

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018 – 7 P.M.**

**NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. with Commissioner Dooley presiding.

**ROLL CALL:** Dooley (Present), Thomopoulos (Present), Joshi (Present), Muzzin (Absent), Pratt (Absent), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Jooho Lee (Absent), Alice Wou (Absent).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved that the agenda be approved as amended by Commissioner Thomopoulos and seconded by Commissioner Torimoto. Item D1 moved to September and D2 moved to October.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Approval of July 19, 2018 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for July be approved by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Joshi.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Muzzin & Thomopoulos  
Commissioner Thomopoulos said there was a meeting in early July and Director Muck gave a good summary of this year's priority setting. That summary in the minutes highlighted some points in connecting paths to parks, which she said she feels is outstanding. Next meeting is likely in September, but not yet scheduled. The City did finish a pathway along the south side of Pontiac Trail, which rose to the top of the priority based on a matrix that increases access to both schools and shopping centers. This pathway now connects hundreds of apartments and condominiums to two shopping centers and a school across the street, so it's a significant connectivity and pathway. They did a great job, completing it ahead of schedule and only tearing out the bare necessity trees. Congratulations to the City staff and contractor for making it possible.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto  
Commissioner Staab said he was unable to attend Pour on the Shore this year, so he would defer to Commissioner Torimoto.  
Commissioner Torimoto said Pour on the Shore was the big fundraising event held at Pavilion Shore Park on 7/27. The changes were the food service going to trucks as opposed to it being catered. It was a fantastic evening in terms of weather. Doesn't have final numbers yet, but should at a wrap-up meeting next week. Enrollment went really well.  
Commissioner Thomopoulos said Pour on the Shore was a very exciting and successful event; and well attended. The tastings were very good and she liked the food trucks. The choices were outstanding and the band was great. It was a

little bit windy, but was much more comfortable than the previous one she had been to when it was hot. Congratulations to the Foundation for a fantastic evening and she had a nice time.

Commissioner Torimoto said the PRCs staff did a nice job preparing for it. There's some efficiency to it, as there was another event at the same location the next day. He thought that was a great use of that space.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Pratt

Commissioner Dooley said the committee did not meeting this evening. Other than the update last month on ITC Trailhead Park, he thinks there will be a meeting next month.

D. Parks Updates

~~1. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Muzzin~~

~~2. Villa Barr Art Park – Commissioner Torimoto~~

3. Lakeshore Park (July) – Commissioner Joshi

Commissioner Joshi said she started from the back, just before the mountain bike trail. The landscaping was just a little dry even though the area around it was beautiful. There was a lot of activity going on, on bicycles. There was a sign that was blank that should have read "not mowing, growing" or something similar. The play structure was beautiful. Doesn't see as many kids on this one, but it was really well maintained. Someone had booked a shelter from the evening before and put all the trash into one trash can so it was overflowing even though there were 8-9 nearby that had space. Was concerned the animals would get it since it was a Friday night. Deputy Director Ringle said they have daily pickup. Joshi said there were ample dog pickup bags near the new shelter (#2). The bathroom had no water and there was grass and dirt in the sink and water fountain last Friday. The building at the front of the park where the kids had camp did have water. There was another event in the new pavilion and they had put all their trash into one even though there were several of them available. The play structure in the front is used a lot and the landing is coming off one part. The bathrooms the kids had used all day, so it was dirty, but the water worked. Overall the park is just beautiful, the green part. The bathroom without the water was the only thing. There were people at the beach and nothing wrong with it. Lifeguards were there.

4. Pavilion Shore Park (June) – Commissioner Joshi

Commissioner Joshi said the park was extremely busy with a lot of people. There was nothing to report on this park other than a lost cat sign someone had put on top of a park sign using duct tape. The bathroom was clean, water good, everything was beautiful. It was a busy Friday.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said there's a new memorial garden with two benches. She thought, when that went in, Director Muck had said there'd be a plaque to honor that Council member it was after. She hadn't seen a plaque there. Deputy Director Ringle said she believes that was to be a donation and she'd follow up on it. Commissioner Staab asked if it was a past City Council person who had been championing that cause and Ringle verified it was. Thomopoulos said it had grown in and it's beautiful with a very unique smell, similar to cilantro. It's very bushy and gives a different feel from the rest of the park; it's beautiful.

~~5. Fuerst Park (June) – Commissioner Staab/Representative Lee~~

Commissioner Staab said he was over there last Friday and there was a trip-and-fall hazard on the sidewalk. Deputy Director Ringle said there's a paving project

going on between the parking lot and the pathway, so they should be wrapping up and retrieving it soon. Commissioner Joshi said she was there yesterday and believes it was still there. Staab said there were some fallen tree limbs that had fallen recently. Signage gave history of the farm and Fuerst sisters and how we benefitted from their generosity and worked with the schools. There was a key fob hanging from a park sign that someone may have dropped. There were some sculptures from Barr and other sculptors that had some rust on them. Ringle said the artist would get annual updates on the piece if maintenance is needed to be done by the sculptor. On the side pointing toward the school, there is a pristine, nice garden. The bathroom was a little messed up with paper everywhere. There were a lot of people around Fuerst Park, up on the hill doing something with their phones, maybe Pokemon. They were having a grand old time. Commissioner Dooley said there were a lot of Poke-stops there. Joshi said she's been walking there a lot recently and noticed a lot of fruit that fell off one tree onto the pathway at one area. Staab said it was an apple tree because there used to be apple orchards there. Joshi said there was a lot of geese there last year, but not this year. Dooley asked if we talked about putting dog silhouettes out there to scare the geese away. Ringle said there was discussion with parks maintenance about potentially treating the trees so they don't produce fruit, which draws the geese in. She wasn't sure if that happened this season or if it would be forthcoming. Staab said there were some cars parked in the school lot even though it was behind the barricade.

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

- A. Presentation on Grants by Management Assistant Chris Jackett  
Management Assistant Jackett said we recently posted an Engage video series segment featuring himself and Director Muck on our PRCS and City Facebook pages discussing our grants efforts and we wanted to provide commissioners with additional details of what we've done over the past few years. Over the last 5-6 years, we've had some changes with staff, but we've been fortunate enough to secure more than \$1 million in grant funding from 2013-18. With more than \$1.2 in grant funding, a lot of it via reimbursement based and some is up paid front for programs. Another graph on the presentation showed \$1.1 is for land acquisition and then some renovations, equipment, programs and so forth. The grants are impacting our soccer fields, allowing us to buy goals with grants through the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association. The State's Department of Natural Resources' Natural Resources Trust Fund grant has been a large part of it with land acquisition for three future parks. The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council have had a good play in our cultural arts programming and the development of Villa Barr Art Park. A lot of good things are happening with that and, coming up hopefully, we're working on additional grants for the Tim Pope playground and to continue helping fund our Sizzling Summer Arts Series, which were funded by a portion of the previously mentioned grants.
- Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if we do comparisons with other municipalities of similar size? Management Assistant Jackett said we haven't been doing any one-to-one comparisons, but have noticed other cities of similar size showing up on grant award lists in the same grant cycles as us. Deputy Director Ringle said every time that cycles through, it is public knowledge of who is awarded money. So we do on an annual basis have a comparison to what other communities are

granted through the cycle. Thomopoulos asked if we're able to see the types of projects they do? Jackett said they are listed on the state's website county by county with the municipality, dollar amount and a paragraph summary describing the project. Thomopoulos said she thinks it's wonderful. The Grant Committee and the staff have done great work. This is money that was going to go to a city somewhere for a park and we got it. It enhances our community and kudos to you guys for doing that for all of us.

Commissioner Torimoto asked about the graph showing the trends and how much we applied for grants versus how much we received. He said if there was staff turnover and we didn't even apply for grants, it'd be interesting to see that and if we didn't make the effort versus whether we made the effort and it wasn't competitive. It's interesting we went from \$473,000 to \$0 and whether we didn't submit anything or if we submitted something and it just wasn't competitive.

Management Assistant Jackett said there have been grants in the past where we've been denied and then reapplied the next year and got it. And you may recall in the past year or so some funding was held over in the Legislature where some of the 2017 funding could have been received in 2016.

Commissioner Dooley said the Grants Committee meetings are very strategic meetings led by Director Muck and any commissioner is welcome to attend before the commission meetings. He welcomes it, as there are some very strategic thinkers in that room. There are a lot of good things going on and a lot of good things going on down the road.

