

Commissioners Thomopoulos asked if there was any possibility to go back to the contractors who put in the Pavilion Shore shoreline to have them fix it. Director Muck said there is not and it was already attempted a couple years ago. Director Muck said another update on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, there has been movement at the state level regarding funding outdoor recreation. The Senate did pass a series of bills yesterday to support funding parks. It's related to the state park endowment fund and how the trust fund is funded, and how the funds are allocated to the state parks and local parks. mParks and a lot of our conservation allies have supported this, so it'll next go to the Michigan House for approval. It will require to go on a statewide ballot because you are opening up the Constitution with this. It's been fully vetted by the mParks board and public policy and we support it. Everything else talked about in Grants Committee will be covered in other presentations.

D. Parks Updates

1. Wildlife Woods Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos/Representative Lee
Commissioner Thomopoulos said it was her first time both covering and visiting Wildlife Woods Park. Went last week before the days of storms. Showed location and amenities on a slideshow. It is a much bigger park than the map suggests. It's a nice and large park nestled around the schools. There's a green schools sign giving directions, but nothing from the City mentioning the park. Questioned where the school's space ended and the park began, where to go, where to park. Went at the time school was letting out. The entrances are combined. You see a sign next to the soccer fields along 11 Mile Road, set back from the road. The fields were in use and in great shape. There are also ball diamonds that were in perfect condition. One of the benches had a muddy area behind it. She ran into several park patrons. One couple uses it quite a bit and plays tennis there. They had no complaints and were very complimentary of the tennis courts. Same with another recent Novi High School grad on the courts, too. On the north side of the park there were portable toilets that are just there for the winter. Further back is a shelter with restrooms. They were very clean, but there was a crack in the flooring in the women's room. Two baseball teams showed up to play toward the end of my visit. There was park shelter signage, which was added to our parks in the last couple years and is very helpful. There's a path that connects to ITC. There's no way to know that it's there unless you know it's over there or see it on an overhead view and look for it. There's no indication there's a path, so it'd be nice if there was a sign. There's a ditch for drainage that's required. Maybe put a plank across it, as it does get a little muddy. The park was in great shape, no issues or criticisms. It would be nice if there was welcome signage, if the school sign mentioned the City collaboration and had a map, and a sign that said you can park here even though you're not part of the school. Also, a sign to identify the connector trail ITC, the cement in the restroom and a bridge to the trail.

Commissioner Staab asked if reservations of tennis courts generated revenue.

Director Muck said the schools reserve the north courts through Community Education. PRCS keeps the southern courts open for community use.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said it'd be nice to have a sign on the south courts that says "first come, first serve."

Commissioner Dooley asked whether the connector trail would be more traveled during the summer. Commissioner Thomopoulos said if people came for a doubleheader and wanted to go for a walk, they could use that.

Representative Lee said the soccer fields are horizontally placed. There's also one inside the track (note: school district property, not part of park). Some of the signs at Wildlife Woods Park are really inconspicuous. There's one near the soccer fields and another near the courts. Trees may block views. Signs for reservation and ownership are up, and similarly signs for teams were just added to the high school courts. Was wondering if people had any problems since the high school teams have meets and tryouts at both locations sometimes. Would it be helpful to add signs there.

Commissioner Torimoto asked whether the strip of parking facing the park is part of the park or school parking? Director Muck said it's shared. Commissioner Thomopoulos said the parking lot could be used for soccer, but if you walk to the north lot, the sidewalk is not continuous.

~~2. Rotary Park—Commissioner Pratt~~

~~3. ITC Community Sports Park (April)—Commissioner Dooley~~

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Lakeshore Park Update

Director Muck said we've developed a plan to have a Lakeshore Park update meeting 6-7 p.m. 6/11 at the Novi Police Department Training Center. This will recap what we heard from the public in December and we've been working on developing two different plans for City Council. The public can come see these plans. Staff will be on hand to answer questions on these plans and we encourage everyone to come see the plans. It truly is impacting the entire city. We will be pushing this out via social media avenues; Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor. It was posted on the City website today and we'll post more after Spring Palooza. We'll have this 6/11, can bring the boards and those options back to the next Parks Commission meeting and ultimately go to Council. Commissioner Thomopoulos thanked Director Muck for the process and having two proposals to bounce off each other. Director Muck said it's been a long time coming since December when we gathered input. We had so many options. A lot of you were there and heard options like getting access from Shawood Lake, making roads one way to building other buildings on the property. There was a lot of vetting out that needed to be done by City staff with those options. Commissioner Staab asked if this is done 6/11 and Commission recommends after that, would it go to Council in July? Director Muck said it would. Once Council approves proposal A or B, we'd have to draw up documents and go out to bid. Staab asked if anything would be done to the park before spring 2019? Muck said possibly. They'd love to get some shovels in the ground in late fall or winter. Staab said it'll be two years since the millage was passed and it seems like a plodding process. He knows staff has worked very hard since the meeting in December and thanked them.

2. ITC Trailhead Park Update

Director Muck said he shared this with the Grants Committee. Going to City Council Monday night is a proposed development called Villa D'Este. The developer approached the City with this concept plan. The reason Parks is involved is because the developer is asking to rezone this from RA – which is low-density residential – to R1. To do that, he is required to show a public benefit. The public benefit he's proposed is a small parking lot and include a shelter and a

bike repair station for access to the ITC Trail. The ITC Corridor Trail is going to come up across the south side of Nine Mile, over and up the corridor, making this a nice access point for the trail. We currently have budgeted in our CIP more than \$175,000 to actually do a parking lot and trailhead on the ITC Trailhead property. With this, the developer would cover all of those costs. Parking would have up to four spaces; have a bike repair station and an asphalt parking lot. The property, which is a little less than 0.25 acres, would then be title transferred over to the City and join the City's park plan. The question brought up to the Grants Committee is whether there is any impact to our Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant we used to acquire the Trailhead Park? The answer is "no," because that was an acquisition grant, not a developmental grant. When we wrote the acquisition grant, we indicated the potential on that property could be things such as a parking lot, such as a bike repair station, a pavilion, the outdoor exercise equipment along the trail. We have a lot of different options, but we feel this doesn't jeopardize any of our MNRTF funding. The main thing when you're doing a MNRTF grant is the property needs to stay as recreational use in perpetuity. Wanted to bring this up to you because it does impact our park inventory.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said it seems like a win-win. Was at first thinking the number of parking spots is not significant, but a mile south you have ITC Community Sports Park. Thinks it's great.

Commissioner Muzzin asked if there was a designated time frame for that phase of the development needing to be done? Director Muck said it's his understanding the developer would do it as part of Phase 1. Muzzin asked if there was a way we could get them to commit to doing it? Muck said they would be doing it Monday night if Council approves.

Director Muck said this isn't an action item for Parks Commission because this did go through Planning Commission and is ultimately up to City Council.

Commissioner Torimoto asked, if the property is being donated, maintenance of the property would be handled by the City after? Director Muck said that's correct. This project is very similar to Beacon Hill at Meadowbrook and 12 Mile where they have a similar parking lot under development. That one wasn't outlined as Phase 1, so it isn't done yet.

Commissioner Muzzin asked whether this is something we could do going forward to have that included as part of Phase 1 with future developments? Director Muck said it's something that could be brought to the Planning Department.

3. Bosco Property Update

Director Muck said, as we speak, Novi Schools should be voting on the proposed agreement between the City and Novi Schools on the Bosco property. It went to the school board, they had a few tweaks they wanted to make to the proposal. It was on the last City Council agenda, but they had to pull it off because the school board hadn't approved it yet. What you see here is a potential conceptual. It's conceptual, so it hasn't been engineered. What we're working on with the school district is a 25-year lease agreement with the intent to renovate ITC soccer fields. If you've been out there, you know how bad drainage is. One reason ITC hasn't been renovated yet is we have nowhere to put all those soccer fields, all those kids and all those programs. This would allow us to do that. We would be able to move our soccer program off of ITC and onto these fields once they're established, without losing out on any of our soccer

