

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019 – 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), Staab (Present), Joshi (Absent), Pratt (Absent), Riggins (Present), Smith (Present), Torimoto (Absent), Student Representatives Alex Fortsch (Absent), Ananya Kamalesh (Absent).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved that the agenda be approved as amended by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Smith.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Approval of June 20, 2019, minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for June be approved by Commissioner Staab and seconded by Commissioner Smith.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

B. Approval of July 11, 2019, minutes.

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

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Joshi

Director Muck said the meeting was tonight and the 2019-20 Non-Motorized Prioritization Update was completed and approved. It was a lot of work by staff and the committee, so it was good to get that across the finish line. We also had some discussion about our Non-Motorized Master Plan and going out to bid on that, and the scope of that. We also had some discussion about Chase Farms park and trails. There's also a little-known trail that runs along the Chase Farms subdivision that Councilmember Andrew Mutch and Mayor Pro Tem David Staudt have been working on. We're going to get some more information out on that trail and that it is maintained for the public. It has been discovered that that should be in our inventory. It's being used, but we need to publicize it better and get it into better shape now that we have confirmed that the City has an easement on that trail.

Commissioner Dooley asked how that was brought to the City's attention?

Director Muck said a citizen brought that to Council's attention.

Director Muck said there was a short update on the ITC Trail, which he'll cover in his report later.

B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto

Commissioner Staab said Pour on the Shore on Aug. 2 was a beautiful night with 350 tickets or so sold. He said he thought it was well attended and he heard positive remarks. The two food trucks – The Mean Weenie and The Happy Patty slider truck – the lines were long, but well attended. We ran out of bundt cakes from Nothing Bundt Cakes. Thanks to all the sponsors. The diversity of having a bourbon tasting was well received. We ran through that early on and enjoyed it. Thanks for the participation and support. When he has numbers, he'll release them.

Commissioner Dooley thanked Commissioners Staab and Torimoto for their work with the Foundation.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Joshi

Director Muck said we're in the middle of summer, so it's kind of a dead period for that committee. He said they'll regroup in the fall to consider potential grants to submit for next year's cycle.

D. Parks Updates

Commissioner Dooley explained monthly park updates to the audience and how the commissioners visit different parks each month on a rotating schedule.

1. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Pratt

2. Pavilion Shore Park (July) – Commissioner Dooley

Commissioner Dooley said he's walked this park a number of times. When you come in from the back side of Pavilion Shore Park, it's easy to spot with the signage, too. There's a parking lot on the side and it's very well maintained, very well marked and very safe. People are walking continuously and parking on the side of the road. It's imperative and important that people obey the speed limits. It's also well marked for the bike trail, as well. There's a monument there of an ex-Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commissioner Paul Policicchio. He said it touches his heart because he was a good man. Dooley said there's some David Barr works of art that he could never understand, but it's there. He said, one of the first times he went there, he saw the monuments on the ground and thought someone had damaged it, but then realized it was part of the sculpture and didn't touch it. It looks like someone nibbled on one of the signs right in front of the monuments. There's signage out there showing a lot that's going on throughout the city. The park was immaculate and so clean. It was a busy day out there, too. There's a library exchange where you can drop books off for the library to lend or borrow a book. It's a great feature we have out there. Out on the lake there's some areas that are interesting. The water levels seem pretty high. Nature is out there doing what nature does. There were a lot of people sitting out there. He saw a lot of people out riding their bikes. There's an area out in front where, if someone has a bike issue, they can tighten up some lugnuts or take a wheel off. It's a really nice feature the park has incorporated. There's an area that looks under repair, but it's well marked. It's a well maintained park and the geese feel the same way. We've talked about them up there. Dooley said he did notice there was a lot of debris on the ground and asked himself if it's really the responsibility of maintenance to pick up every little piece of trash. When you see trash in our parks, don't be adverse to picking it up and putting it in the trash ourselves. It just helps everything. He picked up trash along the way as he was walking around. He doesn't expect City folks to be totally responsible for that. As stewards of our beautiful City parks, as you see trash on the ground, please pick it up and put it in the trash. If everybody did that a little bit, you wouldn't see it.

### 3. Fuerst Park (July) – Commissioner Staab

Commissioner Staab said as you first walk up to Fuerst Park, it's right behind the Township building right behind the library. It has beautiful flowers. When his grandson was in town this summer, he attended an art camp at Township Hall. There's a bulletin board that was promoting Pour on the Shore, Luau on the Shore and Sizzling Summer Nights. There's another metal sculpture there at Fuerst Park and the historical background of the park. It used to be a farm owned by the Fuerst sisters. He said he noticed in the field a nice barricade over the drain. He said it may have been soggy. Last Friday was the special movie of "Ralph Breaks the Internet" and he was out there Saturday morning and it was nice to see the trash had already been hauled away in a reasonable amount of time. The amphitheater gets used for a variety of events. He took a different approach and didn't see anything out of place. He said he wanted to highlight all the activities going on throughout the summer.

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

### A. Family Self-Defense Presentation by Chris Szelap

Director Muck said, since 2008, we've had a great working relationship with the Family Self-Defense, which operates here at the Novi Civic Center. It provides classes, tournaments and black belt testing to our community. We're glad to have them here. They are nationally recognized.

Chris Szelap said she is one of the co-owners of Family Self-Defense Presentation, which they call FSDC, along with her husband, who is running classes back at the dojo. With her tonight to perform demonstrations are Laura Maun, who will be going for her black belt in December; Emily Kasper who will be going for her third-degree junior black belt in December; and the young man going up the stairs is a third-degree adult black belt who came back from U of M just to be with us tonight. Our dojo has been in existence for a total of 27 years. We started in Highland and moved to Novi in 2004. Szelap said she's been a Novi resident for 36 years, so she truly appreciates the things everyone does to make our city wonderful, so that's why they stayed. They've been with the Parks Department about 12 of the past 27 years, offering classes Monday and Tuesday evenings. Each time we have a session renewal, we have about 125 students. We work from ages 5 through adult, with our oldest student turning 70 this December. We have a teaching staff of over two dozen black belts and certified instructors, so our staff-to-student ratio is very, very good. That brings a lot of people to our classes. We teach Isshinryu karate, self defense and weaponry. We pride ourselves on that we don't just teach punches and kicks, we teach life lessons. These people have a very good peer group. We're a team, we work together, we handle bullying situations in the most calm way possible. That's why we're called Family Self-Defense Center. Our students return from college and many come back just to join classes with us because we have that family feel at our dojo. One of the things we're most proud of is FSDC sponsors many City events. Recently was Pour on the Shore. We love that event and plan on doing it again in the future. She appreciates what everyone does to make that such a great event. This year, we'll be sponsoring Light Up the Night as volunteers in the evening. They also participate in the Memorial Day parade, Get Fit Festival this Saturday, the Easter activities here, Superhero Day and Spring Palooza. We try to make ourselves present whenever we can. We have been nominated as one of the top five dojos in the world for the last 12 times. That's not because of her or

her husband, that's because of the team atmosphere and wonderful students who she wanted to show off tonight. Rachel Manela is the third in command at our dojo, she's our dojo administrator. She was voted the number one karate student female this year, in the nation. We're very proud of her. Our FSDC students have won many local, national and world titles in all forms, weapons and fighting. At one local tournament, there were about 30-40 of them who came home with 100 trophies. Not only could we not believe it, but the other schools couldn't either. That was a real high point for us. In 2016, her husband, Mr. Z, was inducted into the Isshinryu Hall of Fame. Over the past 30 years, there's only been approximately 45 people inducted into that, so that tells you what a real honor it was for you. One high point for him was the honorees get to put on a seminar for all the masters and his seminar included the young students teaching the high-level masters. His seminar, to this day, was still the most highly attend seminar in their history, which is a testament to our wonderful teachers. Another thing we like to stress is we accept all students in our dojo, no matter what the physical or family challenges are. We are currently instructing two visually impaired students and one completely blind student who brings her seeing eye dog. They've already advanced two ranks on their own. We were teaching a class of handi-capable students, but there's no connect with the schools anymore to do that. Two of them went into our regular classes and advanced to brown belt totally on their own. Another aspect of Family Self-Defense Center and why we call it martial arts with respect to our dojo, and that these three are here tonight, is that Szelap is a pencil sketch artist and displays her art in several local art galleries here in Michigan. The biggest thing she's had the pleasure of being selected to be is in the Atrium art show the past two years. Maun is in photography, Abhay Vora is a sketching and had a beautiful bonsai display this year, and Kasper is a digital sketch artist who is also going to start doing sketches for a book that one of our friends are asking her to do. They are well received and very talented. They will now perform one of our most difficult katas, called Kusanku. It's a very old form of Isshinryu karate. Nothing's made up. Every reason has a purpose and they know what it is and would be able to defend themselves if they ever needed to. Maun, Vora and Kasper performed a two-minute demonstration.

