

high number of residents with physical and mental disabilities, and lack of public recreational opportunities. Obviously, we are very blessed in Novi so he does not think we will fit into these categories especially for the first round of funding, but we will certainly still try.

D. Parks and Facilities Updates

1. Pavilion Shore Park - Commissioner Joshi

Commissioner Joshi showed many pictures of the areas in Pavilion Shore Park including photos of the play structures, signs, and views of the lake. She explained what was missing from the wooden stand by the play structure. It was the Novi Public Library's lending library, which were not put out this summer to due lack of library staff. There are signs with upcoming events and history of the casino, dance floor, Stevie Wonder, and roller coaster are featured.

The problems were with the geese and the "landmines" on the sidewalk. This is mostly a temporary problem in certain sections of the pathway. The QR code to scan by the pavilion will take you to the city website but not the parks page. Commissioner Joshi said repeatedly that Pavilion Shore Park looks great!

2. ITC Community Sports Park – Commissioner Joseph
Deferred to October

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Commissioner Chair, Vice Chair Nominations & Committee Appointments

Commissioner Staab recommended since Commissioner Dooley and Commissioner Joseph were not present that this topic be deferred to October. Director Muck added this agenda item is just a reminder that appointments will happen next month. The plan is similar to last year which worked very well. Submit interest in running for chair, vice chair, or any of the committees. A form will be emailed to the Commissioners who will return it to Director Muck, results will be compiled and voted on at the next meeting. The terms start in November. In December we will rotate parks by moving Commissioners down the list. Therefore, everyone gets to report on a different park in 2023.

B. ITC Master Plan RFQ and Timeline

Director Muck stated that in April, City Council approved a motion to allocate funds from the Capital Improvement Budget to start planning for park updates to ITC Community Sports Park. There is a variety of wants and needs for the community, so we are going to hire a consulting firm to assist with the planning of the park update. ITC Community Sports Park is meant to be a multi-use park with an assortment of elements including soccer fields, baseball / softball diamonds, tennis, pickleball, basketball, playgrounds and redesigning of parking and pathways is a possibility. It is a very large project hence the need to hire a consultant and have community focus groups. The intent is to post the RFQ next Wednesday. We are looking for feedback. Responses are due October 12th.

Public meetings and surveys will take place in January and February. We anticipate conceptual plans coming back to this body for feedback and recommendations in

July. Final approval by City Council will be in August. It will be a busy eight months. Greg Morris and Chase Root are taking the lead with our team supervised by Director Muck and Deputy Director Ringle. The park commissioners are encouraged to be involved in this process not only at this table, in focus group meetings as well as promoting the community survey. The student representatives should get this information out to the high school to gain that age group's prospective because they are current and future users of the park.

Commissioner Joshi suggested part of the park being used for drone activity. Director Muck said that is a perfect example of suggestions we want to see in the surveys. It was added through further discussion that organizations that use the park (Jags, Novi Youth Baseball, Madness) would be targeted for recommendations. There will be a lot more to come on this moving forward.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck showed the proposed splash pad layout design on the screen. He highlighted changes since it was last shared. The patio space in front of the restrooms is enlarged. There will be an arched entry way into the splash pad which is a dramatic entrance from the parking lot. Shade structures will be on both sides which is an important feature. Landscape plantings will be around the concrete surface including ornamental trees, attractive beds, and benches for seating. There will be an area with artificial turf with contours to use as a play spot for when people want a break from the concrete splash pad. The bathrooms are planned to have three restrooms to meet the standards needed.

The plans will be firmed up to 65% by the end of October, December 90% and bids will go out at the start of January. In March the contract will go to City Council with an April groundbreaking. As long as the weather is permitting, the target is July 1st of next year opening.

There was explanation regarding not having a concession stand. The reasons were staffing concerns, lack of profit, and people being more inclined to bring their own food. Additional discussion occurred regarding bathrooms, keeping them open during the soccer season plus building additional facilities when the land swap is complete.

Director Muck said an aerator fountain will be installed in the pond at Meadowbrook Commons. This is a nice amenity for residents which will be close to the newly installed gazebo.

The county project at Rotary Park is wrapping up and the restoration of the grounds needs to be completed. Therefore, the installation of the outdoor fitness equipment will be pushed back to spring 2023.

Director Muck and city staff met with DTE at Lakeshore Park regarding the tunnel project for next spring. Identification of temporary power poles to allow the cranes to be put in place to install the tunnel was discussed. It is not anticipated that the park will need to close at any time during construction.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle went through what the team is working on by category. She said the soccer season is underway. Dooley Dog Day will be celebrated next Saturday. It is also picture day so it will be a busy day at the park. Home games were purposely scheduled so teams can be there for pictures, have a fun day, ending with a hot dog. Youth basketball and volleyball's registration deadline is today. Practices will start October 17th with games following. The numbers look good and the program's only constraint is available space. An adult basketball league began last night. This is the first time the program has run since pre-COVID. Pickleball has expanded to include specific skill classes to better the players ability. The classes are limited to ten participants and are starting to fill. The second race will take place Saturday at Water Tower Park RC Raceway. A good crowd is expected. Deputy Director Ringle will report back on numbers after the event. People are enthusiastic and engaged in the racetrack.

Kau'i Dalire, a hula dancer from Hawaii is the current artist in residence at Villa Barr. She is partnering with our current Polynesian dance instructor to teach classes, a workshop, and perform at a luau next Saturday. Tickets for the luau are available at greatlakeshula.com. It will take place at the Civic Center with a traditional meal, entertainment, dancing, and ukulele music. There will also be a community event for lei making and a Hawaiian alter ceremony before she departs in October.

Cinderella rehearsals are underway for the play that will take place January 26th through 29th with two casts. The dance classes continue to do well with Chelsea. She has an opportunity to move to Japan for eighteen months with her family. Chelsea has created her own company, hired instructors that have subbed for in the past to cover her time away. She will be involved running the program from afar because she wants to come back to a successful program. This will begin in January.

There was a significant increase in the summer camp participation from being able to raise the numbers at PowerPlay and Lakeshore due to lifted COVID restrictions, the new building, and number of counselors hired. Typically, March 1st is the registration start date for camp. In 2023 the date will be pushed back to April 1st. This will allow more details to be provided for field trips and themes plus get our college student councilors involved with planning. Additionally, a lot of people book all summer of camp then need adjustments which unfortunately has a monetary penalty. It is also time consuming for staff to work through waiting lists to fill the spots. Hopefully, by pushing back a month summer plans will be more solidified, and it is a less task oriented to keep the camps full.

Jack O' Lantern Jubilee will be Saturday October 22nd at ITC Community Sports Park. Recreation Supervisor Jeff Johns is working on growing the event this year. This will be the second year for Winter, Wine & Whimsy the city's holiday event. It will again take place at 12 Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk the weekend before Thanksgiving. The PRCS Department is going to support the event and host kids' alley. Consequently, the children's activities will be under PRCS oversight as part of the event. There will not be Fuerst Festive Nights this year. All of the team's

effort and creativity will be going into Winter, Wine & Whimsy having it be a collaborative city event. Tree lighting and Santa visits will all be there. The traditional Lunch with Santa will take place in December.

Deputy Director Ringle was happy to report a smooth year with shelter rentals with an increase in numbers. The rise is due to half day rentals and demand for outdoor event space. Reservations for 2023 will begin the second Tuesday in January.

There were questions regarding the holiday plans for the Civic Center Campus and Fuerst Park. It was explained the funding for lights was through sponsorship. Funds will be directed to Winter, Wine & Whimsy to make it a grander event rather than trying to do a few separate ones in different areas. Director Muck elaborated that we realized we diverted so many city resources across different areas that it started not to make sense. It was taxing many departments including community relations, DPW, and parks. The focus will be on one event because it is for all ages. There will be a women's night, features for seniors, and kids' alley. It will take place in center of Fountain Walk in front of the Hub. Additional questions and clarification took place about camp registration and waiting lists.