seasons or opportunities for our kids to play soccer. Another reason is cricket, which is in high demand around Novi. We are consistently having to turn cricket leagues and teams away because we don't have a place for them to play. We have a very high population of cricket players in Novi who want to play. Ideally, this would help us alleviate some of our cricket demands and get people out and playing. If the school board approved this tonight, this stays on the agenda for City Council Monday night for their approval. Then we can get going on engineering plans, final design plans and hopefully break ground. Ideally, we'd love to break ground on these this fall so you get a couple growing seasons in and have the fields established by fall of 2019.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said Commissioner Muzzin asked about proximity to the ITC trail. Is all the blue area on the map wetlands? Director Muck said it is. Muck said the agreement is currently only focused on the north end. The other area could come back into discussion with the schools, but right now it's only the north end.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said 11 Mile Road heading west has a sidewalk and asked what the rest of the sidewalk situation is? Director Muck said they have to look at that and filling some gaps. We are talking to Engineering about that next week. Muck said, when the original Signature Park concept was created in 2007, this area (south side) also had some development in it, including a treetop bog walk.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if this would be owned by the schools, would this MOU (memorandum of understanding) mean limited usage? Director Muck said the City would have control of the usage, but the City would be required to program it with basically programs we currently offer. The schools currently have some storage containers on the property that we'd have to continue to allow them access to. That was one of the reasons why the school district wanted further discussion on it and we've clarified that.

Representative Lee asked if the wetlands currently exist in the southern area? Director Muck said they do. Lee asked if they were lakes and bodies of water, or more of a swampy area? Muck said they're more of a wetland swampy area for the most part. We're doing some topography to understand more of the contours. Lee said he's noticed areas where wetlands have been established have plants that are eating up more of the water from the wetlands.

Commissioner Torimoto said there was a park density per population map and this would help alleviate one of those areas. It would be more of a passive park with open fields. Would also like to see sidewalk on the Beck Road side since it's not well connected there. Director Muck said there is a funeral home going in in the northeast area, so part of that is likely to include sidewalks. More to come, but this could move quickly with approvals tonight and Monday.

Commissioner Staab asked Representative Lee what the total enrollment at Novi High School is currently? Lee estimated more than 2,000. Staab remembers past business in this same forum where past (Novi Schools' Assistant) Superintendent Jim Koster told us when they did the build out and remodeling there it was up to 2,500-3,000. When Novi builds out, wasn't that land originally purchased for a second high school? We said, at that point in time, we might have a need for that down the road. The 25-year lease down the road, how does that connect with that? Director Muck said the discussion was "what if" there is a need for the district to build another school. Projections don't show a need for that any time soon, but part of the agreement is the City can't build any permanent buildings

or structures on this property in case they need this property. Staab said he recalls some compatible agreements with the schools regarding the land south of the high school for them to develop the ladies' softball field. Director Muck said that's correct. Staab said the agreements over the years without the permanent structures will allow them to have use of the fields if and when they need them.

4. Park Projects Update

Director Muck said our Parks Maintenance staff completed some concrete repairs to the concession stands at ITC Community Sports Park. There were some cracking and issues there. Commissioner Thomopoulos had mentioned Wildlife Woods. They did do some repairs to the outside of the pavilion at Wildlife Woods. They do everything they can to stay on top of that concrete work and do a good job there. Arbor Day they did the invasive species removal of buckthorn at Rotary Park. Lastly, the Engineering Department completed the Eight Mile pathway. A lot of people are excited about that. This is the pathway that runs along the north side of Eight Mile from Beck to Napier. This wasn't an easy project. There was a lot of engineering that went into this, discussions with land owners, right of way. This is really nice. Think of where we're at. Hop onto the ITC Trail at Nine Mile and Garfield, take it down through the sports park to the Eight Mile, drop in to Maybury and you've gone quite a long way. It's coming together and the ITC Trail is coming together faster than a lot of people envisioned. Nine Mile-to-11 Mile, that is still in engineering and we're working with ITC. We want to get shovels into the ground in July.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said the bids for Villa Barr construction of parking and pathways are due back to the City tomorrow, so we're excited to see those and anticipate a July start and mid-to-late September finish on those. We also on 5/15 this week had our application deadline for the artist-in-residency program. We received six applicants. The committee – which is made up of a Foundation member, a Michigan Legacy Art Park member, a Novi business owner, a member of the Cultural Arts Advisory Board, as well as myself and Amelia Purdy-Ketchum – meets on 5/22 to review the applicants and to choose who we want to be our first artist in residence starting 10/1. Things are moving ahead. The painting, windows and stucco patching in and out of the house is nearly complete. We're looking forward to the small touches and reloading the house full of household items in making the house welcoming for our artist.