#### B. Presentation from Novi Ice Arena Manager Erik Carlson

Director Muck said Suburban Ice is another valued partner who runs our ice arena's programs and services. Muck said he's worked with Ice Arena Manager Carlson said the past few years and Carlson is going to go over most everything the ice arena offers.

Ice Arena Manager Carlson said this is the 20th year of the partnership, since 1999. Suburban Sports Group is a management company that runs other facilities all around Michigan in the ice sports business, whether it's hockey, figure skating or anything. We're really unique in that we have an Olympic ice dance training facility. Igor Shpilband is a world-renowned ice dance coach. Just in this past 2018 Winter Olympics, we had five Olympic ice dance teams represented from five different countries; the United States, Great Britain, South Korea, Ukraine and Czech Republic. It's significant because there are only 23 spots in the Olympics. It's a very unique group that's with us basically 365 days per year. Sometimes on holidays we are there with them. They are training year round. We have young athletes from all over the world all day long. We're heating up their lunches,

helping them out and they train, and their work ethic is amazing. Currently, there are multiple teams training for the 2022 Beijing games. That includes the United States, Japan, Russia, Great Britain, South Korea and Finland. They train every day, they do minor exhibitions that we push out on social media and are open to the public. Come watch them; it's a really neat thing. They work hard. The most important program in our facility is the Learn to Skate program. We're a top-five program in Michigan for participants with more than 1,000 that come each year. We run all year round; had 125 students in the summer program. We start at age 3 and have a skater who's 65-70 years old that just picked it up. We have weekday and weekend programs. You get a Learn to Skate membership through Learn to Skate USA, which is our governing body. They do a lot to promote the sport; both figure skating and hockey. Part of that is our hockey development program. It's a transition program for ages 4-14. We run sessions all year long ran by professional hockey instructors. Similar to Learn to Skate, you get a USA Hockey membership and it's a feeder program for Novi Youth Hockey Association. If you don't go the hockey route and want to go the figure skating route, you'd join the Skating Club of Novi. We currently have more than 150 members and hold several exhibitions per year. We have a holiday exhibition in December we'd love people to come out to, and a big ice show in the spring on May 8-9. That's where a lot of kids, like dance, is their recital. Novi Youth Hockey was established in 1998 when the rink opened. NYHA is a volunteer-governed, non-profit organization designed to offer a structured, educational and cost-effective hockey experience. We have recreational/house hockey that starts at age 4-18. We have travel hockey for the more experienced kids for ages 8-18. Currently with more than 400 participants, we welcome players from all communities. It's under the umbrella of USA Hockey. Suburban Hockey Schools is the brand that began Suburban Sports Group. Established in 1974, it's been a premier hockey instructional program for more than 45 years. This provides players an opportunity to enhance their game by offering several clinics/camps throughout the season. We're wrapping up our summer hockey school tomorrow. Pre-season clinics, holiday clinics are throughout the season and, in the spring, we do a training program, all run by professional instructors. We're trying to grow the game. We have adult leagues. We have all the figure skaters and ice dancers, go to youth hockey and then we have the adult league. We have divisions for everybody. Our B League has ex-college players. The C League is in the middle with a mix of recreational and experienced players. The D League is for people who picked up the game as an adult; you're never too old to start. We also have a 30+ division for experienced players. Last year, we had more than 600 players, men and women, in those leagues. We host birthday parties all year long. You come to the rink. We have several packages depending on the number of people. Ice skating is involved in all of it. We provide the host pizza, food, cake, a picture with the Zamboni is a big thing, and décor for everything. Kind of a unique thing, but very popular with us. Public skate is also a popular thing. We have it all year long and noon skate may be the best value in Novi. For \$3, you can come skate for two hours. Saturdays and Sundays are more at \$5. Skate rental is \$3. Checking our website is best, as we do host several tournaments throughout the year, as well. We'd like to invite everybody to our customer appreciation day Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 4:45-10 p.m. We'll have free hot dogs, giveaways and raffles, free public skate for everyone, free sticks and pucks, free drop-in and a Try Hockey for free event. All

of those are pre-registrations, but you can sign up at our website. You can contact us via phone or our website, like us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @noviicearena.

Director Muck said the Novi Ice Arena and participates in a lot of civic activities like Light Up the Night and Spring Palooza. They're definitely integrated into the community. Ice Arena Manager Carlson said they were at Pour on the Shore, as well; and that was a great event.

#### C. Commission Committee, Park Update Interest Discussion

Director Muck said, in commissioners' packets, they have an interest form. We want you to fill this out and bring it back at the next meeting. Looking at the committees, what committees people are interested in, what parks people are interested in. If you bring these back or fill them out at the next meeting, Chris Jackett will tabulate them for us, put those out and your roles would then start in October. In October, we'll also be doing the chair and vice chair elections for Commission. We just wanted to get you started to think about that with the parks you want to visit and committees you want to serve on for November 2019-October 2020.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

##### 1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck said there are three very prominent projects going on right now. Starting with the Bosco Fields at 11 Mile and Beck, there are 13 soccer and multi-purpose fields being constructed. We did post a video to social media on that last week. It gives a little bit of information about the project. There is private property on the corner. That is owned by Griffin Funeral Home. While their project is on hold, they do still own that property and have plans to potentially develop a funeral home on that corner. This is around 40 acres of soccer fields. What is really most important about this site is, we've talked about the shape our ITC Community Sports Park fields are in. Over the years, we've put so many people through soccer on those fields, it needs a refresh. It needs to be renovated. There is not sufficient drainage at ITC. We had 21 of 28 days rained out at one point. We lost so many games and practices. What Bosco allows us to do is move all of those activities onto these fields once they're complete and get ITC to the standard we want it to be. We are looking at a fall 2020 opening for these fields, mainly due to the wet spring we had and the delayed construction. Lakeshore Park demolition work is being completed on the building, playground and storage facility. We're moving a lot of stuff up there, a lot of earthwork. Once that's done, they'll start the foundation of the new building. We're moving forward on that. ITC Trail, the final boardwalk and trail work is being completed, especially up around 11 Mile. We're hoping to have the trail open by Labor Day and will have an announcement coming on a grand opening event for that. Our Parks Maintenance team during the summer is not only doing their regular work keeping the parks clean, but also doing a lot of park updates. Some of the things they've done are infield material work at ITC and Power Park. This season alone, they've added 50 tons of material. That is a lot of clay and soil being moved around. Repairs to the soccer fields at ITC include top-dressing those fields to avoid water from pooling. Until we can address those fields, we'll have to keep doing this kind of maintenance. We've also converted at Wildlife Woods a field

from crusher dust to clay. That's the same kind of field you see at Power Park. That is a really significant upgrade to Wildlife Woods. If you've ever played on crusher dust versus clay, you'd definitely know the difference, especially if you have to slide. At ITC, we did add more infield material at fields 1 and 2. The guys have been doing a lot of work out at those fields. They're always repairing the mouths of the goals out at the soccer fields. They're repairing the infield so you don't have a lip between the infield and outfield. That's definitely a safety issue if you get a big lip out there. Muck showed photos of staff topdressing the fields at ITC and adding clay to diamonds. It's a lot of work by our Parks Maintenance guys and we really appreciate their efforts.

B. Recreation Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Program & Services

Director Muck said Deputy Director Tracie Ringle is at Villa Barr doing a program. Tonight is the first docent night at Villa Barr. She's coordinating that in the absence of a cultural arts staff person. Next Thursday we're going to have an art tour with a bus leaving from the Civic Center to visit Fuerst Park, Pavilion Shore Park and Villa Barr Art Park, with docents at each to talk about the artwork at each of those. We do only have 10 spots still available, so, if you're interested in going on that tour, you do need to call and make a reservation right away. We have selected our new cultural arts supervisor. Her name is Alyssa Golles and she'll start with us; joining Monday. She's coming to us most recently having worked with Northville Parks and Recreation. We're excited to have her. Ringle is definitely excited to have her in and start working on the cultural arts programs. Our Sizzling Summer Arts Series wrapped up yesterday with a Rock N Roll K-9s performance. We had great weather throughout the summer. It didn't look like it would based on the spring, but it ended up being great for the summer. We had eight Wednesdays and three Fridays, as well as the Luau on the Shore that went well Aug. 3. We tag onto the Pour on the Shore event by utilizing the tables, chairs and tent the day after. That's the second year and that event is becoming really popular on the north side. Fall registration is under way and starts in less than a month for all of our dance, art, music and theatre programs. We have programs available for ages 3 months through adult. "Mary Poppins Jr." fall theatre production auditions are Sept. 7 and we are also holding an audition workshop Sept. 5. We have a Get Fit Festival Aug. 17 from 9 a.m.-noon. We'll have 15 City of Novi fitness instructors doing 10-minute demo sessions, as well as four local vendors offering local services. That is free, so come on out if you're not sure what fitness classes you want to get involved with. Talk to the instructors, pick their brains and find something that will help you meet your fitness goals. We had a Detroit Pistons camp that took place July 29-Aug. 2 at Novi Meadows. There were 162 kids that took part in that and it's in the fourth year. It has become one of our larger sports camps and we're going to continue running that next summer, as well. Speaking of soccer, we have passed our youth soccer deadlines. We do have some openings in some of our house soccer leagues, but if you're interested, call right away. Soccer is starting real soon. One interesting note is we ended up with 19 select travel teams, which is the highest number we've ever had. That's second only to Farmington, at 21, in the WSSL travel program we play in. Our select travel program has really boomed, hence the need for more fields. Registration has opened for fall basketball and volleyball with a registration deadline of Thursday, Sept. 12, which will be here before we

know it. Last year, we had a total of 450 players between those two sports, so we're anticipating another large number of players for that. Something new we did this summer was to run our very first drone workshop in the month of July. People learned about drone safety, built their own drone and learned how to properly fly their drone. Based on that success and popularity, we're going to look to offer those workshops quarterly. We're wrapping up another successful summer of Camp Lakeshore and Camp PowerPlay. We had a total of 933 kids register throughout the nine weeks. We're looking forward to getting into the new Lakeshore building and improve those numbers since we turned a lot of kids away because of lack of space. Next week, we do have our Travel Camp, which has been sold out for weeks. Next Tuesday, Aug. 20, we will be hosting Movie on the Shore at Pavilion Shore Park. Momford and Sons will be playing 6:30-8 p.m. with the "How to Train your Dragon: The Hidden World" movie starting afterward. The programming staff has been very, very busy this summer and active.

Commissioner Dooley said he can't believe summer is almost over.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Derek Stogner

1. Program & Services

OAS Manager Derek Stogner said it's a busy time for OAS, too. A lot of programs are coming up for older adults. Coming up Aug. 22 at Meadowbrook, we're doing a birthday celebration for folks in our community ages 85 and up. We have more than 60 attendants. Forty-five of them will be celebrating 85+. Of that group, 29 are in their 90s and the oldest is 98. We'll be doing cake, ice cream and live music if you want to stop by and meet some great folks at Meadowbrook. At the luncheon we had Aug. 1, we had the same Polynesian dancers that were at Luau on the Shore attend and entertain our residents at Meadowbrook. On Aug. 7, we had our monthly transportation field trip that came and took people to the Walled Lake Farmer's Market. Next month will be to Kensington Metropark and they're going to rent paddleboats and take a tour of the lake there. Senior Day at the State Fair is Aug. 29. That's a huge thing for our residents. We had 100 tickets given to us, which is 25 more than last year, and we're still sold out with a waiting list of 30 people waiting to go. Stogner said he's on the committee for that, so he's going to be there all day helping out. He'll be introducing some people from the stage. We'll be riding two shuttles from transportation from Meadowbrook in a loop to try to get everyone there that doesn't want to deal with the driving and the parking to help out folks that way. Tickets are on sale now for our Sept. 12 Senior Socialite Dancing Through the Decades event, which we do in partnership with South Lyon and Northville. It's also fall registration for a lot of our speaker series, outdoor awareness classes and we're doing a big Cultivate Novi event in October. Social services is hosting a caregiver support presentation called "Managing someone else's money." Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology will be hosting that Aug. 29 to help mostly family caregivers taking care of their parents and how to help them with financial decisions they cannot make on their own anymore. Today was a great event at Meadowbrook Commons. Det. Jeremy Stempien came to our Bits and Bytes Café, which is usually a monthly meeting about tech help. He came and talked about financial and tech scams. We had about 48 people show up for that event. Usually, that monthly event is 8-10 people, so we got a good turnout and feedback from that. He knows his stuff for that kind of thing. We're

preparing to mail out a transportation satisfaction survey. We haven't done one since we switched to the free in-town rides for residents. The next time you see me or the time after, Stogner said he may have more information to give on that. Commissioner Smith said a friend who knows someone who lived in Meadowbrook was asking about the bench that used to be on Meadowbrook Road. Can we recommend to City Council that we look into that? Director Muck said you could to Council or the Walkable Novi Committee, as well. It'd probably be more appropriate to start there and they can talk about where those are located throughout the city or where those could be placed throughout the city.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Resident Mike Duchesneau of 1191 South Lake Drive said he wanted to echo the assets the parks and rec department brings to our city. The presentations we saw here today and the little things going on throughout the city, there are some real gems. The presentation on Pavilion Shore Park was outstanding. It is a real gem. The rise and fall of civilization artwork by Mr. Barr is thought-provoking until you get a better feel for "what is this." The other thing brought up was the repair station for the bicycle with what is probably aviation-grade wires to make sure that stuff is still there and has been there for quite a while. Even the parks director has been receptive to citizen input and recommendations to improve the park. Duchesneau thanked this group for that.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Riggins said she thinks the presentations were wonderful and awesome. She really liked the Novi Ice Arena presentation and seeing all the things they do there. She's still excited to be here and ready to see what else goes on in our city.

Commissioner Smith said he'd second Riggins on the ice arena. He doesn't know how they get all the activities in with just 24 hours in the day. We should add on the park update roles the Chase Farms park since we just discovered we have that. Director Muck said it could be put in with the Rotary Park tour. Smith said he lives near there and knew about it, but always thought it was the Chase Farms subdivision owned it.

Commissioner Staab said he wanted to thank Chris Szalap and her Family Self-Defense group, as well as the Novi Ice Arena's Erik Carlson, for their presentations. The ice arena has really started manifesting itself since they took over managing it in 1999. The first couple years were a little rocky, but they've really righted that ship and it's amazing to see all the activities and people that run through there. It's good to see the work on Bosco Fields and the intent to open in fall of 2020. City Council on Monday night approved the reconstruction of the Tim Pope play structure at ITC Community Sports Park, so we'll get that rolling in November. It'll be ready and able for spring for playing and so on as our most active play structure in the city. And also, thanks to the staff and all their participation and support at Pour on the Shore. The event was well attended. Good group, wonderful evening, good drink, good socialization, good band. He wished everybody a good weekend and said it's soon to be Labor Day weekend.

Commissioner Dooley said, regarding Monday's approval of Pope playground, Commissioner Staab and his wife were very instrumental in the creation and building of that from day one. That was done in 1997 and Staab has been a commissioner basically the whole time. It's a wonderful thing, so kudos to him. The Novi Ambassadors, all the different classes, had an opportunity to tour the new DPW structure. It's a marvelous building. City Manager Pete Auger led one of the tours and was very gracious with his time. They've done a magnificent job out there. That's another reason we're lucky to be in a city like ours. We have the gems like the parks we've talked

about this evening, and everything we do in Novi has a purpose. When you think about the Novi Ice Arena, we have that nice dog park right behind it. We used our land and natural resources very smartly in this city. It's really a pleasure when you can sit here and represent Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and we truly do live in a great city, so thank you for that. Thanks to everyone for their great presentations to show everyone what's going on above and beyond. Hopefully we'll have a full group at the next meeting to talk and delegate park update responsibilities or if someone is interested in chairperson or vice chairperson, it'll give them that opportunity, as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Riggins.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:05 p.m.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Staab, Interim Vice Chairperson