

**PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017 – 7 P.M.**

**NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with Commissioner Bauss presiding.

**ROLL CALL:** Bauss (Present), Dooley (Present), Jewell (Absent), Pratt (Absent), Staab (Present), Thomopoulos (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Sanidhya Singh (Present), Joocho Lee (Present).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**Voice Vote** **Unanimous**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Approval of March 16, 2017 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for March be approved as amended by Commissioner Thomopoulos and seconded by Commissioner Dooley.

**Voice Vote** **Unanimous**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Thomopoulos & Bauss  
Commissioner Bauss said there is no report and the next meeting is in May.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioner Torimoto  
Commissioner Torimoto said there was a meeting 4/17. Discussed sponsorships and marketing regarding naming rights of the fishing pier at Pavilion Shore Park. Has a new marketing packet available for distribution through Rachel Zagaroli. Villa Barr Park, the Foundation is proposing to upgrade the housing on site to make it up to code. There will also be some construction on Napier Road, so construction needs to be coordinated. Lakeshore Park design is also ongoing. The ITC Trail situation was discussed at the last meeting. The ITC CSP Park storage building is being discussed to centralize; including Jaguars in conversation. Bleachers covers at Power Park. There will be \$9 million in funding for parks-related assets through the city this year, I heard. Pour on the Shore, we're working on sponsors for that. We're working on getting the word out to maximize the attendance. It was really well attended last year.  
Director Muck said former President Linda Blair will be at the 4/24 Council meeting to be recognized, per current President David Landry's request.
- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt & Dooley  
Commissioners Dooley said the committee didn't have a meeting before tonight's meeting, but did receive an email 4/13 from Director Muck on Senate Bill 76 and Senate Bill 280.  
Director Muck said SB 76 is sitting in the Appropriations Committee regarding land acquisition, including ours at Nine Mile and Garfield. There's been some potential amendments on that bill, but the Legislature has been out of session for

two weeks. There's been another bill that's been introduced and could have some potential ramifications on the trust fund and boiling down to who has control of the trust fund, and what amount of control the legislature would have over projects and recommendations. There's a lot of back and forth right now. Our state parks and rec association has sent out a call to action.

D. Parks Updates

1. Brookfarm Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she visited earlier this week. Parked at Village Wood Lake Park and walked in from the south bridge entrance. It was a beautiful day. If you approach from this direction, there's no blue sign noting you're leaving the school and entering Brookfarm Park; Commissioner Thomopoulos recommended that a sign be added. Commissioner Dooley said the bridge is a huge improvement from the old bridge.

Director Muck said the bridge was replaced about three years ago.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said there was no trash along the river and the trees were blooming. She said the trail is being walked on. On the right, there are three major trees that have fallen across the wooded path. Chipping them right there would help alleviate mud. It's a small trail through the woods. There was one patron in the park and she was walking her dogs and complimented the park and its cleanliness. She said, in the evening, there are no lights in the park. The subdivision has lights, but doesn't have any sidewalks. Patron wants sidewalks in the neighborhood. There is a wicker bench that has collapsed. Director Muck said the soccer field is still sometimes used for soccer practices.

~~2. ITC Community Sports Park – Commissioner Pratt~~

~~3. Novi Dog Park (Mar.) – Commissioner Pratt~~

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

A. Public Safety Report by Assistant Chief of Police Erick Zinser

Director Muck introduced Assistant Chief Zinser and said we're blessed in Novi to have outstanding support and a great relationship between Parks & Police/Fire. They have a lot of statistics related to public safety at their fingertips. They are going through an accreditation process similar to what Parks did last year. Over the past few months, we've had a lot of questions on incidents at the ice arena or history of issues at Lakeshore Park. I asked AC Zinser to give a snapshot of statistics over the past five years.

Assistant Chief Zinser said he's here to squash any concerns about activity in the park. There is some crime in the parks, but his presentation will be brief because there's very little crime in the parks. Displayed PowerPoint showing the past five years of crime at the parks. Includes four crimes at Ella Mae Power Park, 11 at ITC Community Sports Park, nine at Lakeshore Park, one at Pavilion Shore Park, one at Rotary Park, three at Fuerst Park, none at Wildlife Woods Park or Novi Dog Park, 11 at Novi Ice Arena. A little bit of activity at some parks, but nothing to be concerned about. Mostly very minor stuff. There were three assaults at the ice arena in 2016; two of three were fights on the ice during adult men's hockey leagues. The third started with a fight on the ice. We're a metropolitan area, we're not immune to things, but there's not a lot of activity crime-wise in the parks. Over five years at Lakeshore Park, there were 984 calls for service there, but only nine crimes at Lakeshore Park. All the rest of that is us doing extra patrol, suspicious vehicles/persons/circumstances and things that are not crimes, which is very, very few. Occasionally we'll get a lost biker or hiker on the trails there.

There's not a lot of crimes in the parks. The parks are beautiful, the people want to be there, they want to enjoy them.

AC Zinser said in April 2017, we got report of squatters in Lakeshore Park. We initially had trouble finding it, but were able to get ahold of the man who reported it to get a more specific location. When we run into cases of people camping, we ask that mountain bikers or hikers call us (police) and wait for us so they can direct us to where it's at. It's difficult where they go home, wait a few days and send an email. It's all cleaned up now, so that's good news.

AC Zinser said to help us with the parks, the Fire Department purchased an ATV last year. Can transport six people, plus the patient. We're purchasing a police ATV after July 1. My hope is to store that out at Fire Station 4 so we have that readily available for the ITC Trail. We're also use it for the State Fair, parades, etc. AC Zinser said last year we started our volunteer VIPS program. A lot of CERT members and handicap enforcement are a part of VIPS. We have them drive around in the parks. Has a light bar and a computer in it just like our patrol cars. Summer shifts are 8 a.m.-noon, noon-4 p.m., 4-8 p.m. Winter shifts are 8 a.m.-noon and noon-4 p.m. They can call the police department when they see things. We encourage them not to get involved. Those interested can fill out an application online.

AC Zinser said there's always concerns along South Lake Drive with the park and by the residents there about traffic enforcement. We used a geo-fence in our software and saw 135 traffic stops in 2016, with 38 citations issued and 91 traffic details initiated along South Lake Drive. You don't see a lot of traffic bubbles in front of Lakeshore Park, but that's because we sit at Lakeshore Park and it takes a little time to pull out and stop a vehicle.

Commissioner Bauss said the more active our parks are, the more people are there and that deters crime.

AC Zinser said he's been in Novi 18 years and you see more people at parks like Rotary now than you did then.

Director Muck said if you see something, say something. There's nothing he can do sitting at his desk two days later if police weren't called while the issue wasn't in progress.

AC Zinser said to really stress to mountain bikers to call if you see something and wait to show police where something is going on. All patrol cars have trail maps of the parks.

B. Presentation on Transportation Software by Recreation Supervisor Jessica Mistak

Director Muck said we rolled out our transportation software about two months ago. Introduced Recreation Supervisor Jessica Mistak.

Supervisor Mistak introduced herself and said she's here to discuss the Ecolane demand-response transportation software. The City Council recognized the growing need for transportation in Novi, approved the Ecolane system to improve efficiencies and we rolled out the software Jan. 12. Since we rolled that out, we encountered a few hiccups with the implementation. Those largely being moving from a one-passenger Uber-like system to having multiple riders per car has been challenging for riders and drivers. We changed from paper schedules to using a tablet, where on the tablet they can see the next hour in front of them, but they can't see their full schedule in front of them. On the paper schedule, they could see the full schedule in front of them and every driver's schedule. The reason for seeing just the hour ahead is to focus on getting our riders to their destinations on time and safely. Not thinking six steps ahead, but

focused on delivery excellent customer service at that moment. The software isn't being used to its capacity. One of the things we have had to learn was the tablet is a dynamic system. If you as a driver decide to rearrange and make this third ride your first ride, and don't clear your rides until you reach that destination, you've altered the schedule of all of the other drivers on the road. If any of you have children who watch "Thomas the Tank Engine," it causes confusion and delay. Those are things we're working on with training our drivers that we're all interconnected and every action has an equal and opposite reaction. It's always moving things, so it assumes the person is late, not that they moved that ride. We're not using it to the maximum efficiency, but we're getting there.

Supervisor Mistak said customers have also expressed frustrations with not knowing which driver is going to pick them up. Previously, we had that schedule with everyone else's schedule. Now, they have to rely on the fact that they have a ride scheduled and that they'll see a white Novi van at the assigned time.

We've also faced issues prior to the system. All of our riders were picked up on a quarter-hour system, but Ecolane will pick you up at 1:07, so we're implementing our 15-minute negotiation window, which means when you make an appointment for 1:15, you may be picked up as early as 1 p.m. or as late as 1:30 p.m. Sometimes, especially when the drivers are there early, some riders are not ready and that causes delays in the schedule. We did send out changes during implementation, but that's still something we're working on with educating everyone on the policies and procedures so we can pick up everyone on time and get them where they need to be. A meeting was held 4/4 with the drivers and City Manager Pete Auger to review the issues mentioned above and to review policies and procedures going forward so we're all on the same page.

Supervisor Mistak said we've also rolled out a text message feature. Although there are not many people who have a mobile phone in our system now, but we will be asking people so we can notify people by text message half an hour before they will be picked up. That'll work off the system the day of the ride.

Supervisor Mistak said we'll also be launching a self-service portal. That'll be exciting not only for our riders, but for our caregivers, spouses, siblings or parents. So, if you're out of state and want to assist your parent, you can help them set up this account and book rides online. Help them manage their care while maintaining their independence even though you're not in the vicinity. This will be an excellent tool for riders themselves, but also caregivers.

Supervisor Mistak said, since this system has been implemented, we have seen success in being able to accommodate ride requests more than previously. We are working to cut our request window from 48 hours to 24 hours, to eventually we hope same-day ride requests.

Supervisor Mistak said this software is just the first phase in the expansion. City Council has expressed a desire for this program to grow. We may increase our service hours; do transportation for events like the Stars & Stripes Festival, The Main Event and the State Fair; partnering with businesses and other senior living centers to provide senior transportation; and we're also looking at marketing and sponsorship opportunities to create more revenue to offset the cost of the transportation program.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said congratulations on the launch of the new program. Had questions on two things, the first being the name of the driver. Are we looking to get that service back?

Supervisor Mistak said she had a call with Ecolane earlier today and they've heard the same question from other agencies. Driving with population, they do want familiarity with our drivers, so it's something that's important for them to know. We're hoping they can do it.

Director Muck said we're moving from a one-on-one – one driver, one vehicle, one passenger – system to a two-to-three person potentially in a vehicle. With a dynamic system, it is meant to reroute people. If Dave the driver gets into a situation over on Grand River, it may reroute another driver to do the pickup in the interest of keeping people on time. Telling people Dave is going to get them and then Jessica shows up, that could cause issues, too. Our message is look for the white van with the City of Novi logo.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she appreciates those challenges, but, in addition to the comfort level, it's a sense of community to know the name of the person picking me up. Glad we're not giving up, but exploring whether it can be changed. Also asked about whether the 15-minute window can be decreased? Supervisor Mistak said they expect to decrease it. Prior to the software, drivers were there right at a specific time. Will hopefully be able to narrow the window to 10 minutes either way.

Commissioner Bauss asked whether a partnership day could be created with local grocers to offer senior discounts on a specific day each week so we could coordinate group transportation.

Manager Kapchonick said we've done that in the past on Tuesdays with Meadowbrook Commons and Busch's. It started out great and eventually just dwindled, making it difficult to dedicate that time. We've had it going for the past four or five years.

Representative Singh asked how ride appointments are scheduled?

Supervisor Mistak said it is done primarily over the phone, but the new software has capabilities that will eventually allow for online reservations.

Commissioner Staab asked how confirmations are sent?

Supervisor Mistak said confirmations are made verbally over the phone. When booking online, you will receive a confirmation. Riders will also receive text confirmations and alerts if they have that set up.

Commissioner Staab asked whether riders have been surveyed yet?

Supervisor Mistak said we will be implementing a customer survey card that will be distributed to riders to help fine tune the system, whether they're interested in signing up for text message notifications or the self-service portal.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

#### **1. ITC Corridor Trail Update**

Director Muck said he presented to the Oakland County Trail, Water and Land Alliance (OCTWLA) earlier today. He didn't know this group existed until they reached out and introduced him to speak about the ITC Corridor Trail and Novi's efforts developing that. They're an informed, coordinated collaborative body supporting green infrastructure-networked initiatives, made up of people from the DNR, MDOT, Friends of Paint Creek Trail, the new airplane trail. It was a good meeting to go to. Councilmember Andrew Mutch is currently a representative of the City on that, but we've asked them to add myself to the list. We'd like to start sending parks and rec people to those meetings, or our city forester or landscape architect, because I think they're going to be valuable. The ITC Trail is

five miles of trail running from the Providence Park campus to ITC Community Sports Park. It'll be linking up with Maybury and other nearby communities. Talks began in 2010 and in 2013 construction began. Some of the talking points when we began constructing this was we needed to look at our connector points, how this routed through the community, how it tied into local parks and neighboring communities. We had significant input from the Walkable Novi Committee. Next month's Walkable Novi Committee I believe I'll be doing this same presentation or a version of it. It was a multi-year project broken into segments mainly due to funding. We also wanted to roll this out and communicate to the public because there's always going to be questions about trails going up in someone's backyard, what's it going to do for crime, etc. As you heard from Assistant Chief Zinser, there's always going to be those misconceptions that are just that, misconceptions. As we started planning each segment, you have to look at the ITC Holdings permits, easements or right of ways you need to have, boardwalks and sidewalks come into play for engineering, signage on the trail to direct people, lots of environmental studies. A lot of these segments go through woodlands and wetlands. Our landscape architect and forester have looked at these. We've also sought grants through the DNR and federal Transportation Alternatives Program. We've also gotten support from the Novi Parks Foundation. They donated \$118,000 to complete the segment that runs through the ITC CSP. We're getting close to the end of the trail and that was actually one of City Council's goals this year. One segment has us going from Nine Mile to 11 Mile. Originally, we were going to go up the trail, job over through a heavily wetland area south of Fire Station 4 and continue up Wixom Road; which was already completed running up Wixom Road by a developer. A few months ago when we began diving into what we needed to do to finish, the questions started coming about why are we cutting across all these woodlands and building all this boardwalk, and go through all the expense and ongoing maintenance. We have the funding through the CIP millage that was meant to fund these types of projects, plus why do we want to go into Fire Station 4's training center and mix pedestrians and bicyclists with personnel and fire trucks there. We looked at all of those and started talking about trail user safety. If you get back in the in the heavily wooded and wetland area, there may be a lot of mosquitos back there and it may not be as comfortable for people back to walk through there. So we started exploring rerouting the corridor. This segment hadn't been done because they used the existing path done by the developer. We started crunching the numbers and we are going to see some significant cost savings from not running through the wetland area. What this is going to require is a mid-block crossing to get across 10 Mile. Everybody in this room has driven down 10 Mile at 5 p.m. I'm sure, and you may not want to cross there without some kind of pedestrian island. So we're going to be looking at those designs. During this presentation, I was asked about this mid-block crossing. The City just did one on Beck Road and it has a zig-zag pattern. One issue we may have on 10 Mile is, does a zig-zag pattern prevent people with trailers behind their bikes or kids carts, can they negotiate a zig zag. We're going to talk to engineering about that, but this was a good way to get feedback. Showed photos of previously completed segment in 2016. We spent \$2.66 million for 2.5 miles. Have another \$4.29 million budgeted, which includes \$3.5 million for the Nine Mile to 11 Mile segment, \$575,000 for that 10-acre segment held up in the Appropriations Committee and \$440,000 for the Community Sports Park segment. We're looking to break ground in July in that

segment. We're also looking ahead. Just because the trail will be open from Nine Mile to 11 Mile, that doesn't mean we're done for the entire future. We wanted to look at developing a Trailhead Park at Nine Mile, we wanted to park out some money in budget for future years for a Napier Road connection that would run along the northern end of Community Sports Park and connect to Napier Road. We want to look far enough ahead that, whether Lyon Township or Novi residents living in those developments, somewhere down the line along Napier Road, they're going to want to access the trail through Community Sports Park without going into the sports park. We also have \$400,000 for a Trailhead at 10 Mile. We're looking at \$8.44 million total cost across the board for the entire project. The good part of that is outside funding. There's \$118,000 from the Novi Parks Foundation for the segment we just completed last year. The TAP grant is giving us \$308,000 out of that \$440,000 for the Community Sports Park segment; so significant funding from the feds for that. \$402,500 match from the state for the Nine Mile Trailhead, which is in Legislature. We submitted the grant for the trailhead expansion property to the DNR this year, which would cover \$467,500 by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. So, in a nutshell, we're actively seeking funding; this isn't all City funds. We've looked at state funds and federal funds for this.

Director Muck said he also touched at this presentation on Lakeshore Park trails. We wanted to brag about these a little bit. Ten miles of single-track always consistently rated in the top 15 in the State of Michigan by the Michigan Mountain Bike Association. It's also known as the Tree Farm. It used to be a tree farm. We have staff ride it occasionally; we have an outstanding partnership with the Motor City Mountain Biking Association. They do almost all of the work on those trails. They're the ones that clear the trails, raise the berms. They call us when they need help. He's on those forums. He's a member of the MCMBA and will see on a Saturday they'll say Lakeshore has a tree down on mile two. A few minutes later, you'll see someone say, "I'm heading up there with my chainsaw. I got it." Our Parks guys wouldn't have been able to get out there until Monday. They're outstanding, the men and women in that organization are outstanding. We can't thank them enough. The other part of the partnership is they created the Kids Single Track Trail, also called the Strider Trail. This is a small trail system loop at the entrance to the trailhead that's meant for beginning mountain bikers and kids to learn how to go over some of the features, bridges, simulated log piles. As far as we know, that's the only one in Michigan and, in 2016, we received an awards from Michigan Recreation and Park Association for that trail. Wanted to share the current status of the ITC Trail and the meeting from earlier today. Good discussions, but some people also experienced frustrations in other communities because they don't have the support we have in Novi. It's a true asset we're blessed to have in the City of Novi.

## 2. Rotary Park Update

Director Muck said Commissioner Thomopoulos asked for an update on Rotary Park. We had Novi Rotary Club come in quite a few months ago about doing some work and some beautification. We also have potentially a water and sewer project going on in the park at some point here. We've also been partnering with our Community Development, Forestry and Parks Maintenance Departments in efforts to remove invasive species here at Rotary Park. We'll be doing some of that work next weekend with Arbor Day. There's also been some recent work to stabilize the stream bank and preliminary engineering for that

detention basin project I've mentioned before in collaboration with Wayne County. What recently developed was we've been reviewing the Rotary Park history and Rotary Park has been placed under the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conservation easement in 2001. Recently, staff from PRCS, Community Development and Forestry met with Susan Tepatti from the MDEQ to clarify the terms of the easement as it relates to the trails, invasive species removal, riverbank stabilization and tree plantings and removal. We've had some of the neighborhood associations in the area ask about some tree removals and tree trimming over in that area, some concerns about the riverbank and things like that. We clarified, based on the terms of the easement, we are responsible for notifying the DEQ of methods and works, and receive written approval, for any and all activities happening within that easement. This mainly falls in the heavily wooded area that runs along the river. It doesn't cover the playground, it doesn't cover the tennis courts and it doesn't cover the pavilion and most of the northern half of the park. The detention basin would, tentatively right now, take place in the area of the tennis courts. So we don't have to worry about that. Since the meeting, DEQ has approved removal of invasive species including buckthorn and garlic mustard, the installation of native shrubs in areas where invasives are removed, and removal of trash and debris within the easement, including the wetland and streams. The only caveat being no heavy equipment can enter the stream or stream banks and they're not removed, only hand removal, which is what they'll be doing when we do more of this invasive species removal. It was a great meeting and the DEQ has thanked the City for promoting the stewardship and enhancement of the conservation easement. It really clarifies for future planning of Rotary Park that falls outside the easement. It also means we really cannot be looking at developing any more trails within the easement itself. We have abandoned one trail already; the Chase Farms trail. It was cut about four years ago as an Eagle Scout project. Technically that trail should've never been cut and staff that was here at the time wouldn't have known about the conservation easement. We made the decision last year to abandon that trail due to the issues maintaining it; and that ended up being a good thing because we would've had to do that anyway. It runs from the neighborhood and ran along the southern edge. We do have an existing trail through there that is allowed to remain.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if northern trail loop was OK to remain?

Director Muck said it was because it's outside of the conservation easement.

Commissioner Bauss said the southern trail was one he had worked on with the Eagle Scouts. Director Muck said it was called the Guernsey Trail.

Representative Singh said he lives in that neighborhood and has been on those trails. Used to see a City sign, but it's been getting worse, so it's good to know it's been abandoned. There is a trail near the Riverbridge Subdivision that needs to be cleared up.

Director Muck said he will take that back to the Park Maintenance staff as to whether they're maintaining it or not. Based on this knowledge as to whether we can do that. The caveat is the City can't do anything, but if you or your friends are out there walking on the pathways, that's fine. We just can't do anything to develop or maintain it within the easement.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked about the Rotary Club memorial?

Director Muck said they would have to wait for the detention basin project finalized, because it doesn't make sense for them to come in and do any type of

landscaping or any type of work that could get torn up as part of this project. So we're hearing from our Water & Sewer Division that the best location for the detention basin is under the tennis courts, put the detention basin in, but then redo the tennis courts. That's a good thing because then you get a stable base for those tennis courts, which helps with the cracking, heating and thaw cycles we've been having. In the long run, we already have issues with those cracks and heating. It would allow us to not only replace the two tennis courts, but also potentially put in pickleball courts. So, this could be a big win because we have heard we need pickleball courts in the city and that's an ideal location for it. Water & Sewer is still in very preliminary planning for the detention basin, but if and when it happens, there's a lot of potential both with Rotary Club and enhancing that area.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked what the plan for Arbor Day was?

