshore Park is if the beach to the back was connected as one. He knows there are a lot of things that go with that. If that beach were connected to the rest of the park and picnic areas were up closer to the beach, it would be a totally different park. It would be more like Metro Beach where you could enjoy the water without being on the beach.

Resident John Duneske of 357 S. Lake Drive said he heard of it being used as a possible polling station. He would really like that one to be looked at as far as a couple hundred people using churches and schools right now. Even redistricting the districts could help with that. Once every four years to do a national election, to have a building built for \$7 million, he finds that something to consider. He forgot about green space and tree lines. Being in the city for numerous years, he's been a big advocate of parks in the '70s, '80s and '90s. He said the City is a great city, but has squandered... has made mistakes with our parks in the past. The City had opportunities to purchase property and didn't. Then was forced, backs to the wall and had to go buy land at higher prices at probably not the best locations at the time. Had lost hundreds of acres in Lakeshore. Had lost lots of land within the city that others put commercial buildings there and subdivisions. He doesn't want the City to make the same mistake again by commercializing and heating and cooling and taking away the few dollars it can get from the stations. The City showed pictures up here with the tree line across the lake like that. He said the City wants to save this. It goes back to the jewel part of the park. You don't want to make a mistake and lose what we've got here. He's confident, if the City does a little research on it, there's other ways to accommodate a facility for a banquet, have a cup of coffee and enjoy parks.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Thomopoulos said Lakeshore Park is advertised as providing that "up north" feel. That is not just a slogan. When you drive or bike to Lakeshore Park, when you turn into the park, you have a good view of the lake and sandy beach. When you park your car, you see mature trees, picnic tables and green space inviting you to relax, slow down and have fun. The camp building and bathhouse are subtle and sublime, fading

into the scenery, but handy if you need the facilities. You have the sense that you have escaped urban life and entered a park oasis. Evergreen trees, shade trees and the sound of kids playing in the beach give the feeling of having arrived "up north." This park is a "jewel of Novi" because Novi families can pack a beach cooler, grab a beach towel and, with a short 10-15-minute drive, arrive at a park that is relaxing and provides the green spaces and water features appropriate for a family mini-vacation experience. A frolic in the water, tossing the Frisbee and sharing a family picnic. What is now being proposed for the precious little 4 acres of the front of this park that is closest to the beach will damage this experience for Novi families. Instead of entering a park, you will enter a municipal parking lot and you will be overwhelmed with a large, urban building. Gone are the many mature trees that previously provided shade for your picnic. You have to compete for parking near the beach with catering trucks, florist trucks, party trucks and out-of-towners attending weddings and the like at the massive banquet hall. No longer will you be able to allow your child to ride their bike to the park, since you cannot be assured of their safety with the commercial traffic coming in and out of the banquet hall. When this project was shared with the public last July, it was described as a new camp building with new bathrooms for the park patrons. What was presented last week was something else entirely. As the Parks Commission, it is our responsibility be stewards of the parks for the citizens of Novi. In 2014, a citizen survey was commissioned by parks and rec. When asked what facilities they would like to see more of in Novi, they said they would like to see more open spaces and for trails. We should concentrate on making sure the work we do answers the interest of our citizens. Commissioner Pratt said I echo some of that, as well. I think what's nice is Novi Parks & Rec Department has in their department is years and years of parks and rec experience on the national stage, at the national level and I think you guys will do your due diligence to get community input on what needs to go there. I know the camp kids is a need for that park for them to have a home to go to. I know when storm days come around, you have to herd these kids into a place that's safe and secure. I leave it up to you guys to come up with some great ideas. On a second note, every time I think you guys are at your full capacity of recreational programs, you tend to burst that bubble and come up with something new. Congrats on staying above the curve on recreational programming. Greg, congrats again on your award and congrats on CAPRA.

Commissioner Dooley said I want to echo those sentiments. It means a lot to us when you're as passionate as you are. We'll all do our due diligence and continue that passion no matter what happens, pro or nay, stick to your guns with what you believe in. That's what makes this City of Novi so great, because we do have that dialog at all times. Going off topic, the Novi Ambassadors just completed our third graduation class. It's an opportunity for anybody in the City of Novi to learn more about the intricacies of what's involved, about the players involved. As a paid employee, as a volunteer, you get to learn about the City of Novi. You have the opportunity to attend two months of classes every Thursday. Doug and I are both graduates of Novi Ambassadors and we meet regularly to discuss issues and how to make Novi better than it is right now. And congrats again, Mr. Morris.

Commissioner Staab said congratulations to Greg again. It's an award that's well deserved. I had the opportunity to attend briefly the New Year's Eve festivities at the end of the block. Good entertainment, good interaction, good event. This is what the department's all about, thinking outside the box to have new interminglings, events and so on. In regards to Camp Lakeshore and Lakeshore Park. I've had three children that went through Camp Lakeshore. I've had three children that worked Camp

Lakeshore. I agree there's a lot to be said as regards to the facilities up there and the use and so on, but I'm not ready to come on and make a statement this way or that way. I'm going to do my due diligence as an appointed commissioner, being on this commission for some 20-odd years. Listening to you, the citizens, which I think we try to do very well as a commission, appreciate you bringing this to our attention, and your desires and concerns. And we'll factor that all into the decision process at the proper time. As a total department, congratulations on a good send off and good start to the year. I'm looking forward to the opportunities with you.

Commissioner Bauss said congratulations. You guys have a great staff, which I've said all along. I want to thank the audience participation tonight. That's what that spot on the agenda is for, to make sure we're in touch with our community and citizens. The terms being used as a banquet center is a little shocking to me because that's never been the way it was explained to me. And I really don't think that's the intention, so I think we really need to be careful. It's a good way to argue it by saying "banquet center," but I don't think that's ever – at least in the way it was explained to me – that has ever been the main purpose. I do understand the comments made here. That being said, we have to think of the whole community as a whole. There's often been a lot of pushback around making that jewel accessible to the whole community. It doesn't just belong to the people who live on Lakeshore's drive. However, it greatly impacts their lives. I totally understand that. For example, if I wanted to take my canoe up there to our Lakeshore Park, it was made difficult in the planning of that because other people didn't want other people to use the lake. That was my dealing of how that's park was developed, that it wasn't open to all residents. It's been made very difficult to use for anything other than open space if I wanted to bring my canoe or a paddleboard or a kayak in there, it's not easy to do. We need to think of everybody. The lake belongs to everybody and we need to remember that, as well. I think it's important to understand everybody's point of view. I want to thank you for your insight, as it's opened my eyes to something I didn't see. I appreciate everyone's attendance tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Staab at 8:25 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Doug Bauss, Chairperson

Jay Dooley, Vice Chairperson