C. Older Adult Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Programs and Services

Director Muck started with an update on Senior Day at the State Fair. There were 800 seniors from around Michigan that enjoyed a free lunch, entertainment, raffle prizes and free admission to the fair. Ninety of the seniors were from Novi which was our allocation of tickets. The number of participants could have been tripled if there were more tickets.

Samba is back after taking the summer off. Due to Mah Jongg Madness the Tuesday morning group has grown from six players to twenty-two. The high school robotics group will host a Bingo and Bots intergenerational program on October 1st at Meadowbrook Commons. Grandparents and grandkids are invited to play a few rounds of bingo then play robot games and see robot demonstrations with the robotics team.

OAS is starting to plan the annual Veteran's Day celebration which will take place November 10th from 11:30-1:30. Performances will be an Andrew Sisters tribute group and a magician comedian. The Novi High School choir will sing the national anthem and a military medley. The VFW will present the colors and bless the food. Novi Rotary members will volunteer at the event. The Commissioners are invited to attend to help serve the food or just enjoy the entertainment.

Fall Prevention Awareness Week is next week 9/18-24. Daily fall prevention awareness information will be published on the City Facebook group Boomers and Beyond including a special video featuring fitness instructor Kim Chilton. She will demonstrate exercises anyone can do to improve their balance and prevent falls.

September 27th the tech support group is meeting lead by volunteer Mike Allie. The topic will review how to use your iPhone and iPad for family sharing and collaboration.

October 10th a six-week workshop called Powerful Tools for Caregivers begins. It is presented by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B.

The AARP tax aid volunteer counselor training for the 2023 tax season begins the first week of November. This is an important program for Novi as hundreds of seniors take advantage of the tax prep.

Director Muck recapped by saying it is a small snippet of OAS. There are intergenerational programs, awareness / caregiver information, and classes for active seniors.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Student Representative Bheemineni

The tech support for older adults' division is great. I would recommend it for my grandparents. When they are confused about something it is my responsibility for helping them out. It is great to see a program like that.

I will definitely make sure to get to get input on the ITC park.

Student Representative Raghunathan

Asked a question about the timing for the splash pad. Director Muck said the hours will be the same as Lakeshore Beach. 10:00-8:00 between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Commissioner Riggins

I just want to say I am really excited about the Wine and Whimsy and the tunnel project. Commissioner Joshi's presentation was great.

Commissioner Tolkacz

Bingo and Bots is a great idea for an intergenerational activity. I commend the team that put it together. More explanation for the Jack O' Lantern Jubilee was requested. Deputy Director Ringle explained it is a trick or treating event. Local businesses pass out candy along the circle path while kids go station to station ending at the Tim Pope Playground. There will be music as well.

Commissioner Torimoto

ITC Community Sports Park planning is interesting since we have talked about the park for so long, Bosco Fields, Wildlife with pickleball courts. It gives us the opportunity to make the park beyond what we were thinking about originally. I am excited. The variety of programming is unbelievable.

Commissioner Joshi

The pickleball skills class is a great idea because I read an article about how many people have jumped into pickleball and are now suffering injuries.

A lot of things have changed in the last two – three years in the world. I think we would get a better perspective on what people want and don't want. If the ITC master plan was done two -three years ago it might already be outdated. It is great that it is coming out now.

The programming is always great. I look forward to the splash pad that is coming up around the corner already.

Commissioner Staab

I am amazed at all the activities and programs that are being held. I attended the Jack O' Lantern Jubilee last year and it was a great event. Ten – Twenty different businesses each with a station, music and kids enjoying it, then going to the playground afterwards. It was a beautiful fall day. I would encourage anyone who desires to attend.

I am really excited about the redesign at ITC Community Sports Park. Like Commissioner Joshi said to update to 2023 and beyond. Deputy Director Ringle remembers that it was a challenge when we opened it in the first place with the contours, getting the electricity going to get the sprinkler system rolling and proper grading. This time it will be a lot better with nicer fields. The appetite for recreation has changed tremendously in the last three years.

I look forward to helping out with Veteran's Day.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

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

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson