

2. Villa Barr Art Park – Commissioner Staab

Vice Chair Staab showed his presentations on the monitors. He went to Villa Barr Art Park several times to tour the area and take pictures. The park is on Napier Road just down the street from ITC Community Sports Park. When he visited, there were other people enjoying the beautiful day. Photos were shown of the welcome sign, rules that are common to the other parks throughout the city, and history about David Barr and his wife. Pictures of the house that is used by the artist in residence folks were displayed. Many sculptures were featured including Sun World, Equinox, Galileo, Rain, plus Cone and the Gates.

The area of the park is wetlands; however, Commissioner Staab was surprised how dry it was when he visited. It was conducive to take a nice stroll. He mentioned that the deck on the house was replaced last fall as well as the handicapped accessible ramp / porch on the workshop. The workshop is used by the residence for paintings, sculptures or whatever they are working on. A plaque on the wall of the workshop commemorates former Mayor David Landry, a big advocate for Villa Barr. He put together the arrangement for the purchase of the property and sculptures.

Commissioner Staab finished his presentation by saying if you have not visited this park, it is very unique and not many cities throughout the area or Michigan have such a fine display of cultural art and sculptures. He had the privilege last summer to witness / participate with one of the artists in residence on the dance presentation throughout the park. She is coming back June 9th to conclude her project.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. ITC Parkrun Proposal – Joshua Lee & Ishaan Kondapur, Northville High School

Joshua Lee, Ishaan Kondapur and Ritvik Ellendula sophomores at Northville High School gave a presentation proposing Parkrun events to be held at ITC Community Sports Park on Saturday mornings every week of the year. These runs take place in a lot of countries and U.S. They are free, nonprofit and create a healthier and happier planet. Participants can either run, walk, jog or volunteer. The runs are for everybody, organized by volunteers and are under the supervision of a run director. Joshua Lee, one of the founders said the main reason he wanted to start Parkrun is to spread the happiness of people who run and also want to run or exercise with other people. Individuals can join together where everyone has the passion for running and it can spread to others. It can also help to socialize, hang out and accomplish goals. Ritvik Ellendula joined the meeting virtually to tell the commissioners why they should support Parkrun and how it is an amazing and awesome venture. He has been running cross-country since sixth grade but never enjoyed it until eighth grade when he found a YouTube channel dedicated to running, since then his passion skyrocketed. In ninth grade he did a project that gave insight on how important running is for a whole community. Running is not about how fast people go but connecting people, it helps deal with stress, worries, and day to day life. He said running encapsulates freedom, running away from stress, determination, and persistence. He would prescribe running because it is a nice way to relax and escape. Parkrun is a less frequent version of cross country with the same passionate people who motivate and uplift each other. The cycle of motivation helps increase the overall participation of the Parkrun and makes it a wholesome community activity.

Ellendula continued by saying ITC Community Sports Park would benefit from promo videos showcasing the awesomeness of the park. People will want to come immediately. The reputation will be amazing which will enrich the neighborhood. After Parkrun events the participants go to a nearby café to chat which boosts the economy. Parkruns also create volunteering opportunities for high school students to gain experience helping others. Ishaan Kondapur elaborated by stating that running brings him joy, relieves stress, and allows him to explore nature's beauty. Some people run to improve their health, feel empowered, and get physical activity. He would like to start Parkrun for people to experience the same

passion that he has for running. The mission is to create a positive environment, in addition to creating equal opportunity for runners of all ages, genders, support of beginners and people to never hold back on their goals. Parkrun will allow people to make new connections, motivate one another and compete in a friendly environment. Participants do not have to pay. The events promote wellbeing and are inclusive. We encourage everyone to stay active. The events are organized by trained, dedicated volunteers and operate on a set of rules and policies. Parkruns are insured with a public liability insurance policy. The equipment consists of flags and course markers.

The presenters asked the commissioners to use the area of ITC throughout the year. If granted this will be the fourth Parkrun in Michigan and 58th in the US.

The commissioners asked questions regarding the course, size of events, other locations, insurance, and maintenance of the course. Commissioner Riggins asked why the group chose ITC Community Sports Park.

Deputy Director Ringle explained the next steps. The commissioners would need to make a motion to suggest that the Parks Department move forward with discussions and logistic questions with Parkrun. Additional discussion continued amongst the commissioners regarding logistics, parking / traffic, and scheduling. Following the lengthy presentation Deputy Director Ringle suggested a motion for the Parks Department to continue discussions with Parkrun about logistics and the feasibility of having a run at ITC. All the commissioners said yes to the motion.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. ITC Community Sports Park Master Plan

Deputy Director Ringle said the ITC Sports Park Master Plan is being led by Recreation Supervisors Greg Morris and Chase Root. Focus group meetings were held February 1st. There was a great turnout by constituents and stakeholders including Michigan Jags, Cricket, Novi Youth Baseball, Pickleball and other representatives. Thank you to Commissioners Staab and Torimoto for attending. An open house was held on Monday with around 30-35 attendees. Tennis and pickleball were the most mentioned requests with lights and dedicated courts for each. If community members missed the meeting the online survey can be utilized to give feedback until March 13th.

2. Park Project Updates

Deputy Director Ringle gave further updates. The Jessica Starr Splash Pad will have a pre-bid meeting with potential contractors on February 27th. This will indicate the ability to meet the timeline of opening this summer.

Northwest Park will be presented at an upcoming Parks Commission Meeting. Plans for the layout are in progress with the consultant, architect, and engineering team.

This off season the parks municipal grounds team have been working on refurbishing picnic tables at Lakeshore Park, catching up on equipment maintenance, plus preparing for pesticide and aquatics facility certifications.

Meadowbrook Commons window replacements will go to City Council on Monday, February 27th. The goal is to replace all original windows in the ranches and apartments.

Director Muck presented to the Rotary Club last week. He discussed options for trail access from Nine Mile to ITC, and potential service projects Nine Mile to Rotary Park. A focus group of Meadowbrook Commons residents is being formed to discuss pickleball court construction.

South Lake Drive is scheduled to close to traffic starting February 27th for the tunnel replacement project. The postcard that was mailed to 400 impacted homes and businesses was shown. Community Relations is planning to use social media, newsletters, and the city website to keep the community informed. The department will be informing program

participants at Lakeshore Park that they will need to enter from the west. Shelter 1 rentals have been delayed in the beginning of the summer. Shelters 2 and 3 will be open and rentable. Those renters will be informed of the construction.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Programs & Services

Deputy Director Ringle provided a brief recap of the happenings in the recreation division. The Daddy Daughter Dance was held earlier this month to much success. The Mother Son Dance is coming up next weekend and is sold out. Registration is open for the Eggstravaganza which is the annual Easter egg hunt.

Summer camp registration for both Lakeshore and PowerPlay begin April 3rd. This is about a month later than normal. Hopefully, people will have a better idea of their summer schedule which should decrease the number of refunds and transfers for the office staff.

Planning and prepping is underway for Memorial Day events including Fuerst Field of Honor and the parade. Fuerst Field of Honor will take place the Wednesday before Memorial Day at Fuerst Park. The Memorial Day parade will start at 10a.m. on Memorial Day and the Memorial Day Run will be at Fuerst Park.

We are in the process of hiring a very part time seasonal soccer assistant. This person will help Chase Root during try outs, coach training, the busy season of coordinating the leagues. Alyssa Golles has resigned her position. She is going to the United Way and will be responsible for communication and event planning. The Cultural Arts Recreation Supervisor position has been posted.

Deputy Director Ringle's favorite part of the year is the annual report which highlights the things the department accomplished in 2022. The report is in the raw rough draft stage. It will be shared with City Council in the coming weeks after any of your suggestions. Then it will be shared with the community. It is an opportunity to highlight new things for the department. Recreation Supervisor, Madison Lachance led a group of older adults to Mackinaw Island this fall. The trip was well received and will be held again.

Bosco Fields opening was a great accomplishment for the department, city, and that property.

The T-Bolts tennis team began this year led by Chase Root. Almost 150 players played the first year. The program partnered with Northville, South Lyon, and Novi Community School District. The dance program continued to grow. It has outgrown our space; therefore, the recital will be held at the Berman Center which is part of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

The AED machine has been outside at Power Park for nearly a year. It is alarmed and temperature controlled. When the cabinet is opened the police and fire department will be notified. We are in the process of ordering more for additional parks.

Trees have continued to be planted including commemorative trees. Youth in the area collected cans to be able to plant more trees at Wildlife Woods.

RC raceway also opened this year. It continues to be popular and this upcoming summer will be no different.

C. Older Adult Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Programs and Services

Deputy Director Ringle transitioned into the older adult updates. More fitness programs are being added including line dancing, aerial fitness, restorative and vinyasa yoga. The Happy Trails Walking Group will begin meeting again in April.

Novi Birders will start meeting on March 6th. The group will meet every other Monday at different parks in the area. Kensington Metro Parks Nature Interpreter, Justin Smith will be back April 5th to do an introduction to the birding program.

The Chinese Club met last week for the first time since COVID. Twenty Chinese older adults attended the first meeting.

Seventy-six people attended the Valentine's Luncheon. This was the first time Moe's on 10 catered the event. The attendees really enjoyed the food.

OAS will again hold the Mackinaw Island Experience October 17th – 20th 2023. Registration is open and five people have already signed up for the popular trip.

AARP tax Aid has had three sessions. AARP added more appointment times which means time slots increased from 396 to 483. There are less than 100 openings left to fill.

Memorial Day planning is in full swing. Invitations to participate in the parade for local, community groups, organizations and business will be sent out next week. 2. Older Adults Needs Committee

Deputy Director Ringle provided details on the Older Adults Needs Committee that was formed by the Mayor and City Council resolution on January 23rd. It will be chaired by Council Member Casey. The committee includes Council members Smith and Thomas and four community members Cathy Crawford, Kim Nice, Debbie Wrobel, and Commissioner Dooley. It was established for a period of one year. The committee reports directly to City Council and will advise Council regarding activities, needs, volunteer, community opportunities for older individuals and groups. The committee will discuss programs, projects, and facilities as they pertain to older adults.

The group will focus on dissemination of information and advocacy regarding recommended services for older adults in the area of health information, volunteer services, counseling, outreach to the homebound, recreation, education, and other needs. They will identify the best practices for programs and services, delivery needs, formulate and recommend plans to assist meeting the critical needs of our older adults with disabilities.

Chairman Dooley provided additional comments. The first meeting was the 13th and it was a spirited discussion that lasted an hour and a half. All of the above was discussed.

Councilmember, Laura Casey was the moderator/ lead for the task force. She asked everyone's expectations and goals for this session. The group all feels passionate in regard to older adults. The discussion collectively fit the bill for what they want to accomplish. He will bring subsequent feedback from future meetings. The next meeting is March 13th.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Student Representative Raghunathan

The Villa Barr presentation was really good. I have never been there. I also enjoyed the ITC presentation proposal.

Student Representative Bheemineni

Overall I think the meeting went really well. I myself have to check out Villa Barr Art Park. The Parkrun looked very interesting, however being a Novi student, I can't let Northville get in on all the action. I have a lot of cross-country friends so I will find out what they think.

Commissioner Riggins

This was a very robust meeting. The Northville High School students did a great job with their presentation. I could tell they were a little nervous but they pushed through. I could see they were very passionate about running and that is a good thing.

Commissioner Staab's report on Villa Barr was very nice with beautiful pictures. I am waiting to see the annual report in my email which looks pretty good. I will see if I have any comments to add.

Commissioner Tolkacz

As others have mentioned the Villa Barr report and the Parkrun presentation were the obvious big highlights of the meeting. Personally, the highlight of the meeting is the staff reports. I am constantly amazed with all the good things going on in the city. I especially enjoyed the pictures in the annual

report. Looking back over the past year we talked about all these things but seeing them in color on the big screen really drives it home. Thank you.
I hope Director Muck is feeling better soon.

Commissioner Torimoto

I agree with the comments. I was impressed with the Northville students for presenting something not just for running but taking advantage of the facilities, the need, attraction to being outside and trying to bring people together. I thought it was fantastic for two students to bring that up.
I attended the Daddy Daughter Dance with my daughter. This is her last year in high school. We have attended twelve years straight. I have to admit she did not want to be seen. The last two years we went the last thirty minutes, incognito but we still got the picture. I have a wall with the pictures of the last ten years. I look the same, but my daughter keeps getting older. It is a fantastic event, seeing the next generation of kids enjoying it with their families. It is a fantastic event. Thank you for putting it on for the community.

Commissioner Staab

I want to reinforce and have you put on your calendar Pour on the Shore July 28th. It is a fun worthwhile night. There will be craft beer, bourbon tasting, and an excellent band.
I appreciate all the activities going on in the city and Parks Recreation and Cultural Services. Thank you, Tracie, for doing a yeoman's job handling both roles, Deputy Director, and Director. We wish Jeff a speedy recovery.
On a personal note, I would like to extend my support, concern, and condolences to The Michigan State community for the heinous actions that transpired this past Monday night on campus and hold all the families close to the heart.

Commissioner Dooley

Thank you for those comments. They are echoed by all of us tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:19p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson