Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel

ALSO PRESENT: Clay Pearson, City Manager
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney
Jason Mangum, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM 14-02-027 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Agenda as amended with an addition under Mayor and Council Issues: Approval of an Interim City Manager.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-027
Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt
Nays: None

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Colleen Crossey – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Colleen Crossey said she would like to be appointed to Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission because her family loves the activities available. They attend many of the River Day, Earth Day and Arbor Day activities because her daughters are Girl Scouts. Her daughter’s public speaking skills have improved from being in a couple of plays through Parks and Recreation. She was on the Beautification Commission. The Commission is currently doing an outreach to invite small businesses to attend River Day that will be similar to an art fair but with small businesses. She thinks people in Michigan want to buy locally and believed more visibility would help our Community. Member Markham asked if there are aspects of the Beautification Commission that she could incorporate into the Parks system to make Novi more beautiful and unique. Ms. Crossey said the Commission is going to talk to home owners associations to encourage them to plant flowers that would attract bees because of the problem with the bee population. She explained that the Commission will give an award for associations that do that. Member Wrobel thanked her for serving and asked her what programs she would like to see added to Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services that are not offered now. Ms. Crossey said she is taking a language now and would like see foreign languages offered. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked how she felt about the availability of active park land in the City of Novi and the current space offered for activities. Ms. Crossey said it is
getting better. She noted in Rotary Park every River Day they are adding on with more improvements to make it more beautiful. Member Fischer asked why the Parks and Recreation Commission suited her. Ms. Crossey said as a social worker she has a lot of experience being in the Community. Her work history shows she does crisis counseling, incarceration counseling, and domestic violence counseling, and working in a nursing home as an advocate for seniors. Member Mutch asked her what they are doing well as a Parks and Rec system or with the programs. Ms. Crossey answered that the Lake Shore Park improvements are very nice. She went there on the opening day and liked the pier and water’s edge. Member Casey asked what she thought was critical skills that would best serve a candidate or committee member for the Parks, Rec and Cultural Services Commission. Ms. Crossey said they should have skills of being friendly to others, being able to negotiate, ability to bring forth good ideas, and working as a team member.

2. Scott Pratt - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Mr. Pratt said he had over 18 years of municipal parks and recreation experience. He has served in all rolls in the Commission. He lives here and likes the City of Novi. He is a supporter and advocate of all the programs available. He hoped to bring his skills and talent to the Commission. Member Wrobel had no questions. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked how important it was to connect communities like Novi into the Regional Trail System and as a member would he encourage that. Mr. Pratt said he would definitely encourage it. The best thing about the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the natural resources. They are encouraging connectivity with local communities themselves. One of the main priority goals with the DNR is to connect local community parks to State Parks. The communities could offer classes at the State Parks. He would like to see people driven from local communities to State Parks. Member Fischer asked what he would bring to the Commission that is related to his employment with the DNR. Mr. Pratt said he would bring the eyes and ears of the Community. He is involved with a lot of the programs. His wife coaches in the programs and both of them volunteer in the schools. He feels he will be able to hear from the Community what they want and would like to see. Member Mutch asked him what challenge moving forward he saw was a priority. Mr. Pratt said it was similar to what Mayor Pro Tem Staudt eluded to earlier; it would be space for the programs. He felt there is not enough. Also, a challenge was working on communication and collaboration with the School District to offer more programs. He thought once they get more land they could offer more programs to get more people in the Community active. Member Mutch said it was an interesting perspective he would bring to the Commission. He looked forward to working with him. Members Casey, Markham, and Mayor Gatt thanked him for stepping forward.

3. John Lesko - Library Board

Mr. Lesko said he and his family have lived in Novi for 8 years. He is retired from the accounting field. He was interested in being on the Library Board because he wanted to give back to the Community. He was the Treasurer of the Novi Athletic Boosters for two years. He has worked the City elections and participates as a Food Pantry
Coordinator at his church. He looks forward to working on the Board. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if he had the opportunity to observe a Library Board Meeting and if he had, what kind of issues was he interested in. Mr. Lesko said he had not attended any meetings. Member Fischer wanted to know what he thought he would bring to the Board from his background. Mr. Lesko thought his background enables him to work with budgets, be organized, and to be a team member he thought that was very important. Member Mutch asked why he was interested in being on the Library Board and if there was an initiative he would like to start. Mr. Lesko said he has more time to read. He said the Library is very crowded at times and would look for the need of a possible expansion in the future. He said he would to look for ways to improve the website for citizens to access their accounts easily and different ways to raise funds for the library. Member Casey asked if there was a program he would like to see that he would like the Library to offer. When he was working with the High School students, he noted how happy they were to have space to get together after school and would like to look for ways for the young adults to get involved with the Library. Member Markham thanked him. Member Wrobel asked why he chose the Library Board. Mr. Lesko said the Novi News posted that the position was open and he loved the Library. Mayor Gatt said he appreciated his desire to serve and thanked him.