Commissioner Torimoto asked whether we know three years ahead whether there's a grant opportunity or whether we do it year by year? Management Assistant Jackett said, with assistance from the Grants Committee, we make decisions year by year, but we have ideas based on our capital improvement plan as far as potential projects. With the DNR grants, some of those can be targeted in advance. Commissioner Dooley said, in the past, we've relied on private funding and felt this didn't translate to dollars, so we went more strongly toward trying to get grants approved. Those are the ingredients that you see up here. Torimoto said it was impressive.

- B. Presentation on Water Height Markers by Management Assistant Chris Jackett  
Management Assistant Jackett said, back in February, he attended the state's Recreation and Park Association conference at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. One of the sessions he attended focused on citizen science and one of the ideas that stemmed from that seminar was to get a project or two going here in Novi. One developed into measuring the water heights in Walled Lake and in the Rouge River at Rotary Park. He worked with staff to get this started and the two maps on the screen show the exact locations. Part of the rationale behind this project is to get a better understanding of our water bodies in Novi, as well as filling a CAPRA requirement for an annual research project. It's two-fold with that. We chose Walled Lake and the Rouge River as they're different entities with river versus lake to give us a better grasp of what we have going on. We have 18x18-inch signs on the shorelines and 4-foot-tall markers in the water that are reinforced bars. The signs on the shorelines instruct people to email the Novi Parks email address ([noviparks@cityofnovi.org](mailto:noviparks@cityofnovi.org)) with what park they're at, the height of the water and the day and time they observe it. We're tracking on a spreadsheet, so nothing too elaborate, but it will give us a better idea of things happening during the different seasons of the year. Displayed some photos of the installation process showing park maintenance staff laying out and installing

the sign at Rotary Park when water was low. They got the signs up a few days later and showed photos of the final product, including location at Pavilion Shore Park near where the entrance to Pour on the Shore was. The marker is out in the water so it's pretty visible, and you can go out on the overlook to get a little closer. At Rotary Park, it's on a wooden pole that already had some fishing information on it. That's located near the bridge that leads into the Chase Farms subdivision from that southern trail. Right off the bat, we had one rainfall a few weeks ago that a resident of Chase Farms emailed us two photos of the marker before and after, showing water rose about 2.5 feet overnight from that one heavy rainfall. So we've already gotten some interesting feedback on some of the things going on there. The body of water of Walled Lake is a larger body of water, so it takes a little more to see similar drastic changes, but its interesting information to gather. We've been in touch with the Friends of the Rouge and they have volunteers who go around the region and tri-county area doing tracking and reporting like this, so they're going to loop them in to help with water marker tracking, as well.

Commissioner Muzzin said she didn't see the water marker at Pavilion Shore Park when the sun was in her face, but now she sees. Management Assistant Jackett said, with the glare off the water, the time of day will come into play more with the lake marker. It's about 40 feet out into the water. Commissioner Thomopoulos said she saw it out on her walk a few days ago and the numbers are big and readable. She didn't see the sign explaining it, but there were a lot of geese and Griffin was doing his duty in chasing the geese off the grass, so she was more busy trying to keep him out of trouble. It was also busy and there may have been some people standing there, so she'll go back and look at that.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the residents around Walled Lake do get official lake heights readings monthly from the county. She doesn't know who does it and hasn't looked into it in years. It used to be her husband was a volunteer who helped do water-quality testing. She'll help compare and give staff what she sees. Walled Lake is also dammed and residents are never told when the dam is opened. It doesn't change drastically. The markers are a good idea, a good conversation and draws people more into the ecosystem, so she likes it.

Commissioner Torimoto asked how we know where to put it? Management Assistant Jackett said, before we ordered the signs, he met with park maintenance staff and we went out to the sites to see what the average water heights were and best placement would be. They felt the 4-foot one would cover it for the majority of the time. Commissioner Thomopoulos said the Rotary Park one could get covered in the spring, or the Walled Lake one when they open the dam.

