PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

<u>Thursday</u>, <u>May 18, 2017 - 7 P.M.</u>

NOVI CIVIC CENTER - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

<u>ROLL CALL:</u> Bauss (Absent), Dooley (Present), Jewell (Absent), Pratt (Present), Staab (Absent), Thomopoulos (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Jooho Lee (Present), Sanidhya Singh (Absent).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Voice Vote Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Two children spoke. Sofia Pratt said she is really excited about upcoming summer programs. Maya Pratt said thanks to the City of Novi for hosting these amazing events. Commissioner Dooley thanked them for their passion. Commissioner Thomopoulos said well done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of April 20, 2017 minutes.

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

Voice Vote Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Thomopoulos & Bauss Commissioner Thomopoulos said the committee just m

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the committee just met and had good discussion. Engineering provided project updates. They're wrapping up some FY 2015-16 projects. They're working on Taft Road at Jacob Drive with ramp improvements. Also at Beck Road at Ardmore Court North and also a pretty big segment on 14 Mile South from Kingswood Boulevard to connect to the M-5 trail there. It makes a nice connection from Novi Road to M-5. The Pontiac Trail pathway is an important segment because it runs along the school there; it is currently in the design stage. They're making some excellent process on those projects and they also gave an update on some of the fiscal year 2016-17 projects they're in negotiations, right of ways for. It was a very productive meeting.

Director Muck said we had an update on the ITC Trail and shared some statistics on bicyclists and pedestrians and accidents across the City and had a good discussion on that, as well.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said staff shared the pedestrian and bicycle incidents for July 2016-Current. We did see four pedestrian injuries across the injuries and two cyclist injuries. We had some discussion as to whether that was based on design issues or if there was something we could do to make it more safe for pedestrians or cyclists. At this time, we don't know what those actions

would be, but we'll be doing more investigations. Potentially adding more signage in the short term. We're thinking some people aren't expecting to see a pedestrian.

Commissioner Dooley said some towns like Brighton have an almost LED-type system for crossways where not only the motorist, but for pedestrians or those on the bikes who are moving across. Asked if that was given any thought? Commissioner Thomopoulos said they hadn't discussed any LED options. Any accident is one too many. Asked staff how these compare to prior year stats. If they're occurring in the dark, LEDs could help.

- В. Novi Park Foundation - Commissioner Torimoto Commissioner Torimoto said the Foundation met Monday 5/15 and discussed Villa Barr. Had Library Director Julie Farkas and State Rep. Kathy Crawford there. Discussed working with the Historical Society who base a lot of activities at the Novi library. There was also a book that's been published that has a lot of historical information related to Villa Barr and other arts pieces around the City of Novi. We discussed opportunities to work together. Villa Barr construction to get it up to date is upcoming, as well as parking and a loop for buses to come around. Coming this fall. Really getting this park ready and organized. Also brought up, especially by State Rep. Crawford, is that Novi Cemetery is one of the assets of Parks. Don't really think of it as a park, but from a historical perspective, it's interesting that Novi Cemetery is one of the few cemeteries with former soldiers of the American Revolution. Tying that to the historical significance from that time and using our Parks to tie into other functions we're doing. Updates on looking at the bylaws for the Foundation. There's been updates to the requirements for non-profits. Pour on the Shore is July 28. Tickets went on sale last week. Sponsorships are a little bit behind, so it was requested to focus on if anyone knows any community partners who can help. Talk with Executive Director Rachel Zagaroli. Spring Palooza is tomorrow evening and the Foundation will be represented there along with other City organizations.
- C. Grants Committee Commissioners Pratt & Dooley
 Commissioners Pratt said he'd defer to Director Muck because there was just a
 huge email and communication about Bill 76 and the Senate Appropriations
 Committee just met yesterday.

Director Muck said we had the opportunity to apply for a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs grant. We did receive a grant from them last year for our sculpture exhibit at Fuerst Park. The same entity has a Capital Improvement Program grant opportunity, so what we're asking Council to approve on this Monday's agenda is permission to apply for that grant. We could potentially receive up to \$100,000 to help toward the project Commissioner Torimoto mentioned with pathways and parking ways project at Villa Barr. It requires a one-to-one match, but since we already have the \$300,000 budgeted for that, that match is already budgeted and would not require any further allocation of City dollars beyond what was already approved by Council. Our staff is working diligently on submitting that application. As Commissioner Pratt mentioned with Senate Appropriations, there are actually two bills floating in the Senate right now in regards to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. What it boils down to is whether the trust fund board's recommendation is to be followed or whether the Legislature can or even should be modifying those recommendations. From what I saw that happened yesterday, that is now moving onto to the committee for the whole. There's more to come on that. It's

holding up our acquisition of the Nine Mile and Garfield property, unfortunately. We'll see how much longer that will play out. There has been some talk as to whether that would require an Attorney General's opinion since it does have to do with the constitution on how the trust fund is expended. We will continue to keep you posted on that.

D. Parks Updates

1. Wildlife Woods Park - Commissioner Torimoto

Commissioner Torimoto said there are two sections to the Wildlife Woods Park. There soccer fields along 11 Mile. Toward the back, there are open fields for lacrosse-type activities and also ball fields. On the bottom, did an inspection and the fields really look fantastic. Compared to October when it was just open fields. It was the end of the season. It was done right. The bags in October had gone through the weather. This field floods a lot, but it was sunny. There were two temporarily goals put in the backside, the north end, but wasn't sure if they were put there temporarily. Director Muck said he'd follow up with Sports Division, as they could've been moved there due to enrollment or Jags tournament. Commissioner Torimoto said they're just placed there, out of the way. On the north end, it again looked fantastic. There was a lacrosse net there. The baseball/softball fields looked like they had been graded. The northeast end, there were a bunch of pink flags planted. Director Muck said they were most likely along the woodline for spring tree planting. Commissioner Torimoto said it looked like there was wall repair going on at the picnic shelter, as pipes were exposed. Director Muck said he'd follow up.

Commissioner Torimoto said he used the dog park for the first time since getting a dog last year. It was a fantastic facility. Went as a family and had a great time. Talked to people there and they had nothing but good things to say. Some people didn't have yards. Used it for 30-60 minutes at a time. One of the challenges I think was shading. It was a warmer day. Someone had placed water stations throughout the park. There's a water fountain at the bottom, but when you're at the top, it gets hard. Then, when it's crowded, you end up parking in the street. Thought we were potentially doing something for parking. Director Muck said there isn't anything long-term budgeted and we haven't heard much about a need because people can park at the ice arena and walk down. There's also a pathway that leads from the north side to the new condo development on the other side of The Sports Club. Commissioner Torimoto said it's a challenge with the types of dogs and owners you get there. We had one aggressive dog when we were leaving, so that's a challenge for your team. The doggie poop bags are pretty awesome. First time, it was really just a fantastic facility.

2. Rotary Park - Commissioner Bauss

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

Commissioner Pratt said a lot of people are talking about shading for the people while their dogs play. Didn't hear much about the parking, but people did say they liked the trail that went around. No one has an issue of it locking at sunset. They mentioned if there could be a vendor down there selling leashes and stuff. Trees will take a while to grow in. Noticed they're strategically placed, so they'll provide good shade once they grow in.

Commissioner Torimoto said they're working on naming rights for the dog park. Offering that as a chance to market or set up a booth if they're a dog supply company could be a great opportunity.

4. ITC Community Sports Park (Apr.) – Commissioner Pratt Commissioner Pratt said the parking lots are all marked out. They're in good shape with not many issues or holes. Field D has a lot of issues with ditches and holes. E2 is really good. E1 has holes. Takes it that we try to rotate them. Playground, gives credit for that playground being in such good shape for being wooden. Painted slides make it pop. The shelters and bathrooms are in really good shape. Asked if there was a vendor at the center concessions. Deputy Director Ringle said there isn't a concessionaire for soccer. They're not successful for soccer. They are for baseball and at Power Park, but we're open to people who want to give it another look. Soccer concessions doesn't have the volume of other sports. Commissioner Pratt said he remembers it being there one time and no one ever went to it. Was really looking at the parking lots because they were in rough shape, but they had all been smoothed out. Director Muck said they and Lakeshore had been graded about two weeks ago. Commissioner Torimoto said a couple practices have been canceled due to flooding. Asked if it's been better or worse than past seasons? Director Muck said there's been fewer than past years. It always seems to happen on the same night; every Thursday or every Wednesday. Commissioner Dooley thanked Pratt and Torimoto for their reports.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. CityStat Presentation by Director Muck

Director Muck said CityStat is something the City's leadership team goes through every month. Staff goes through pertinent statistics and, as a leadership team share that with each other. Community Relations does items on Web hits and social media posts. Our Public Services Department talks about roads and construction. Police talk about their stats. This is a presentation given a few weeks ago to the leadership team about Parks and Rec stats. Wants to complement Deputy Director Ringle for leading the programming staff and implementing after action reports. Previously, when staff would put together a program budget, it would be just that. Now, the programmers talk about what impacts attendance or what kind of marketing efforts went into it. A prime example of that is adult league enrollment. We were holding steady from 2013-15, but dropped off in 2016. We went back and looked at that and it was mainly our fall adult softball league. Recreation Supervisor Greg Morris worked with Deputy Director Ringle and talked with the managers and found out the league was too long. It was running too late into October, would lose games due to weather, was too cold and that is why we were seeing declining enrollment. We've modified that fall league and season and the timing of that. You can see our tracking of youth classes, youth leagues. Summer camp enrollment you see that significant jump from to 2014-15. 2014 is when we added Camp PowerPlay here at the Civic Center. That is almost fully full. We also looked at our senior citizens served from Karen and her team. We also look at volunteers and the number of hours and programs they put in. We had our volunteer appreciation dinner this year at Paradise Park with a nice welcome from Mayor Gatt for all of our volunteers. We also look at facility rentals and how our Civic Center rentals are running, how our shelter rentals go up and down. One spike you see in 2015 is when we were doing our Community Development rebuild and redesign, so we lost the Activities Room and some other areas for a period of time. Shelter rentals continue to be strong. Transportation riders we have seen an increase. We saw a

slight dip in 2016. Asked Karen about that and we had also been counting for providing transportation rides for the egg hunt and other events. We no longer needed transportation because we switched venues. Now we've moved forward with new software and will be tracking that even more so. Total park acreage, this is something we've seen the City support and support from our commission over the years. We continue to add additional parkland throughout the city. You see the big jump was ITC Community Sports Park from 1991-96. We continued to add additional parkland. 2011 would've been Pavilion Shore. 2016 would've been the park at 12 Mile, the Northwest Neighborhood Park. Hopefully, if they get things out of Senate Appropriations, hopefully we'll see another increase in 2017. You'll also see the trail miles continue to increase as we complete the ITC Corridor Trail, and also the M-5 Connector has been a commitment. We expect that to jump up again as we continue to complete segments of the trail this summer and next year. We also look at how we compare nationally. Every year, as part of our membership to the National Recreation and Park Association, we get a performance report. Our staff inputs data into their tracking system. On the good part of it, acres per park, we're well above the average per resident. We also see more residents per park than the national average. One of the most telling stats are the last three. Staff members per 10,000 residents, we operate at 2.14 when the national average is 7.3. That is full-time staff that works in our department. That doesn't include Parks Maintenance staff, but even if you added Parks Maintenance staff, we wouldn't be anywhere near the national average for staffing per our resident base. The next part of that goes to our annual operating expense we recover through revenue generation. We keep our expenses down in Novi compared to the national average. We do more with less. How we recover our revenue is the most telling statistic. We recover 64.5 percent of our operating expenses compared to the national average of 29.1. That's a testimony to our programmers, the programs they run, our facilities, the camps we run. A lot of stats there for you today, but wanted to show you how we compare nationally and this is just a small portion of what we track internally.

Commissioner Pratt asked if this was part of CAPRA. Director Muck said it was for City leadership. Deputy Director Ringle said some of the numbers came from CAFR.

Commissioner Dooley said this is great information and asked for a copy. Director Muck said he would have Chris Jackett send it out in the Commission packet. Commissioner Dooley asked if the seasons could be broken out for the graphs to determine underlying issues with weather. Deputy Director Ringle said yes, we track quarterly and can also look at registration numbers in the software system. Commissioner Pratt asked what the relationship with the school district is in regard to getting out camp material. Has two daughters in the district and gets a lot of camp material, and knows what PRCS is doing, but doesn't see much. Deputy Director Ringle said we provide information to the schools and they post on an external site. Understands they send out a bulletin, but it's at their discretion what they send out. Obviously, they don't do the backpack flyers anymore. Commissioner Pratt said that's what was interesting to him because they were getting the backpack flyers. Has been seeing more and more from non-school district.

Commissioner Torimoto said he's a data person and this makes him really excited. The story here is that we had Camp Lakeshore, added Power Park's

camp and can't handle the demand because the waiting list exploded. Next year, we need to look at how we can increase opportunities for camps to fulfill that waiting list. Asked if we're able to use this for strategic planning for into next year? Director Muck said absolutely. As we increase the Lakeshore Park building, we can increase summer camp there. We've had some internal conversation about whether we need to look at adding a third location. Now's the time. You wouldn't think it is, but a year to year and a half out, you need to start thinking that way. Commissioner Pratt said it's almost like going back to the days of school playgrounds where every area could fill it.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if, for staff ratio per 10,000 residents, is this efficiency or are you guys overworked? Are we happy with this or unhappy with it? Director Muck said it's a really telling statistic. As we grow parks, as we grow transportation, more miles of trails, we're going to reach a tipping point. We've heard Council wants to expand our senior transportation program, so we're going to have to start looking at how we're operating. Are we operating too lean or are we able to add more things without adding more staff. We'll have more of those conversations as we move into future budgeting years.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Updates

Director Muck said Council passed the 2017-18 budget, including the CIP budget, so we'll be moving forward with those projects that have been proposed. Some of those include the ITC Trail, the Community Sports Park segment, is scheduled for August construction. We're at that point where we'll be doing some construction and that segment will run directly through the sports park and connect with the part that runs from the sports part to Nine Mile that was completed last year. The Nine Mile-to-11 Mile segment is currently in the design and permit phase as we're in talks with ITC and working with our consultants on that route. Villa Barr we've mentioned a little bit of that, as well. Tracie and Amelia, our cultural arts recreation supervisor, have been working on that to potentially break ground this fall and have that completed as Commissioner Torimoto mentioned. Power Park spectator bleachers will be getting some shade structures to cover those bleachers. This is basically the second phase from last year when we got some shade covers for and replaced the team benches in the cloverleaf for fields 1-4 down at Power. We just met yesterday with the vendor who did that project last year and that again looks like an August or September install. We're working around some of the leagues and tournaments that we have. Pavilion Shore parking we're going to be expanding the east side of the parking, adding another parking lot that expands east of the existing lot. Not in front of the pavilion, but we'll be adding approximately 24 spaces over there. That park is just in such high demand. We're constantly getting questions about parking on nice days and we don't want people parking in neighborhoods. Obviously, people want to use that park and it's become such a destination. We'll be doing some landscaping and screening for the residents who live near that parking lot, so we'll be taking care of them, as well. Most likely fall. We want to do that after Labor Day so it doesn't disrupt the park. Lakeshore, if you haven't been out to Lakeshore recently, we did complete the construction of the new park shelter that's replacing the tent. If you recall, it was funded in 2016 and we did a presentation on it. Two-tier, roof is

gable, looks really sharp, all wood. Electrical components with a nice sidewalk leading to it. It's a nice 20x30-foot shelter. It can seat up to 50 people. We'll be moving our tables under there and will be installing a grill, too. No more of the old circus tent out there. It'll be a nice amenity for people out there. We did book that as a tent, so we'll be notifying people of the location being slightly moved, as well.

2. Prescribed Burn at Lakeshore Park

Director Muck said we have a team working together between Parks Maintenance, our fire marshal and our Parks Maintenance staff to plan some prescribed burns around the city. The first test one was 2-3 weeks ago to take care of some phragmites that had been growing in some lake areas around Lakeshore Park. Started out with 33 acres at the southwest tend of Lakeshore, and that's near the West Park Road water treatment plant. It was interesting to see. It was the first time it's been done in Novi. We had been given advanced notice from other communities who had done this, what are some concerns and what do residents want to know. Like clockwork, when we announced we'd be doing these prescribed burns, we saw concerns on social media about the smoke and "my child has asthma and goes to school three miles away," and what about the smell, and what about the wildlife, are they going to be disrupted from their homes, and what sort of herbicide treatments are you going to use. You literally saw it go through everything we thought was going to happen. Our contractor we used and our Community Relations team did a great job of handling those responses. Deputy Director Ringle and Director Muck drove up as the burn was starting, and we came around the north end off East Lake Drive, and you couldn't see the smoke at all. You couldn't see the fire or any smoke until you came right up on the burn area. It was pretty impressive to see the company and how they handled that. Nothing got out of control. Some of the lessons we did learn is there will be a little more attention paid to blocking some areas off, because people were driving by our fire marshal, who was standing in the middle of the road, saying they could see the fire and were asking if they could help. The biggest lesson learned was to just stop them completely and don't give them any access. Has driven through Kensington when controlled burns have been going on and you can drive through Kensington and see the smoke and everything on fire, but we're going to be a little bit more cautious on that in the future and really shut down those areas completely. It may mean we shut the mountain bike trails down for a couple hours while the burn is going. Overall, it was a good thing for Novi, a good collaborative effort by those departments working together. Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if the burn was effective for phragmites or if

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if the burn was effective for phragmites or if herbicide needs to be put down. Director Muck said herbicide does need to be put down after the burn.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if Director Muck could comment on citizen input on the Lakeshore upgrades? Director Muck said that is back with the architects, who have the comments from citizens and City Council. Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if we were behind schedule? Thought we would do citizen input in the spring. Director Muck said, because of the input, they had to go back to the drawing board a bit. Wouldn't say we're schedule, but they're still working toward what that building and overall park concept would look like.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said it would be good to ask citizens what they want. Director Muck said they got that input when we showed the conceptual plan at both City Council and here, so that's already been recognized. Commissioner Thomopoulos said she remembers, with Pavilion Shore, there were meetings specifically to gather citizen input that were separate from City Council, separate from the Parks Commission, that gave guidance to what Pavilion Shore became. Asked if that was the intention with Lakeshore? Director Muck said we put forward a conceptual plan that was shared with the neighborhood association up there and those comments were taken back to Council. It's been presented here, presented at Council. There has been some resident input on it and there will be additional. Anything that moves forward, we can't have it approved until Council sees it again, so it will be in front of Council again.

B. Recreation Division - Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said Lakeshore beach opens Memorial Day weekend with limited hours from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and then expands once school gets out to 10 a.m.-7 p.m. We're still hiring lifeguards. We want to continue to do that to ensure we can staff the posted hours. We're hiring one by one, making progress and expanded out net to those who worked at the school. We've been able to put out some information at some of the training sessions. If anyone knows of anyone, we're great to work for and have a flexible schedule. Deputy Director Ringle said the campout registration continues for Father's Day registration.

Deputy Director Ringle said fall select soccer tryouts for the season from September-June, a one-year commitment, are the Saturday of Father's Day weekend, 6/17, at Lakeshore (actual location Wildlife Woods) Park. The house and rec travel registration ends 7/27 for the fall season. This weekend is another annual tradition at our fields, Dooley Dog Day. If you're a soccer participant, you will get to have lunch at the park courtesy of Commissioner Dooley. We look forward to that twice a year at ITC Community Sports Park.

Deputy Director Ringle said the Sizzling Summer Art Series kicks off 6/16. Amelia Purdy-Ketchum, our recreation supervisor in charge of cultural arts, is doing a great job coming up with new ideas to keep that fresh. In addition to a movie that evening, we'll be doing a Mini Makers Fair. We'll have staff here from the Village Workshop in Northville, Rockler Woodworking in the Town Center, the library will be sharing information about their 3D printer and All Things Yarn Group from here in Novi will be introducing a yarn bomb. They'll be knitting items specifically for the park, so we may see some tree huggers, we may see some Dorothy slippers, we may see some things hanging from trees with yard. So we're looking forward to that and continuing the yarn bomb maybe through some other parks, as well. Along with Sizzling Summer, we have performances most every Wednesday for June through August. The July performances this year will take place at Lakeshore Park. We heard some feedback from residents on that side of town that would like the opportunity to participate and make it more convenient for them. Also, Fuerst Park amphitheater in July is warm; we've heard that feedback, as well. Lakeshore Park offers some shaded areas and the opportunity to go swimming afterwards, as well.

Deputy Director Ringle said the Motor City Mountain Biking Association is holding Take a Kid Mountain Biking 6/11 from 2-5 p.m. That'll be to introduce kids to the sport and utilize the sapling loop that was installed a couple years ago right outside the main trail. I can't speak enough to the great relationship with that group.

Deputy Director Ringle said we are introducing a new television show. It's really 2-3 minute segments featuring a topic related to Parks. Working with our Studio VI team, which is how we get this meeting on the air, we have taped two of those and they're available on social media, our Facebook and on YouTube @thecityofnovi. We have a year-long schedule, so everybody on our team will be a host and get to talk about what we do and what they love about their jobs. We're in at two and look forward to having plenty more.

Deputy Director Ringle said the Atrium is set up for Spring Palooza. In addition to a City open house, it's games, it's crafts, there's a movie, "Moana," that starts at 8:30 p.m. The DIA will have an art trailer, big semi trailer here to walk through and experience. We encourage community members to come over and enjoy that tomorrow evening.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she saw the Engage video segment on Facebook with Greg Morris as interviewer and Bill as interviewee and they did a great job. Doesn't know if it was a one take or a many take, but it came across really and the information shared was really helpful. They talked about the ITC sports park and some of the challenges they face, like opening the bathrooms because they're based on a well that's shut down over the season. Thought it was informative and very, very well done. Hats off to Greg and Bill, and the Studio VI team and staff that supports them.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services
Manager Kapchonick said next week is Memorial Day. We'll celebrate on 5/29

with the parade beginning at 10 a.m., going westbound down 10 Mile from Karim Drive. We have about 19 organizations participating, 30 veterans, three bands and hopefully more individuals to sign up this week. Quite a few scout troops came in today. Individuals that are still interested in finding out more about Memorial Day activities; the run, the parade, the service, can do to the City website and look at what we have there.

Manager Kapchonick said in June we have Taste of Italy, which is a new luncheon we're going to have. It's different in that our partners, Novi Lakes Health Campus, will be providing the food, serving the food, with their chef. We're also partnering with Armchair Travel, who will be helping us with some of the entertainment. At the end of June, we'll have our Liberty, Justice and BBQ for All luncheon, partnering with Whitehall Healthcare Center of Novi. All these themed luncheons are working out very well for our older adults.

