PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Thursday, July 17, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Torimoto presiding.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>: Torimoto (Present), Bauss (Present), Ferrell (Absent), Jewell (Present), Pratt (Absent-Excused), Staab (Absent-Excused), Wingfield (Present), Student Representative Kodali (Absent), Student Representative Thakore (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Wingfield and seconded by Commissioner Jewell to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of the June 19, 2014 minutes It was moved by Commissioner Bauss and seconded by Commissioner Jewell to approve the minutes as written.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Walkable Novi Commissioners Torimoto and Bauss Commissioner Torimoto stated the meeting that was scheduled for this evening was cancelled due to lack of business. He stated there was a positive article in the <u>Novi</u> <u>News</u> today about making the City of Novi more walkable.
- B. Novi Parks Foundation Commissioners Staab and Ferrell Interim Director Muck stated the ITC Naming Rights agreement is now in place for ITC Community Sports Park. The Golf Outing on August 7th is coming along well and we have some good sponsorships.

STAFF REPORTS:

- A. Administration Division Interim Director Jeff Muck
 - 1. Parks & Recreation month

Interim Director Muck stated July is Parks & Recreation month and the theme for this year is "Outside is In". We are asking people to help us celebrate by sharing their photos on social media. We are excited about a new partnership with St. John's Providence. He explained the "prescription pack" and how it works to get people involved in being active in our parks.

Commissioner Bauss stated he had seen this on social media today.

Commissioner Wingfield asked what kind of activity is at Pavilion Shore Park and if it is being used.

Interim Director Muck replied every time he has driven by the park to check on its status there are people using the park. It is becoming a crown jewel in our park system.

2. Dog Park update

Interim Director Muck stated the Novi Dog Park is progressing very well. The grass is becoming established. We are developing our online training program and hope to have it launched around Labor Day so people can take the online training and sign up for memberships. A Grand Opening Day is set for Saturday, October 4th at 9am. We will open the park sooner if we can. He encouraged residents to check the Dog Park page on the City website for updates.

Student Representative Thakore asked about the agreement between Novi and Northville regarding the Dog Parks.

Interim Director Muck stated Novi and Northville residents can use both Cities Dog Parks but does not apply to the Cady Street Dog Park in Northville.

Commissioner Wingfield asked if the Dog Park will be patrolled.

Interim Director Muck state there will be staff managing the Dog Park memberships and checking on the facilities. DPS will be there daily checking on trash.

3. Strategic Plan update

Interim Director Muck stated Karen Kapchonick has been a big help in working with the consultant. Our intent is to bring the Commission a draft of the plan in August so it can go in to the 30 day public review period then go to City Council. We are combining our Strategic Recreation Plan and our 5-year Master Park Plan in to one working document. It will be a document which is reviewed annually. This is a trend the DNR is pushing. It will save time, resources and expense.

4. Program Updates

Interim Director Muck stated the Farmer's Market has exceeded our expectations. RoseAna Twitchell is our new Farmer's Market manager and is doing an outstanding job. He discussed attendance growth and vendors.

Sizzling Summer Arts Series is continuing and was outside this past Tuesday. The movie for Friday night will be "Despicable Me 2" at Fuerst Park. We have had good attendance.

We are currently having fall program registration.

Camp Lakeshore is running very well. We are full for the next three weeks. It has been a big success and Cristin Spiller is doing and excellent job running that camp.

Our Detroit Pistons Camp is next week and will be held in Novi High School. There are still some openings.

Commissioner Wingfield asked about the Pistons Camp.

Interim Director Muck stated they bring out a full training staff and put the student through drills, put on demonstrations and the kids can win prizes. They sometimes bring out the mascot but have a good time with the kids.

Commissioner Torimoto asked what is helping with the growth of the Farmer's Market.

Interim Director replied the name recognition of Easter Market travelling stand, the visibility of being in front of the Civic Center, and the hours of Saturday from 9am to 2pm as well as the dynamic Market Manager, all play a part in the success.

5. Play in the Park Day

Interim Director Muck stated Play in the Park Day is our event to celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening of Pavilion Shore Park. It will be on August 23rd from 10 am to 1pm. Cristin Spiller is in charge of the event. He talked about the activities for the event.

- 6. 2014 ASA Northern National 18 Class B Fastpitch Tournament Interim Director Muck stated we are hosting this ASA Tournament at Ella Mae Power Park from July 31st through August 3rd. He stated we are looking for volunteers for scorekeeping and gate entries. Interested volunteers should contact Greg Morris.
- B. Older Adults Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick
 - 1. Program updates

Manager Kapchonick stated programming has been slow due to the transition from summer to fall. We just celebrated Fourth of July with over 84 participants. The entertainment was exceptional. On August 20th at 1 pm there will be an 85 and beyond Birthday Celebration. She described the event and invited those interested to attend. There will be a Town Hall Meeting at Meadowbrook Commons. It happens once a year and residents share ideas, news of improvements, activities taking place and programs offered.

Commissioner Wingfield asked if they have their own Older Adult Board or Commission.

Manager Kapchonick replied they do. It is called the Older Adult Services Advisory Board and they meet every month the day before the Parks Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Torimoto asked what kind of participation they get in the Town Hall Meeting.

Manager Kapchonick stated she has not attended one but hears they get a good response of those individuals who live at Meadowbrook Commons.

2. Transportation

Manager Kapchonick stated they want to thank City Council for the funding they provided for Transportation. They will be offering complementary rides for those who live in Novi that want to attend any activity here at the Civic Center, Meadowbrook Commons or any activity we hold offsite here in Novi. She spoke on some of these opportunities.

Manager Kapchonick stated they now have a CDL (Commercial Driver's License) driver and will be able to utilize all of the seats in their bigger bus giving them some other opportunities for things like field trips.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Review and discussion to approve Cultural Arts Advisory Board recommended public art criteria guidelines (Rochelle Vallance-Recreation Supervisor-Cultural Arts) Interim Director Muck introduced Cultural Arts Coordinator, Rochelle Vallance. Coordinator Vallance gave the history of the Cultural Arts Advisory Board and referred to and went over the handout of the criteria which was established for Public Art.

Interim Director Muck stated this was brought to the Commission for review. With the ongoing development of the Villa Barr Park, continuing looking at placement of Public Art, working with the Foundation and the Cultural Arts Advisory Board we

wanted to bring forward some standards for Public Art and decommissioning so we have processes in place.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if the Advisory Board has looked at the Barr Property and the art work that is available there and recommended action.

Coordinator Vallance stated that for the Barr Property they are focusing on planning for the art that is there and possibly placing pieces in some other areas of the City to create an Art Trail with a map to incorporate the Barr art throughout the City.

Interim Director Muck stated pending the Commission's approval, since it has already been approved by the Cultural Arts Advisory Board, we would notify City Council this is the process we would have in place regarding Public Art in the City.

Commissioner Wingfield asked if someone wanted to display their art in one of the parks do they come to the Advisory Board and the Advisory Board makes a decision based on these guidelines.

Coordinator Vallance stated this is correct. These criteria will help establish guidelines as to how we evaluate the art and can give a reason as to why or why not a piece of art is placed.

Commissioner Bauss asked since the Advisory Board was formed last year, what kinds of issues have they had to deal with.

Coordinator Vallance stated they have not had any major issues yet but as we develop and grow and our Public Art becomes more visible this will be something good to have in place.

Commissioner Jewell made a motion to approve the Cultural Arts Advisory Board recommended public art criteria guidelines. Commissioner Wingfield seconded the motion

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

<u>Commissioner Bauss</u> asked if the Farmer's Market had a table where neighbors or kids can bring extra produce and sell it without having to pre-register.

Interim Director Muck stated we do not currently have this but it is an excellent idea. He will talk to RoseAna Twitchell about possibly have a kid's section.

<u>Commissioner Wingfield</u> stated it was good to see Cultural Arts, Older Adults and everything going well.

<u>Commissioner Jewell</u> stated Coordinator Vallance did a great job of getting the standards together. Interim Director Muck and Manager Kapchonick are also doing a great job. It is a pleasure to work with everyone.

<u>Student Representative Thakore</u> stated she has been taking her puppy to ITC Community Sports Park for exercise.

<u>Commissioner Torimoto</u> thanked the staff for everything they do. He has been playing in the Adult Tennis League. His daughter is enjoying Camp Lakeshore again this year. It is selling out quickly and is a great program. They went to the Sizzling Summer Arts Friday event where the movie "Frozen" was being shown. It did end up being inside the Civic Center but was still a pretty good turnout. He enjoyed hearing about the Cultural Arts Programs.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Wingfield and seconded by Commissioner Jewell.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Torimoto at 7:41 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Harry Torimoto, Chairperson

Jerry Jewell, Vice Chairperson