Director Muck said it's there next Saturday where they're planting a commemorative tree outside of the easement and attacking invasive species, as well. This Saturday is Earth Day at Tollgate, next Saturday is at Rotary, 9-11 a.m.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said the latest edition of Engage! should've arrived in your mailbox. It's also on cityofnovi.org and pretty consistently on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our Facebook page has 2,500 followers, our Twitter account has 750+ followers and our Instagram has 450+ followers, so we're reaching 3,700 people potentially. Another way we reach people is the Destination Recreation e-newsletter, which is sent out two times per month highlighting four upcoming programs. Most recent distribution list has 11,500 with an open rate of 27 percent. Industry standard is 24 percent. There are issues with, if you view it in a preview screen and your email doesn't count it as opened. It does show us mobile and desktop open. It's through the Constant Contact app, so we have good statistics with that. We are looking to have a consistent video presence. Other City staff and Parks staff will take turns hosting 60-90 second videos with topics tying into our marketing plan calendar. Those are benefit based, so healthy active, how we tie into economic development. So it's a mix of human interest stories, benefit-based stories, as well as general program information. The first one was taped this week with Amelia Purdy-Ketchum highlighting the DIA Inside | Out program, which was installed 4/11 and continues through mid-July. It's in the editing phase now. Is expected to hit Facebook and the social media channels next week. Our next taping will be 5/4 with our park facilities staff member Bill Paul talking about projects going on. As far as quick program updates, The Great Campout is scheduled for 6/17-6/18, which is Father's Day weekend. It's been scheduled that weekend for many years, which typically coincides with the Walled Lake fireworks. This year, the fireworks changed to 6/24, so the campout will take place as scheduled with an outdoor movie and other activities. Those who registered early were informed and are still excited to come to the park 6/24 for the fireworks. Shelters are all rented that date. We'll staff the park until fireworks are done. We typically close the park at 9 p.m. and beach at 7 p.m. We'll close the beach at 7 p.m. and keep the park open until the fireworks are complete. The City's annual open house, formerly Fall for Novi and then Spring into Novi, is now Novi Palooza. It's going through some rebranding, but will take place 6-9 p.m. 5/19 here at the Civic Center campus. We'll have all the

departments here for activities and Community Development will be open to talk about some upcoming projects we have coming up. Our department will be hosting a number of activities, including a cornhole tournament. There will also be a movie on the lawn at night. They're thinking a Friday night may be easier for those who have a lot of weekend activities with our young ones and so on, while still getting a lot of good feedback from community members.

Commissioner Staab asked if people donated cornhole boards so we'd have enough?

Deputy Director Ringle said they've been built and donated by Home Depot.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Karen Kapchonick said Euchre Tournament had more than 40 individuals participate in the third tournament. We're going to move forward with a Pinnacle Tournament so we have one Pinnacle and one Euchre per year. We had our Welcome Spring luncheon with more than 76 participants. We had one of our first-time sponsors, Oakmont of Northville, partner with us on that. Today we had three events, our Travel Fair with more than 40 individuals come out to see what's out there. We also had an identity theft presentation by the Novi Police Department that had about 20 participants. That's a popular and concerning issue for any age group. It continues to grow and we want to make sure our residents are familiar with it. Our police do an awesome job in the presentation and they encourage everyone to call the police department. Don't listen to what's being said on the phone, make that call to the police department. They'll comfort you and let you know that's a potential scam. With the Kentucky Derby coming up, we have our own Novi Derby with races for the ponies. We also encourage them to give us an idea as to who they think will be the winners. We put little bios on all the horses up and they pick first, second, third, who they think will be the winner. That'll be sponsored by South Lyon Care and Rehab Center, a new partner with us. We're starting a new What's the Buzz series to inform participants in issues pertaining to medical, legal, financial and educational topics. They'll run May-June with about 13 presentations for anybody of any age. This evening you received your invites for the Memorial Day Parade. It'll be starting out with the run, followed by the parade and special memorial service for our veterans, and a luncheon. We encourage you to attend. Moving on to social services, the second-time National Drug Take Back Day will be held next Wednesday, 4/26, from 1-3 p.m. We did this at one of our health fairs and it's amazing the amount of medication individuals have, and they really don't know what to do with it. This is an opportunity for them to bring their unused medications to us and, from there, it's handled by the police and fire departments. We don't want them throwing them into the trash, in the toilets, down the sinks, but to bring them to these special drop-off dates. Monday was our last AARP tax day and we served more than 452 participants this year. Extension of the tax date going to 4/18 allowed us to provide another day and we turned away about 40 people for that day. Within a three-week period, people just kept calling. Fitness and sports, our golf leagues are starting up with more than 100 participants signed up to start the first week in May. Softball is right around the corner and will have six Novi teams and seven Northville teams. Greg does a great job with that and encouraging individuals to participate. We have 12 different types of classes and 20 classes. Some we'll have a morning class and

