



speed bump is a nice deterrent for speeders. Other than a few branches that have fallen over the winter, the park is in immaculate condition.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said having a map in the kiosk was helpful. Said she spoke with a woman at Rotary Park over the summer that didn't know Novi had a beach, so hoped to spread that information between all parks.

2. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the park is in good condition. Noted there is a gravel park in this park instead of a paved one. There was evidence of usage based on all the footprints. Wondered why the gravel path looped where it did instead of continuing. Noticed other footprints continued further west. Everything was in great shape with no issues. Signs were good. Noticed some utility flags through the brush near electrical area.

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

Commissioner Torimoto said, even though it's an indoor "park," there are lots of opportunities there. It's an absolutely amazing facility. Two entrances lead to service desk. Monitors up front tell you what events are going on at each rink. Went during open skate during the day. A lot of older adults, including myself, take advantage of that. Removing the arcade made it a nice area for people to hang out. Recycling was available. Olympians or future Olympians were there skating before open skate. From past experience, there are sometimes waiting lines for the rental desk. Wonders if there's communication method to communicate with people in line if a skate size is unavailable for rental. Rubber matting for those in skates is in good shape. On the busy days, it runs out of locker space during open skate. Great layout for the facility. The lighting is very bright; it's nice. The boards are in fantastic condition. Netting above the glass to protect spectators from pucks.

Director Muck said the condition of the arena is a testament to Suburban Ice for managing the arena for us. We continually re-invest in it. The lighting, boards, stereo system have all been upgraded in recent years. The arcade removal and improved Wi-Fi has been great for parents. One area not visited was the old birthday party room that was turned into a workout room for TRX and off-ice training. And those are actually Olympian skaters in there. Madison Chock and Evan Bates were on NBC a few weeks ago. They skate 7 a.m.-3 p.m. during non-peak times.

4. Villa Barr Art Park (Aug/Jan.) – Commissioner Jewell

**MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:**

- A. Presentation on OAS Social Services by Coordinator Sandy Fisher  
Coordinator Sandy Fisher said the tax preparation service takes place every Wednesday. It had 300 returns done last year and is on par to do the same this year. We do that in partnership with the AARP Tax Foundation, who provides volunteers. We also have the durable medical equipment loan closet that loans out equipment to more than 400 people each year. We also partner with the Area Agency on Aging and have fall Medicare counseling. Helps people find Part D Medicare for their prescription drugs. Also works with OLSA and Focus Hope to provide food assistance. We also have our volunteer program, which has more than 100 volunteers who help with more than 90 percent of the programs through Older Adult Services. They run our card programs and help with special events. Even work the welcome desk. I also coordinate resources for

people, including housing and other support services. Call us at (248) 347-0421. Programs also posted in Engage!, Facebook, Enhance's Novi Today section and cityofnovi.org.

B. Presentation of mParks/MRPA CAPRA Proclamation

Director Muck said recognition continues to come our way for CAPRA accreditation process and achievement. We recently had several staff attend the Michigan Recreation and Park Association conference in Grand Rapids. Recreation Supervisor Greg Morris and Management Assistant Chris Jackett actually conducted a session on CAPRA accreditation and had about 16 attend asking questions about our process. So there are other agencies in Michigan interested in going after CAPRA. Chris and Greg were able to articulate the benefits of it and some of the challenges, but then also the rewards. As part of the conference, Greg, Chris and I did attend a Student Showcase and director's dinner where we were recognized with a proclamation. Proclamation resolves the MRPA congratulates Novi PRCS for being one of four CAPRA accredited agencies in Michigan. About 60 students from around the state mingled with about 60 other directors and key staff. Some of the students had a chance to speak, too. It was a good recognition.

C. Recognition of Student Representative Wei

Director Muck said Katherine Wei was invited, but couldn't attend tonight due to illness. Recently, the City has adjusted the terms of the youth council to coincide with a calendar year to encourage students to sign up and finish out their terms. We were seeing some students – not Katherine – who would not finish out their terms due to all the things you do at the end of your senior year. Terms have been adjusted so they'll finish in December. We'll have a new student representative joining us in March. We'll have one student representative moving forward. Wei emailed thanks for the experience and opportunity. Commissioner Bauss said she represented students well and was a beacon of hope for all young people in Novi.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Project Updates

Director Muck said when you think parks and think winter, you may not think of a lot. Wanted to point out the winter maintenance work being done. Includes athletic field drain extension at Power Park, some drainage install at Field 1 at ITC CSP, grading along first baseline of Field 6 and third baseline of Field 7 at ITC CSP, pruning at Brookfarm and Village Wood Lake Parks, buckthorn removal at Rotary Park, installed two new access gates at Wildlife Woods and Power Park to help with security issues of people driving back into those parks, bathroom repairs at all parks and bathroom upgrades at ITC CSP, and parking block replacement at Rotary, Power, ITC CSP and Village Wood Lake. The old football equipment has been removed at Wildlife Woods, the fence repairs at Power Park are scheduled to begin in 1-2 weeks after receiving final quotes. We're looking at replacing concrete around the bathrooms at ITC CSP where we've seen heaving and cracking. Drainage install to eliminate a major floor area around the Wildlife Woods pavilion. New Suburban-partnership soccer park along Grand River is getting ready to finalize irrigation install this spring. Kudos to our parks maintenance staff.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said Daddy Daughter Dance were held earlier this month with 1,090 attending between three dances. We have received great responses and reviews. We are offering “Alice in Wonderland Jr.” as a theater production, with performances March 24-25. We had auditions and rehearsals are underway with 53 kids. We’re on the cusp for having a two-cast show, but sticking with one cast. On April 11, we’ll be working with the DIA to install the third rendition of the InsideOut program throughout the community. Nine pieces displayed through June, primarily at City parks and facilities, as well as Emagine Theater. Working with DIA and Recreation Supervisor of Cultural Arts Amelia Purdy-Ketchum to develop programming for those areas. Similar to a mom-to-mom sale, we will host gear-to-gear Can You Gear Me sale and swap of outdoor gear and clothing for hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding. Being at Lakeshore Park, you can try the equipment to make sure it floats, tent sets up, bikes work, etc. Will take place 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 5/7 and 10x20 spots are \$15. Just getting underway marketing that and Motor City Mountain Biking Association said they’d help with that, too. Received an \$800 Michigan Humanities grant to offset some Sizzling Summer costs. Spring soccer registration ends 2/28, as does adult spring softball returning teams registration. Bounce volleyball drop-in at Oak Pointe Church has their first day 2/28. Camp Arctic Adventure takes place Monday-Wednesday at the ice arena during mid-winter break. We have 93 kids combined. The Family Self Defense Center celebrated 25 years as a business, with the last 10 being here at Novi as a partner of ours. They’re a top-five karate school in the country. They currently have more than 150 students and 30 black belts. They go to Tennessee every year and compete on a national level. Coach Chris and coach Z have done a wonderful job growing that program here and being a part of our community. Summer Engage! will be mailed in mid-April, online 4/3 and the camp section open for registration 3/1. About 28,000 copies of that are mailed out three times per year. Our Destination Recreation e-newsletter went out today. It goes out twice per month to 7,500 people.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked about Chili Chilly Softball result. Deputy Director Ringle said we had to cancel Chili Chilly Softball 2/11 because teams couldn’t reschedule from 1/21.

Commissioner Torimoto recognized Daddy Daughter Dance had Goldfish Swim School as a new sponsor.

Commissioner Staab asked how attendance compared to last year. Deputy Director Ringle said attendance was down 2 percent and revenue was the same.

Commissioner Staab said Novi Choralaires and Concert Band have a joint concert 3/5. Library Pub is giving a percentage of their sales that night back to the groups.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Karen Kapchonick said Travel Fair had 80 attend, 40 new trips offered, 27 people signed up for trips. Some are day trips, some are extended trips. Good opportunity to see places and meet new friends. We offer a mystery trip where they don’t know where they’re going, but that’s very popular. We have two

busloads going. Will have another Travel Fair in April and also in September in the evening. Those still working attend the September event. We had the Valentine's Mad Hatter luncheon that was well received. Waltonwood sponsored that, bringing about 12 of their residents to participate. Will have St. Patrick's Day event 3/15. Had to move off the actual holiday due to entertainer's schedule. Regional group with Livonia, Northville, South Lyon and Wixom will have Seniorstock 6-10 p.m. 4/27 at Northville; reliving the music of the '60s and '70s, costume contests, playing Price is Right and the Gong Show. Treats, door prizes, Griffin Funeral Home is the main sponsor for that.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Thomopoulos said congratulations again for the CAPRA accreditation. Thinks it's fantastic you're helping other agencies with their accreditation. Likes the numerous OAS provided to residents. Mother-in-law pays for many of these services in another community.

Commissioner Pratt said congratulations again on the awards that you continue getting across the state. Likes that you highlighted the DPS for their work.

Commissioner Dooley said congratulations and compliment the presentations this evening. Variety of services available and a great group running them. Novi Ambassadors setting up a dinner program for the future.

Commissioner Staab said congratulations on the recognition at MRPA, and to Greg and Chris on doing the presentation. I've championed Novi's cause for 30 years and it continues to reach higher heights. It's amazing the new ways we can do things and various ways of communication.

Commissioner Torimoto said congratulations on the CAPRA certification. It's interesting to see the park inspection results, but then to hear about the people behind the scenes. Thanks to Sandy for hearing about the relevant services.

Commissioner Bauss said "Engage!" is a great title for our magazine, as we have an engaged community. We have engaged residents evidenced by participation last meeting and staff who try to push the envelope with providing services. People seem engaged and care throughout the community, so thank you for your engagement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Voice Vote** **Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Staab at 8:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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Doug Bauss, Chairperson

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Jay Dooley, Vice Chairperson