4. Kamran Qadeer – Library Board

Mr. Qadeer said he has been a resident in Novi since 2000. He has children in the Novi School system from elementary to high school. He said they frequently go to the Library. He enjoys serving on civic and professional organizations. He is currently serving on the Construction Board of Appeals for Novi. He has been a former Planning Commissioner for the City of South Lyon. He has been the President of the Michigan American Society of Civil Engineers. He wanted to engage with the Community more. He believed his educational training and his professional experience will bring a unique perspective to the Board. Member Fischer asked him to elaborate on the unique perspective he would bring to the Board. Mr. Qadeer answered he has an engineering background and has worked for an architectural engineering firm. He heard there was a draft issue with the building he believed could be handled with his professional experience. He has experience working with several organizations and committees. He thought he would be able to bring that perspective, also. Member Mutch asked if there was another particular interest or concern he would like to pursue as a member of the Library Board. Mr. Qadeer said it is very fortunate our library has great programs and offer some good classes. He would like to continue to build on that. He said our landscape of our population is changing and there is a need for educational, cultural, and recreational resources for the diverse population. Member Casey asked him what he thought are the critical skills a Library Board member needs to have. He thought funding is always an issue and we must work within the budget. There should be a mission statement and plan to address all of the needs. The Board members should work collaboratively for future needs of technology and improvements. Member Markham asked if he saw any programing aspects that the Library could expand upon. He thought they should continue to focus on letting our residents know what the Library has to offer and to get people involved. Member Wrobel asked what the Library is doing that he thought should be continued. Mr. Qadeer thought the first step was to
get the new facility. The quiet rooms should be continued. He thought the Library should have more books. The classes are great and should continue with interesting topics. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked what additional services would he like to see the Library provide and if there was something a diverse Novi would benefit from. Mr. Qadeer answered that possibly deliver or pick up books for our senior citizens. We need to make sure we are connected to more libraries and colleges. Mayor Gatt thanked him for serving. He explained the appointments will be done at the next regular Council Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

PRESENTATIONS

1. Dog Park Conceptual Plan located at 42390 Nick Lidstrom Drive – Jason Mangum, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Jason Mangum, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services presented the design of the future Dog Park. A project management team was formed with the employees within the City. They have been working with OHM Consultants. He explained why the need for a dog park. He noted the American Kennel Club’s promotional information of dog parks. The location of the Park is behind the Novi Ice Arena. Some of the amenities include a double gated entry and key fob access system. They are working on a joint use agreement with the Northville Community Dog Park. They will have a pet fountain and bottle filler. There will be large and small dog areas. There will be benches and a chain link fence enclosure. The pathway from the Ice Arena will be connected to the Dog Park. They will be working with the Ice Arena to have them install bike racks in front of the Arena to serve both locations. He discussed the budgeting of the Park. The total project cost is $250,000. It is tentatively scheduled to be completed fall of 2014. Mayor Gatt asked how they will regulate admittance. Mr. Mangum said the key fob entry allows those who have paid an annual fee to enter. Also, the dog owners will have to go through training and make sure the dog is vaccinated and licensed when they register to gain access. He said they are still working on rules, regulations, and the enforcement of them. They hope to borrow the best practices from other communities who already have established Dog Parks. Member Wrobel was happy to see this project but as a non-dog owner he wondered how much it will cost him. He would be interested to know what the maintenance costs will be and what the cost of the key fob will be. Mr. Mangum said he didn’t have the maintenance costs information but the key fob fee would be $50.00 a year which will help pay for some of the amenities. Member Wrobel asked if the fee would be the same for a non-resident. Mr. Mangum said it will be for Northville and Novi residents only. Member Wrobel asked what the annual revenue would be and the number of people that will use this park. Mr. Mangum said he didn’t have that information but expected a continued use of the park. He will provide the information with a list of additional benefits to taxpayers. Member Fischer thanked everyone for the work on the project. He wanted to bring attention to the fact that the park should produce revenues to break even on a maintenance perspective. He said this is actually a low cost park to develop compared to other parks. Mr. Magnum pointed out that it promotes business in the
area. Member Fischer thought this was a prime opportunity to develop and build the naming rights agreement. There is a target demographic that will be using this park that may be interested in naming the park. Mr. Mangum said that they have reached out to a number of organizations for naming rights and sponsorships. Member Fischer asked for additional updates before the grand opening of the Park. He noted the road seemed narrow and asked if there were any road improvements that will be done. Also, he asked if the ten parking spots would be adequate. Mr. Mangum said they will make sure the road is widened with off street parking. There were 20 spaces planned initially but traded 10 spaces for the pathway connecting to the Ice Arena. The spaces can be expanded at a future date. Member Fischer asked if it was possible for a car to turn around if all the spaces are occupied. Mr. Mangum said they will have a spot to the right of the parking spaces. They will also have a mountable curb near the park if they need to turn around. Member Fischer said he was excited about the project and to wanted check the flow because it will be pedestrian oriented. Member Casey was excited about the project for her dogs and thanked everyone who worked on the project. Member Mutch asked about the hours of operation that the park will be available. Mr. Mangum anticipated that it will fall in the lines of our current parks of 8 a.m. to dusk. There are no plans for lighting currently. Member Mutch commented that the location won’t lead to any concerns about barking because it is not near a heavily developed area. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if there was a cost for the land. Mr. Mangum said it was land the City already owned. Member Markham asked if he had any provisions for shade near the benches. Mr. Mangum said that there are some mature trees that will be kept for that reason. The benches will be placed near and around those trees. They will follow the practice of bringing out movable chairs. She asked if there will be a posting of the rules and etiquette of the park. Mr. Mangum said they have budgeted for the signs. Mayor Gatt mentioned there should be small pools for the dogs to cool off. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt pointed out that there are events at Suburban Show Place and thought that visitors staying at the hotels or have come to the events may be interested in passes to the park for their dogs.

REPORTS:

1. MANAGER/STAFF - None
2. ATTORNEY - None

AUDIENCE COMMENT - None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS (See items A-H):

CM 14-02-028 Moved by Wrobel, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Approve Minutes of:
   1. January 21, 2014 – Regular meeting
B. Enter Executive Session immediately following the regular meeting of February 3, 2014 in the Council Annex for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and privileged correspondence from legal counsel.

C. Acceptance of a Conservation Easement from The Medilodge Group for woodland and wetland conservation areas on the Medilodge of Novi site, located on the north side of Eleven Mile Road between Beck Road and Wixom Road in Section 17 of the City.

D. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement with Novi Real Estate, LLC for the Medilodge of Novi project located on 11 Mile Road between Beck Road and Wixom Road in section 17 (parcel 22-17-400-002).

E. Approval of Ordinance No. 14-23.30 to amend the City of Novi Code of Ordinances at Chapter 22, “Offenses,” Article I, “In General,” Section 22-7, “Begging in Public Places,” in order to revise existing regulations relating to begging and to provide a specific prohibition against aggressive begging, as defined. SECOND READING

F. Approval of a Street Light Purchase Agreement with Detroit Edison Company for the installation and ongoing operation costs of one street light near the intersection of Acorn Trail and Wixom Road to serve the Island Lake 7A development; and approval of an agreement with Toll Brothers, Inc. for the sharing of installation costs per the City’s Street Lighting Policy.

G. Approval of a Resolution of Support for a Transportation Alternatives grant for the Metro Connector Regional pathway along the east side of Meadowbrook Road between I-96 and 12 Mile Road.

H. Approval of Claims and Accounts - Warrant No. 909

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-028
Yeas: Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt
Nays: None

MATTERS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consideration of the request of Singh Development for Ballantyne JSP13-43, for approval of a Residential Unit Development (RUD) Plan and related Agreement. The subject property is 50.85 acres in Section 31 of the City of Novi and located at the northwest corner of Garfield Road and Eight Mile Road. The applicant is proposing a 41 unit single-family development.

City Manager Pearson said this is a quality residential development. This is a RUD for consideration with a positive recommendation from Planning Commission and City staff to move this forward.

CM 14-02-029 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Wrobel; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
To approve the Residential Unit Development Plan for the Ballantyne. This motion is based on the following findings, lot size modifications, building setback reductions and conditions:

Determinations (Zoning Ordinance Section 2402.8.A):

a. The site is zoned for and appropriate for the proposed single-family residential use;

b. Council is satisfied that with the proposed pathway and sidewalk network and added open space, the development will not have detrimental effects on adjacent properties and the community;

c. Council is satisfied with the applicant's commitment and desire to proceed with construction of 41 new homes as demonstrating a need for the proposed use;

d. Care has been taken to maintain the naturalness of the site and to blend the use within the site and its surroundings through the preservation of 18.17 acres (or 35.7%) of the proposed development area as open space;

e. Council is satisfied that the applicant has provided clear, explicit, substantial and ascertainable benefits to the City as a result of the RUD;

f. Factors evaluated (Zoning Ordinance Section 2402.8.B):

1. Subject to the lot size modifications and building setbacks reductions, all applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, including those in Section 2402 and for special land uses, and other ordinances, codes, regulations and laws have been or will be met;

2. Council is satisfied with the adequacy of the areas that have been set aside in the proposed RUD development area for walkways, parks, recreation areas, and other open spaces and areas for use by residents of the development;

3. Council is satisfied that the traffic circulation, sidewalk and crosswalk features and improvements for within the site have been designed to assure the safety and convenience of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic both within the site and in relation to access streets;

4. Based on and subject to the recommendations in the traffic consultant's review letter, Council is satisfied that the proposed use will not cause any detrimental impact in existing thoroughfares in terms of overall volumes, capacity, safety, travel times and thoroughfare level of service;

5. The plan provides adequate means of disposing of sanitary sewage, disposing of stormwater drainage, and supplying the development with water;
6. The RUD will provide for the preservation and creation of approximately 35.7% of the site as open space and result in minimal impacts to provided open space and the most significant natural features;
7. The RUD will be compatible with adjacent and neighboring land uses for the reasons already stated;
8. The desirability of conventional residential development on this site in strict conformity with the otherwise applicable minimum lot sizes and widths being modified by this motion is outweighed by benefits occurring from the preservation and creation of the open space that will result from the RUD;
9. Any detrimental impact from the RUD resulting from an increase in total dwelling units over that which would occur with conventional residential development is outweighed by benefits occurring from the preservation and creation of open space that will result from the RUD;
10. Council is satisfied that the proposed reductions in lot sizes are the minimum necessary to preserve and create open space and to ensure compatibility with adjacent and neighboring land uses;
11. The RUD will not have a detrimental impact on the City’s ability to deliver and provide public infrastructure and public services at a reasonable cost;
12. Council is satisfied that the applicant has made or will make satisfactory provisions for the financing of the installation of all streets, necessary utilities and other proposed improvements;
13. Council is satisfied that the applicant has made or will make satisfactory provisions for future ownership and maintenance of all common areas within the proposed development; and
14. Proposed deviations from the area, bulk, yard, and other dimensional requirements of the Zoning Ordinance applicable to the property enhance the development, are in the public interest, are consistent with the surrounding area, and are not injurious to the natural features and resources of the property and surrounding area.

G. Modification of proposed lot sizes to a minimum of 21,780 square feet and modification of proposed lot widths to a minimum of 120 is hereby approved with this approval based on and limited to the lot configuration shown on the concept plan as last revised, as the requested modification will result in the preservation of open space for those purposes noted in Section 2402.3.8 of the Zoning Ordinance and the RUD will provide a genuine variety of lot sizes;
h. Applicant extending the proposed pathway along both sides of Emery Boulevard as indicated in the response letter;
i. Reduction of permitted building setbacks consistent with the proposed reduction in lot size and width;
j. Same-side driveway spacing waiver for the Eight Mile Road access drive (275’ required, 218’ provided) being approved at the time of Preliminary Site Plan approval;
k. The applicant providing a cross section of the area around the Deer Run Subdivision, the vacant property to the north and the subject property in order to identify the need for minor berming and/or rearrangement of the tree replacement plantings to provide screening; and
l. This approval is subject to all plans and activities related to it being in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, including Articles 3, 24 and 25, and all applicable City Zoning Ordinance approvals, decisions, conditions and permits.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-029
Yeas: Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt, Casey
Nays: None

CM 14-02-030 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Wrobel; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve of the Residential Unit Development Agreement for Ballantyne, with any changes and/or conditions as discussed at the City Council meeting, and any final minor alterations required in the determination of the City Manager and City Attorney to be incorporated by the City Attorney’s office prior to the execution of the final agreement.