Deputy Director Ringle said, as far as programming goes, heading into June we'll be hosting the annual The Great Campout 6/23-6/24, with 6/23 being the night of the Walled Lake fireworks. Our campers look forward to that and it's a great opportunity for our campers to camp in a park where you normally can't, to set up your tent for the first time before you head up north. An opportunity for some family bonding there. Our Sizzling Summer Art Series is soon to get under way. Our first event is Wednesday, 6/20, and our Wonderful Wednesdays will take place in June at Fuerst Park, July at Pavilion Shore Park and August at the Civic Center. Typically we go back to Fuerst Park in August, but the high school is doing some parking lot repairs. They're going to repave the lot on 10 Mile and the lot on Taft Road adjacent to Fuerst Park. We're making some adjustments and just having

to change location and everything will be fantastic. Our first Friday night event is going to take place 6/22 and we're partnering with the library on that. Typically the library has a kickoff to their summer reading program; a carnival or some sort of big bash. We both wanted to do something bigger and better, so we thought combining that would be great. Library and Fuerst Park are adjacent to each other, so we're going to do something that celebrates Sizzling Summer, the summer reading program and the 10th anniversary of Sizzling Summer, with that Sizzling Summer title. There's also one 7/13 at Fuerst Park and 8/17 at the Civic Center. Our summer camps are doing well. Registration is doing well and Lakeshore registration is filling faster than in years past. PowerPlay has just a few day openings left. Our art camps and sports camps are going well. Our select team tryouts are going on 6/16 on the soccer fields at Wildlife Woods. Soccer is our largest sports program, so we're looking forward to that program. We're also taking registrations for our fall house and recreational travel divisions. Field reservations: We're always looking to make improvements for both residents and ourselves, so we continue to get requests for field availability for rentals for tournaments and individual events. Right now, the process is to call the office and talk to Greg or Chase, or fill out a form and submit it online and we look at availability and call you back. We're working on a module that will be online so people can field availability prior to making that connection. If they want a specific date, they can type it in and see if it's available. It reduces their time calling us and our team searching and then calling them. That's going to be on the web, we anticipate, mid-to-late June. It'll be similar to our shelter rentals. "Honk Jr." was a success. That was our children's production, taking place the weekend of 5/2-5/6. We sold more than 700 tickets that weekend, which is great. Amelia and In The Mitten Productions has secured "Elf Jr." as our next production, with auditions taking place in September and the show taking place 12/6-12/9. We're looking forward to that. This Saturday at soccer is Dooley Dog Day for spring. We appreciate Commissioner Dooley bringing hot dogs and such, grilling at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if, when people rent the shelter at Wildlife Woods, do they have the expectation of being able to have a family game at the diamond's next to it? Deputy Director Ringle said sometimes they'll ask if it's available. If it's open, great. If that's something they want, they can reserve it. We have a lot of people who request the open field at Lakeshore, so if they're renting Shelter 2, they want to confirm that the field is open if they want to do a bounce house or any fun, Frisbee games. Thomopoulos said it may be clearer with the new program where they can see availability. Ringle confirmed and said a great thought would be to connect that possibly via a quick link.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if the Sizzling Summer at Pavilion Shore Park is the first time? Deputy Director Ringle said it is the first time Sizzling Summer has been there, but not the first time we've had a musician or a movie in the park there. We have a good audience that wants to participate there. Its Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in July.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said the Novi Memorial Day Parade starts at 10 a.m. and is followed by a memorial service. Memorial Day is a day to remember our service members who have served for our country. It's a great community event and we