Commissioner Dooley said it was a good discussion and thanked Management Assistant Jackett for the presentations.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Administration Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

### 1. Park Project Updates

Deputy Director Ringle said, regarding Bosco Fields at 11 Mile and Beck, Director Muck has been meeting with Novi Community Schools' staff, who own the property and have done a 25-year lease with the City of Novi to finalize the field layout of the park and the drives to get into the park. Mobilization begins soon to actually develop that park and we expect construction to begin soon. By this

time next year, we should be able to evaluate how the fields have grown in and what's available for use. We're looking forward to Bosco Fields. The ITC Trail, there has been some mobilization for the final segment of the trail. That is on schedule and will take place, but until we get into it with soil testing, we won't have a timetable for completion. It'll be on schedule at least to start and then we'll be able to provide updates on that project as we move forward. Villa Barr, the trails and parking lot are complete. We're in the restoration phase of that park. We're excited to see the accessibility of the park and what the Novi community will have to David Barr's art and the 4-acre property. We do have a resident there, the staff member from the Michigan Legacy Art Park who we collaborate with in Benzie County, through 8/22. He's done a lot of work, even cleaning up the workshop and the house. He's also given us some tips on living in that house for our future residents. We do have two full-time artists in residence coming in October. One is local and one is coming down from northern Michigan and staying with us through December. Save the date, we're going to celebrate the grand opening of Villa Barr 10/12 at 6 p.m. and shuttling from ITC Community Sports Park. The parking lot at the park is a five-spot lot with a bus loop to accommodate schools coming in to take advantage of that.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said summer is winding down, so tomorrow is our last day of Camp PowerPlay and Camp Lakeshore. Together, those two camps had nearly 800 registrations. It was sold out for the most part; we had just a few openings that holiday week, which is to be expected. We were able to pull kids off the waiting list as people shifted their summer programs. With 800 registrations, we had some campers who did every week of the summer. A lot did some of the other day camps and it was a great job by our mostly college-age counselors. A lot of those students head back to college this week and next week, which is why those camps end this week. We do offer a Travel Camp next week, which is a condensed version with 30 spots. We take them on a field trip every day within the region. We're able to do that with smaller numbers and fewer counselors. College students are the majority of the lifeguards at Lakeshore Beach, so they'll be leaving us soon to pursue their educational tracts. This season we were fortunate with our lifeguard hirings to keep the beach open with the exception of Labor Day. Sometimes in August we've had to shorten hours to 11 a.m.-5 p.m. instead of 10 a.m.-7 p.m., but this year we were able to keep the beach open, except for Labor Day we'll be closing. The last day for the beach will be the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. As far as all of our summer camps, we've had an exceptional summer with sports and cultural arts and we'll have comprehensive numbers and comparisons to past years to share at the next meeting. Sizzling Summer also ends tomorrow with our second-annual Maker Fair. Families have the opportunity to be hands on, learn how things are made, take them home. We have a lot of local companies and some crafters coming in to share that experience with our guest. The movie will be "Coco" and that'll be here on the Civic Center campus. Commissioner Torimoto had hinted to the program the night after Pour on the Shore. That was our Luau on the Shore. We were ecstatic to have such a wonderful turnout. We had 800 or so people attend the first-year event. We had anticipated 300. We've got some building blocks to do on our end, but all of the performers were grateful for the opportunity. We had the

Polynesian dance group come out and perform for more than an hour. We had a fire thrower, we had a traditional Polynesian meal and it worked well with the repurposing of the Pour on the Shore tent and set up. It was Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy-Ketchum who oversaw the event. We now have free transportation within the city for our older adult transportation program. We did a year-over-year analysis for our transportation program and found that, given the free trips, July 2017 to July 2018 the number of trips increased 18 percent and the number of miles increased 17 percent. We expect that number to continue to increase as people want to continue to take trips. We extended our service hours, too. We have more people able to take advantage of transportation. We're working on being able to accommodate the increased use. We're finding that we're booking out further ahead, so we are working on adjusting schedules and routes to make sure we can accommodate everyone who is requesting rides. Driver hours only increased by two, year over year. That reflects the increased efficiency that we implemented almost 20 months ago. We've found we've increased efficiency, which was nice to justify with numbers. Once per month, we receive reports from other departments on what is happening in the city and this month we heard from the Community Relations team that assists us in a lot of our marketing. They gave a report that shows our total number of contacts through e-newsletters. Our information is processed through three subscribed e-newsletters: Destination Recreation which goes out biweekly and highlights 4-5 parks and rec programs, I Am Novi highlights citywide programs with parks and recreation information in there as well, and then the Enhance newsletter which is older adult specific. Our Destination Recreation newsletter goes to more than 10,000 people twice per month. I Am Novi goes to 10,686. Enhance goes to 1,400 per month. The industry average open rate for newsletters is 25 percent. Sometimes people can see enough info and you don't get that click rate. People like to get information different ways. Some prefer paper versus in email. We have an open rate of 31 percent across the board, so we're better than the average. Another great thing Community Relations shared with us was cityofnovi.org website statistics and our popular top pages. In February-July, Lakeshore was the second-highest page lookup, Engage!/Registration was the third and Adult Sports was the fifth highest page on the website in terms of views. Again in April-July, Lakeshore Park was the number one top page opening. We anticipate that annually and we're pretty consistent in the top 10 as far as what people are looking for in the City of Novi. That comes from the whole Website and we're proud of that. Lastly, our Community Relations team, Jackett, herself and some others throughout the city are part of the City's 50th Anniversary Committee. In 2019, the City of Novi will celebrate 50 years of being a city and one thing we'll do to celebrate this is, in the month of February, the Atrium and the Civic Center there will be a display to honor the city. There's a call for artifacts from longtime residents or those who have things. There used to be City of Novi Christmas ornaments and someone has an old Fire Department uniform. Those are the kind of things we're looking for. Ringle said Jackett and herself have also been, along with others, scouring the Novi News from over the past 50 years and reading up on and finding great tidbits about Novi parks, the Jaycees, Commissioner Staab's name's in a lot of those newspapers. We wanted to share that with you and the community. It's also in the new Engage!, which is hitting mailboxes this week. That's our September-December edition. We have moved from a three-edition to a four-edition per

year piece. We feel that'll provide more timely information. Right now, we cover four months of information where you read it and put it down. This will shorten it to a smaller publication, but also make it have more immediately relevant information.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said Pavilion Shore Park was hopping from Luau on the Shore. It was good to see and exciting. Commissioner Joshi said the food line was extremely long. Deputy Director Ringle said that's one thing staff will be looking at to see if we can do two-sided to move people through the line faster. We do After Action Reports where we write down that information and compare year to year so we have that for reference.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said good ideas on the 50th. It sounds like it'll be really outstanding and joked it would be a "this is your life" for Commissioner Staab.

Commissioner Joshi said the Indy 500 has a car that says "Novi" on it.

Commissioner Staab asked if we were functional with that land? Deputy Director Ringle said we have the property, but Director Muck can share the next steps at the next meeting. We're still in process of what those next steps are as far as encapsulating, painting the water tower and so forth.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said we're updating our website page and having it work on the flow of our activities and contacts with individuals. We're going to be working on a resource page with links to other groups we work with, such as Area Agency on Aging, AARP, Maybury, the other recreation areas and social services out there, primarily with Oakland County Senior Advisory Board. If we can link to their website, they have a lot of information for our residents. Stay tuned on that. We highlight our volunteers. They're extremely important for all of the programs that we offer. Our volunteers for August/September are Al and Jane Demmerle. Both of those residents started volunteering when they moved into Meadowbrook Commons in August 2014. They wanted to get involved, so they asked to get involved with our coffee hour, also known as Panera hour on Tuesday mornings. They come down early and one of our drivers from transportation goes in early to get the items from Panera and bring them over to Meadowbrook Commons. The volunteers set everything up at Meadowbrook, get the coffee and we have people waiting at the door at 8 a.m. They're there for an hour to an hour and a half serving the residents who come by. Al has also worked with the Police Department helping with the handicap parking enforcement. He's enjoyed being out in the community and making sure those that those utilizing the handicap parking are legit. They can also issue tickets. At 90 and 92, both are deciding to give up volunteering and enjoy what they have going on. Kudos to them. Our Enhance newsletter highlights each month the services Novi Older Adult Services is offering. In this month's, registration is ongoing for the fall fitness classes, most which will start right after Labor Day. Right after that we have our annual Travel Fair on 9/6 in the evening. We do three travel fairs during the year; two during the day and one in the evening. The evening one does draw a lot of individuals, those that primarily work during the day and want to plan ahead for some relaxation and trips. Some residents over at Meadowbrook will be doing a musical concert featuring their talent on a piano, violin, trumpet and a harmonica. That's an open program on 9/10 from 1-

2 p.m. at Meadowbrook Activities Center. A different spin on our luncheons; we'll be having an autumn barbecue comedy luncheon. That is in sponsorship with Waltonwood Twelve Oaks and CareOne senior care. It's something new, a good spin, and we're trying to recruit participants to be on the court. In our social enrichment, we have a new program called Boomers Games Galore that is a nice social hour with individuals to come play various games. We'll have games or they can bring their own games, or they can just sit around and talk. We have a volunteer that's come to us and said she'd love to run the program. Our Bits and Bytes Café that's been going on for two years now is a great opportunity for the individuals who may not feel comfortable with their iPhone, iPads.

Meadowbrook Manager Casey Carr works with the residents who come by. We've called Casey and Tom the tech gurus and they love helping people out with that. It's a great opportunity on the third Thursday of each month 10 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Activity Center. Support services is a vital function for our department and we encourage people to give us a call. Anything from the loan closet to Ask a Lawyer to our taxes to Meals on Wheels. There's a variety of services. And we highlighted on the transportation already. Hopefully you'll be able to sign up for the e-newsletter that highlights four different activities per month.

Commissioner Staab asked if the Panera Tuesdays are open only to Meadowbrook Commons residents? Manager Kapchonick said it's open to any Novi resident and their guest.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Dorothy Duchesneau of 125 Henning said this is her first Parks meeting and she wasn't planning on speaking, but wanted to grab the opportunity because several topics dear to her heart were hit on. In 2016, the City came up with a new master plan, which they proposed a development called Pavilion Shores Village. They were going to take two subdivisions and basically turn them into businesses and open it up to potential three-story attached townhomes in an area that was zoned single-family residential. The developer asked for some resident input and, for the last six months, residents have shown up at just about every Planning Commission and City Council meeting and a half-dozen zoning meetings. His proposal is, she believes, for 21 single-family homes within walking distance of Pavilion Shore Park. She said she said says Pavilion Shore Village, she's talking about the corner at 13 Mile and down the slot, which will now be houses. For any of you who have driven past Pavilion Shore Park recently, you may have noticed two small green signs. Based on feedback from residents, City Council approved the spending of money to hire a consultant to re-evaluate what's going to happen there. They're proposing businesses, restaurants, who knows what. It's going to be across from your park with very shallow lots and no place to park. You're talking people who are very used to, over the last 97 years of those two subdivisions, being able to live "up north" without having to drive up north. This particular meeting will be held Thursday 9/23 from 6-7:30 p.m. where many residents will be able to make it. The intent is to be able to hold it at the restroom pavilion at Pavilion Shore Park. Part of that has to do with the fact that MKSK, the consultant, will be able to literally see what there is to work with. Duchesneau would like to invite every single one of you to that meeting. You need to know what's happening across from that park. We need your input on what's going to happen across from that park. We intend to be there as the residents. There are flyers being mailed out to the immediate residents, but we're trying to get word out to everyone. Email responses can be sent to Barb McBeth at the Planning

Commission. There's phone numbers people can contact. Any ideas as for what you want to see around that park, we need to know. We need to have that input so we get what we want. Part of the residents and this developer is he was trying to put in buildings that belong in downtown Royal Oak in a lakeshore community and it wouldn't fit. You can't cram 57 units in less than 3 acres and make it feel friendly. It's a walking area, it's a family area, there are streets there that don't have sidewalks, so getting to the park and not killing yourself in the process is important to a lot of people. On that, she said she has two of her own pet peeves. She would love to see Pavilion Shore Park get some sort of WiFi. It's a passive park. It doesn't have a playscape or other sorts of activities. If you go to a 10-11 year old and say "what do you want to do at the park?" and they say "walk to the other end of the park and back," then yes, the adults and little ones like to walk. The slightly older ones get bored. On the other hand, people like to use WiFi. If Fuerst Park can have WiFi and people are at the top of that hill playing with the WiFi, then why can't we have WiFi at Pavilion Shore Park, too, please. Her last point is, on the corner of East Lake Drive and 13 Mile Road of the park itself, there are two poles to advertise the Luau and Pour on the Shore. The direction of those poles to hold those signs is her pet peeve just like the Novi gas stations where you can't read the signs as you're going by because the sign is at a funky angle. There's no stop sign or no nothing next to those two poles that would cause traffic that is whizzing by to slow down enough to read it, even at 25 miles per hour. Great sign, please put it at the intersection of the three roads so it can be read from two directions. Other than that, she loves her parks and her neighborhood and her neighbors. Thanks for listening and please come to that meeting 8/23 6-7:30 p.m. at Pavilion Shore Park.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Joshi said she had no comments.

Commissioner Torimoto said this year we had a lot of work and family travel, so he didn't get to enjoy the parks as much as usual, but it is good to know that, when you're here, there is a lot to do. We enjoyed Lakeshore Park both for his daughter at camp and the park itself. He enjoyed Pavilion Shore Park and walking and access to top-notch facilities like that. It's another vacation really. Thanks for offering that, the programming and things like that.

Commissioner Staab said it's now been two years since we've passed our millage for road improvement and Lakeshore Park improvement. We've been working feverishly on revised plans for Lakeshore Park. He looks forward to them coming soon. Many residents have been asking me. He knows we've had one plan, two plans, public hearings and so on. People are anxious to see what the next plan is and he's sure the department is, too. He appreciates all the input tonight and the information. Very thorough, as always.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said it's been a fantastic summer in Novi for herself and her family, but judging by all the activities highlighted today and seeing the folks in the parks throughout the city, it's been a good summer for a lot of people. And that's down to the City staff and all the work you do, so thanks for that. Thomopoulos said she'd like to comment on Lakeshore Park since she wasn't at the last meeting. Director Muck did highlight that, at the June City Council meeting, City Council did not select one of the two options, asked for more options and asked for some financial information on the options that were proposed. Thanked City Council for making that decision. It supports the citizen feedback they've been receiving, so they're honoring the citizen feedback. It's frustrating because we want to offer more camper space and we need better bathrooms and facilities in that park. And also, because we anticipated making these

improvements, some of the maintenance that would normally go on hasn't been planned for in that park. So we definitely need to move this along and get to a solution. There's some really good news coming out of this and that is people really value green space, people really value parks, they really value Lakeshore Park. We want to do good things and make improvements, but we don't want to take away what people truly value about our parks, and that is the balancing act we are trying to work with right now. Thomopoulos said she knows staff is working hard on that and continues to do so. When we talk about green space, she said one of the Council members talked about all of the building going on in the City. We're in tremendous growth right now with housing and a lot of it is very dense housing right near Pavilion Shore Park, but also along Grand River. There's a new development along Grand River and also the Korean community might come in, which is going to be dense housing. We do need to provide services for these folks and one of the things missing is green space because the housing is so dense. Again, preserving green space is a good thing. She said she thinks this is a good outcome. What she heard from the City Council is we want to focus whatever building goes in Lakeshore Park, we want to focus it on the kids camp and we want to move it to the back by the sports fields. The win-win opportunity by doing it that way is the bathrooms Commissioner Joshi highlighted are in that space. They already exist, but they need improvements. There's sewer, there's water. It's perfectly located for four-season restrooms because that's where the winter sports occur with the sledding on the hill or cross-country skiing through the trails. Right now, we don't offer public restroom facilities for those events, but we have people using that park year round. She said she's looking for the win-win because she knows we're frustrating, but she thinks there's real opportunity here. The City Council also commented on some of the other services that were trying to be put into this park that the mayor said he won't fund in the park because it takes away green space, but that will still be required in the area, especially with the increasing population. They offered up potential different land the City owns and one mentioned was at West Road. Thomopoulos said she wanted to challenge ourselves, the Commission, the staff to think about what's the win-win if we have to consider something like that. She said the thing that comes to her mind is that, over the years, she's heard from several people, and it's not a loud chorus, but we've heard from several people over many, many years that they'd like an indoor recreation center in Novi. Maybe there's a possibility that, whatever this building is that needs to satisfy these municipal-type services, could also provide a recreation opportunity. She thinks the problem is we don't really know. She said she was talking to Commissioner Dooley before the meeting and the next survey isn't until next year with one of the official surveys on parks and rec. She said it seems to her that we're at a point where we should try to solicit further input from the community about what do they mean when they say they want an indoor recreation center? Given everything that's happened already with Lakeshore Park and our desires for other services that we don't want to put in Lakeshore Park, should we really consider opening up the dialog about whether that could be something that could be satisfied with this project. She wanted to throw that out there because it's timely and the time is now. We want to move fast, but we want to do it right and she knows staff are working on that.

Commissioner Dooley said he said he didn't want to add anything because those comments speak very passionately and it's a great way to end the meeting. Thanked Management Assistant Jackett for attending and presenting, and to Deputy Director Ringle and OAS Manager Kapchonick for theirs, as well. These meetings the third Thursday of each month really give residents a good flavor of one of the true reasons people like to move into Novi, which is parks and rec and cultural services. We have a

crack staff and he hopes everybody realizes it; and a great group of commissioners, as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:15 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Dooley, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Thomopoulos, Vice Chairperson