Manager Kapchonick said she was happy to report, six months ago, we were working on our community conversations in preparation for a five-year strategic plan. We just rolled out the survey component of that project. The survey can be viewed on the City website. We'll have information from the news media. We also sent surveys to all our Rec1 participants. Those will be online. We encourage everyone to fill those out. We'll also be doing hard copies tomorrow at Spring Palooza. We'll be sending them over to Meadowbrook Commons residents and also encouraging some of our participants in our other program who don't have

emails and can't do it online. The survey will be gathering general data; will also be asking questions regarding the programs and services we offer; transportation; communication avenues, how are we getting the word out, are we doing a good job in getting information out to our residents. Part of the questions would be 1) are you aware of the services we provide, are you interested in maybe other programs you see in other communities that you could share with us, and also maybe are you not participating now or will you be interested in the future. When selecting a program, what's the biggest factors, why do you choose a program here in Novi? Is it the location, the day, the cost, it's of interest to you or other reasons why you choose. On the other side, why don't you participate. One could be, I'm not old enough, I don't feel I'm an older adult, another one could be equipment; I don't have the equipment. If we can use this to gather information to help with planning for future programs, future communications with residents, this is the opportunity for us to gather that information. Then compile everything and come back to you with a summary of our survey, in addition to plans for our five-year strategic.

Commissioner Dooley asked when the survey was due? Manager Kapchonick said 6/7 and, as part of that, the incentive is we'll enter you in a drawing for a gift basket of mostly Michigan products.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked how word was getting our besides the website? Manager Kapchonick said the website and through Rec1, our registration software, to those who indicated they'd accept an email. Meadowbrook Commons, independent living centers in the area. Some of the card participants in the area who don't sign up through Rec1, also Facebook and city news. Commissioner Thomopoulos said hopefully we get good participation.

Commissioner Torimoto said he received the email and thinks it said to have a friend or family member over a certain age fill it out? Manager Kapchonick said its open to anybody and the first question could be, how old are you, and it can be filled out by any age group. The goal would be, and the purpose, is to gather information for programming for those who are age 55 and up. The reason why we went all the way down to 18, we may find out interest they have for the future.

Commissioner Dooley asked if people could stop by Meadowbrook Commons to take the survey? Manager Kapchonick said, for calculation purposes, it would be better to go online.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

<u>Representative Lee</u> said, as Sonny said at the last meeting, it's really nice to know about the parks and commissions to see what they've been doing behind the scenes. I've been very aware of that and that has to do with my lack of comments. It's nice to know to give you knowledge and maybe present next time.

Commissioner Dooley asked what's going on at the high school these days? Representative Lee said nothing new really.

<u>Commissioner Thomopoulos</u> said she'd like to thank all the volunteers that came out and assisted on Earth Day at MSU Tollgate and also at Arbor Day at Rotary Park. We had a good pack of volunteers and we put them to work, especially at Rotary Park.

Cutting that buckthorn was not easy. Got a lot of thorns. We had a lot of troopers out there and cleaned out quite a bit.

Commissioner Torimoto said the last couple weeks opened up his eyes. Has been involved as a volunteer for years, but this week went to the dog park for the first time and never really thought of a cemetery as a park. That was a really interesting conversation of how you could use that; that opened up my eyes. And everything that's going on with Villa Barr Park. It's unbelievable the amount of potential and diversity in what you get to engage in. Thank you for those opportunities. The data, I'm so excited about seeing that data. Think it's important in parks and the industry to have that objective approach to have that to justify for the future so it's not so emotional back and forth. Thinks it's just great stuff you're doing, so thank you for sharing that today.

<u>Commissioner Pratt</u> said doesn't have anything else to add. You guys do great work. There's a City Park Alliance conference he'll be going to this year. It's connecting cities, cultures and generations, so hopes he can pull some stuff and bring it back. It'll be unique because he has never been to this one.

<u>Commissioner Dooley</u> said he wants to echo one comment Deputy Director Ringle made about team and make sure everyone knows, when you call the Parks Department and you get Julie, you get Chris, you get Greg, you get Chase, anybody else. Everybody is so helpful. It's just an amazing group of people who truly have the City of Novi and the resources we have at our disposal, and they take it to heart. It really is a wonderful team and we thank those folks that are behind the scenes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote The meeting was adjou	Unanimous urned by Commissioner Bauss at 8:13 p.m.	
Date approved:		
	Doug Bauss, Chairperson	_
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