Member Mutch noted that there was staff correspondence that addressed issues related to the reviews. He asked Clif Sieber, Engineer for Ballantyne Development, if the outstanding issues that were raised by staff had been cleared up. The applicant said he was comfortable with it moving forward and has come to agreement on most of the issues.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-030
Yeas: Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Fischer
Nays: None

2. Consideration of requests from Mynt Martini Novi, Inc.:

A) Consideration of request for a Special Land Use for approval for service of alcoholic beverages.
Mr. Pearson explained that this was in the Fountain Walk development and will be diagonally across from Bar Louie. It is being filled for the first time. He noted that this is a first for the new process for Special Land Uses. It has served the City well and there were no objections to this request.

Member Casey clarified that they are looking for the approval of the request. City Attorney Schultz said it would be appropriate to say approve the Special Land Use and incorporate the findings of Administration.

**CM 14-02-031**  
Moved by Casey, seconded by Mutch; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve a request for a Special Land Use for approval for service of alcoholic beverages based on the recommendations and findings provided by the committee.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-031  
Yeas: Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Fischer, Markham  
Nays: None

**B) Consideration of request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2013 Class C & SDM liquor license with Sunday Sales AM & PM Permit, new Dance-entertainment Permit and new outdoor service area from Crust Pizza, Rochester Hills, LLC to be located at 44125 Twelve Mile, Suite E-136, Novi, MI 48377.**

**CM 14-02-032**  
Moved by Casey, seconded by Mutch; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the request to transfer ownership of an escrowed 2013 Class C & SDM liquor license with Sunday Sales AM & PM Permit, new Dance-entertainment Permit and new outdoor service area from Crust Pizza, Rochester Hills, LLC to be located at 44125 Twelve Mile, Suite E-136, Novi, MI 48377.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-032  
Yeas: Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt, Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch  
Nays: None

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

Kristin Korotney, 49531 Deer Run, was concerned about the elevation of the Ballantyne development because their land sits much lower than the new development. There will be two houses backing up to their home. Her land is five to fifteen feet lower than the
new development. She is asking for mature landscaping with increased height and more thickness so that it won’t be an eyesore.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ISSUES:

1. Approval to appoint an Interim City Manager.

Mayor Gatt explained that City Manager Pearson has announced that he has taken a new position in Pearland, TX. He will be leaving the City of Novi at the end of the month. He will be missed. He asked to approve an appointment of an Interim City Manager.

Member Fischer wished Mr. Pearson well but noted that they have business to conduct on the behalf of the people of Novi so that the services go uninterrupted. He thought it is to ensure that some of the status quo remains. The City is fortunate to have an Assistant City Manager who has been with the City for three years. He has served as the acting City Manager on many occasions and also as Interim Finance Director.

CM 14-02-033 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve authorization the Mayor to work with the City Attorney and Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas to draft a proposed contract to be brought back before Council for final approval at the next meeting for the position of Interim City Manager. The contract would echo the contract in place when Mr. Pearson was the Interim City Manager and to ask the Human Resources Director solicit firms to begin a nationwide search.

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt wanted to confirm that they are recommending the Assistant City Manager be offered the position of Interim City Manager. It was confirmed they.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-033  Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt
Nays: None

Council entered executive session at 8:17 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

3. Authorize the City Attorney to prepare a proposed purchase agreement for property at the corner of Twelve Mile Road and West Park Road, upon the terms and conditions discussed in closed session, to be brought back to the City Council for final approval at a later meeting if a tentative agreement can be reached.

CM 14-02-034 Moved by Mutch, seconded by Wrobel; MOTION CARRIED: 5-2
To authorize the City Attorney to prepare a proposed purchase agreement for property at the corner of Twelve Mile Road and West Park Road, upon the terms and conditions discussed in closed session, to be brought back to the City Council for final approval at a later meeting if a tentative agreement can be reached.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-034  Yeas:  Staudt, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt  Nays:  Casey, Fischer  

4. Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to present an offer of purchase for property at 42400 West Eleven Mile Road for the purchase price of $100,000, with the Purchase Agreement being substantially in the form as presented to Council tonight, with any minor changes or amendments to the Agreement following discussion with the property owner to be determined by the City Manager and City Attorney.

CM 14-02-035 Moved by Mutch, seconded by Wrobel; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to present an offer of purchase for property at 42400 West Eleven Mile Road for the purchase price of $100,000, with the Purchase Agreement being substantially in the form as presented to Council tonight, with any minor changes or amendments to the Agreement following discussion with the property owner to be determined by the City Manager and City Attorney.

Roll call vote on CM 14-02-035  Yeas:  Casey, Fischer, Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt, Staudt  Nays:  None

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 P.M.

______________________________  ________________________________
Robert J. Gatt, Mayor               Maryanne Comelius, City Clerk

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Transcribed by Jane Keller

Date approved: February 18, 2014