encourage everyone to come out and honor our veterans. Our walking program over at Meadowbrook Activity Center is 9 a.m. every Tuesday. We are looking at doing a couple Walk with a Doc presentations by a doctor or medical individual. One of the big events over at Meadowbrook Commons is the generator. We now have a date for installation of the generator, weather pending, as 5/21. We have notified the residents there and they are looking forward to having that secure feeling that, if we do lose power, that they will be taken care of. That is only in the apartments. If we do lose power, the individuals in the ranches would have to come over to the apartment complex. We've worked with the residents at Meadowbrook Commons on safety awareness. This week, we had a fire drill and did give them notice that it'd happen this week. Things went smoothly and we'll continue to work with the fire department to improve the process and have fire drills 2-3 times per year. Part of that is also letting them know about the file of life, which we encourage all residents to participate in. That's a file with medical information about the resident, such as medications that you're on. You leave that right on your refrigerator so EMS, if they have to come in, can take that right with them. It's worked out well in several experiences. Today we had our town hall meeting. Normally we have a town hall meeting once a year. That gives residents an opportunity to hear about activities in the City of Novi. We had a panel of department heads there along with KMG Prestige, which manages Meadowbrook Commons. It was an opportunity for residents learn and share what was going with the facility. Our facility manager, Tom Gordon, announced his retirement today. KMG has an individual who will take over in mid-July. Tom has been with us for more than nine years and done a fabulous job with the residents. His replacement, Casey Carr, has been under the training of Tom for about three years now.

Commissioner Staab said kudos for getting the generator installed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Gary Zack of 359 S. Lake Drive said South Lake Drive was closed off this week for 1.5-2 days. One thing that became apparent there is that people take advantage of Pavilion Shore Park by parking their cars and they go and walk, push their strollers, etc. They walk South Lake and East Lake Drives. With the traffic reduced, it's a totally different world. It's relaxing. Zack said he spoke with several people that agreed. The thought he's had is that entire area is almost like a park. People like to walk along the lake. A lot of people like to drive along the lake. There's almost too many. They're loving it to death. It's too late now, but if they close it again and you ever get a chance, people ride their bikes and their concerns are gone about riding on the side of the road. Instead of every second a car going by, its every minute. Also, the camping night at Lakeshore was mentioned. Zack hopes they're publicizing the Walled Lake Civic Fund that is paying for that and perhaps giving people info if they want to donate to that because it is not an inexpensive thing.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Torimoto said very good, very informative meeting. It's good to see the progress in the parks and on the trails. There's no excuse not to go outside and enjoy what we have. As a family, he's looking forward to enjoying the events, the camps for his daughter and some programming he's already registered himself. He's looking forward to enjoying the summer with the Parks programs.

Commissioner Muzzin said she's overwhelmed by the activities available to her and her family to get involved in. She knows the work being put into them based on what she's hearing at these meetings.

Commissioner Staab thanked Director Muck, Deputy Director Ringle and OAS Manager Kapchonick for their comprehensive reports. He's looking forward to the Lakeshore Park update on 6/11. Also looking forward to a lot of the activities in June. Had the opportunity to attend the Choralaires concert last Saturday and appreciates the affordability here and with the many other activities planned for June and throughout the summer. It's exciting times here in Novi.

Representative Wou said she read an article about how the City Council passed a recommendation about building some sort of big Korean/Japanese town or something. Asked when that would get started and how long it would take? Director Muck said they did approve the initial plans to move forward with the Asian Village and a lot of people are excited about that. That's a private developer doing that, so when you see things about a \$50 million development, that's not the City spending \$50 million, that's a private development. What the Council did is to agree to move forward with that and there's a land transfer. It's exciting and it's being fast tracked. City Council and developers are excited about it.

Representative Lee said he was in an accident before the last meeting. The roads were slippery and it was a really minor accident. He's OK and the car is OK, but he's glad to be back and able to contribute to the reports.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said staff and the team makes it easy for commissioners to be cheerleaders. The Atrium is set up for Spring Palooza and it looks good. It looks like there will be a lot of topics. Also wanted to thank Director Muck for the process he's establishing for Lakeshore Park and the additional feedback opportunity for citizens. She's looking forward to a good discussion on 6/11.

Commissioner Dooley said he echoes all the comments this evening. It's important for everyone watching and listening, if they want to be involved, it's important to come to City Council or Parks Commission meetings and let your voice be heard. If you have a passion or conviction, we want to hear from you. We appreciate folks like Gary who came up tonight to voice his citizen comments. Everything in the Atrium is representative of the city. If you can't come to City Council meetings, come this weekend. Come on the 5/18 and learn about the different nuances in the City. They're here for you.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:12 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Shelley Thomopoulos, Vice Chairperson