also an evening class. They begin next week. Meadowbrook Commons, for those of you who live in the area, you'll be noticing some major construction going on at Meadowbrook Commons starting Monday. We'll have a total reconstruction of the parking lot. In addition to that, we'll be doing the carports, the sidewalks and any storm drains in the area. It'll go in four different phases. We'll notify residents when it'll be in their area and it'll probably be a 2-3 week period they'll be inconvenienced for better gains down the road.

Commissioner Dooley asked when's the Kentucky Derby was?

Manager Kapchonick said its 5/4, the derby itself will be held on 5/6.

Commissioner Bauss asked, with the new preschool with the school district, is there any sort of organized collaboration we can do between kids and seniors? Has seen stuff on the Internet that was cool. A lot of needs are met when those two parties can be brought together.

Manager Kapchonick said there's nothing formal, but it's a fantastic idea. We do have Girl Scouts who come over with the staff at Meadowbrook for different activities. We did have, recently, the Novi High School students who are doing "Fiddler on the Roof" this weekend, they came over and sang with the seniors last week. We do have some inter-generational programming.

Commissioner Bauss said he'd love to see something like that.

Manager Kapchonick said the middle school students have a Christmas performance for the adults, and a luncheon.

Commissioner Bauss said euchre is a Michigan thing. You go to other parts of the country and they don't know euchre. His concern is, the younger kids may not know how to play euchre, the older adults could teach them so it doesn't die out.

Manager Kapchonick said the next card tournament is 10/14. We have 70-80 individuals each Friday, but that's gone by the wayside, too.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**                      None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Torimoto said he started off talking about the Parks Foundation and the \$9 million in projects, and the parks whether its Villa Barr or sports, and older adults, it's amazing what we get to enjoy. With the weather getting better, he's looking forward to seeing everyone out and about in the parks.

Commissioner Staab said Choralaires concert is 7:30 p.m. 5/13 at Novi Middle School. Theme is "What the world needs now is love." Appreciates everyone's updates and Assistant Chief Zinser coming and reinforcing how safe our parks are. Just turned on the radio yesterday had Ann Arbor as number one and Novi as number 14 out of all the cities. It amplifies the city, good police, good parks and good schools.

Commissioner Bauss said he received his Engage! this week. It's full of activities and things to do. Encourages community to open it up and find an activity to do, or else share with a friend or family member if you need someone to come along with you to get engaged. Asked if the kid on the cover was Deputy Director Ringle's? It wasn't.

Commissioner Dooley said it's always a pleasure to come out on the third Thursday of the month and learn so much about the City. Three things, he noticed 2017 youth floor hockey took place. Wondered if there was any opportunity for adults. Touched on great weather in the parks and soccer starting this weekend. Looking forward to better weather than there is today. Is sure the fields will hold up since they're in great condition. Thanks to Assistant Chief Erick for his presentation. Appreciates our police

and the email Lt. Nelson sent to all residents. It's comforting to know they do watch and they do care and want to catch the individuals. I applaud them for everything they do not only for residents, but for parks. Also hopes everyone had a nice Easter and Passover.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she wanted to add thanks to the leadership of Linda Blair and the Parks Foundation. Their support has been amazing. Their leadership has been amazing. The way they generate enthusiasm for the parks in the City is fantastic. Would just like to publicly state "thank you" to her and is glad there will be recognition at Monday's Council meeting.

Representative Lee said he had no comment.

Representative Singh said it's really nice to come out here and see what's going on in the community. Didn't know 95 percent of these things were happening. It was pretty good to know what's going with the trail in Chase Farms and what's going on with Rotary, so thank you for that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bauss and seconded by Commissioner Torimoto.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Bauss at 8:35 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Bauss, Chairperson

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