

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 7 P.M.

ELECTRONIC MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. with Commissioner Dooley presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Dooley read a State Mandate of the Open Meetings Act, that all members will identify their location by stating the county, city, and state from which he or she is attending the meeting remotely.

Director Muck stated that the mandate does not preclude anyone from attending the meeting if you are in another state or county. The State has just enacted that rule for virtual meetings.

Dooley (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Staab (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Joseph (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Joshi (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Riggins (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Smith (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Torimoto (Present) from Novi, Oakland County, Michigan, Student Representatives Ananya Kamalesh (Absent), Saketh Ogirala (Absent).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Torimoto requested that the Novi Ice Arena report he was to give be delayed until the February Commission Meeting.

It was moved that the amended agenda be approved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Torimoto.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of December 2020 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for November be approved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Riggins.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioner Riggins & Smith

Commissioner Smith stated there was no meeting since the meeting before the previous Commission meeting.

Director Muck stated that he reached out to the Community Development Department and found that the 2021 meetings have not been set yet and does not anticipate them meeting until later in the year.

B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Joseph, Staab & Torimoto

Commissioner Torimoto stated due to the current situation the funding opportunities are limited. We are supposed to have the next meeting in February, when we will talk about our plans for this next year.

- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Joshi
Commissioner Dooley gave the floor to Director Muck for a presentation under Matters for Commission Discussion and/or Action
- D. Parks and Facilities Updates
 - 1. Novi Ice Arena – Commissioner Torimoto
Tabled to the February Commission Meeting

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

- A. Northwest Park Development Grant

Director Muck displayed a Conceptual Plan for the Northwest Park. He stated the history is we acquired this 9.94 acres in 2015 with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Acquisition Grant. We received \$385,000 from the State of Michigan to acquire this property. The City's match was \$165,000. That is a thirty percent match we had to contribute to acquire this property. As part of the acquisition, we had to submit a Conceptual Plan and indicate our potential future use of the park and we had stated nature trails, a potential playground, gazebo or shelter, and a parking lot. As we have moved into 2021, we have been directed by the Grants Committee to make development of this park a priority. We are here to discuss what the Commission feels are priorities for this park. We will talk about the trails system and gravel versus asphalt versus natural dirt trails. We want to talk about the natural play area we have indicated, prairie restoration area, and interpretive signage. This park is on Twelve Mile. Director Muck indicated where the Catholic Central practice fields and the Andelina Ridge neighborhood were located on the Plan. He stated there are an estimated 2,700 Novi households in a two-mile radius of this park. Wixom is to the north on the other side of Twelve Mile and we did not even account for anything that is not Novi property. Director Muck presented pictures as an overview of the park. The first was a drone shot of the park and indicated the line between the park and the Catholic Central property and several other features. The second picture is of the park with a line showing where the Parks Maintenance Crew has cut a very rough trail through the property in order for us to access the prairie area and analyze the rest of the property. We are not advertising this as a maintained trail or even as a designated trail at this point, but he believes people will start using it as such. It is very close to the property line at points next to Catholic Central.

When we are talking about the natural play area, it is a natural play area and not a playground. We propose it is designated that way because there are differences in relation to liability, use, maintenance, and inspections. We have seen quite a few of these popping up around the country. The example he showed was located in Grand Rapids that opened last year. The whole purpose of the natural play area is that it is basically developed by kids and keeps growing and evolving as kids use it. They can use fallen tree limbs to build forts or bridges, or stack wood into teepees or huts. We have seen some of this at Lakeshore Park back on the trails. We can offset it with certain man-made things like slides or interpretive things like fake logs with forest animal figures imbedded

in them. It is a very natural constructed area. We would set it up initially and it would evolve over time as kids use it. It comes with a whole new set of guidelines and is use at your own risk. These are becoming popular across the country. We are trying to get kids back into the woods and nature.

There are three thoughts as to what we want to do with this park when it comes to parking. Option one is that you do not have a parking lot at all. We make it a neighborhood park. It is used only by bicyclist and walkers and the 2700 people who live within a two-mile radius are the priority. The second option is that you do a larger parking lot off of Twelve Mile because once you do this kind of play area and get some trails in there you are going to attract people from around the city looking for something unique. It is for the entire city, so you need a larger parking lot of twelve to twenty spots. You would need to take out some woods, but it provides more access for more people of Novi. The third option is to do a small, less intrusive parking lot off of Twelve Mile or off of Murcia Road. If it is off of Murcia Road it will draw people through the subdivision. This is similar to Village Wood Lake park which has four or five parking spots. Each of those options have their pros and cons to be debated by the residents. We want to focus the conversation on the parking lot options, the construction of the trails and composition of the trails and get your thoughts. We are looking at doing a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant for this. The Land and Water Fund is a federally funded program administered through the states. It does have far more detailed requirements than what we are used to doing through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. They require a fifty percent match. As an example, if this is what is currently estimated as a \$500,000 development, the City would be required to match \$250,000 for \$250,000 in federal funds. We can go anywhere from \$30,000 to \$500,000 in a request. Depending on the way the Grants Committee and the Parks Commission wants to go and City Council, we can apply for up to a million-dollar project. They are anticipating that there will be about five million dollars available across the state for these grants in this fund. He was on a Trust Funds DNR sponsored grants workshop this afternoon and there were three hundred participants on that call and there were six hundred people initially registered for it. It is going to be a very competitive grant cycle this year. Less people go for the Land and Water Conservation Grants but there are a lot more stipulations and what we are initially envisioning is this being a nature oriented, natural type park that puts us in a better category and, hopefully, more likely to get some approval. He will answer any questions but would like Chairpersons Dooley and Joshi to weigh in on what they heard and some of the direction they gave him at the Grants Committee meeting. Commissioner Dooley asked Director Muck to share information about the prairie area.

Director Muck stated the thought is that the trail system would lead back to the open prairie. It is currently overgrown and not what you would expect to be from a natural prairie prior to when this was farmland. What we are proposing is coming back in with a controlled burn and a cutting back of the existing vegetation. It would then be reseeded with natural wildflowers and natural plants. We would plant milkweed so we would attract the Monarch butterflies. We have Monarch waystations in a couple of our other parks. This would be a natural restoration and focus on bringing back the Monarchs to this area.

Commissioner Dooley stated there was a Grants Committee meeting this evening. Councilpersons Staudt and Maday attended as well as himself, Commissioner Joshi and Director Muck. There were some preliminary recommendations. The first recommendation is that there would be parking off of Twelve Mile. The composition of the parking lot would be crushed stone as well as the composition of the trail that leads back to the prairie area. Any secondary trails that may come about would be natural. They also discussed the City's involvement with Catholic Central, which is recommended, as far as the sharing of a potential parking lot between the school at the top of Twelve Mile. These are the recommendations they talked about from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. He asked Director Muck if he would like to discuss, based on those recommendations, what the next steps are.

Director Muck stated he would like to open it up to the Commissioners to weigh in on what the Grants Committee did. He stated whatever feedback he receives from the Commission tonight will take him back to a step of going back to the engineering department for cost estimates. We are engaging a consultant to help with the grant writing due to the complexity of the grant. We will then start shoring up those budget figures and any other recommendation that you may have. This will come back to you in February for a final approval and your recommendation will go to City Council in March. His goal is to have this on the first City Council Agenda in March. It does require a Public Hearing by the highest governing body of the City, which is City Council. We would have a Public Hearing and then have City Council pass that resolution and that would allow us to submit by April first, which is the deadline. From an extended standpoint you do not hear on these until, typically, December 2021. Then the State has to release the funds and the Federal Government has to release the funds. Realistically you are looking, at the earliest, late 2022 before you would start the construction.

Commissioner Dooley opened discussion to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Riggins stated she likes the recommendations. She asked if the parking lot talked about off of Twelve Mile would be the large parking lot or the smaller parking lot.

Director Muck stated it would be the 12 to 20 space parking lot most likely.

People would be driving by and seeing it as a destination. A 4 to 5 space parking lot could potentially lead to people parking along Twelve Mile.

Commissioner Dooley stated they decided not to have a parking lot at Murcia Road because people would go through the neighborhood. Murcia Road is an egress road, an escape route.

Director Muck confirmed this and also stated it was put in when Andelina Ridge was put in as an emergency access point so if the Northwest Park property was ever developed, regardless as residential or retail, it has to be there. It is blocked off. We had some concerns if we built a trail system, of dirt bikes or motor bikes getting on it. It works out nicely to connect the trail system to Murcia, so the residents have an easy access into the park.

Commissioner Joseph asked when they were talking about the Catholic Central involvement, is there a potential to have the parking lot on the corner, the open

space northwest of the soccer fields. It gives you a little more space and still facilitates some parking for Catholic Central and does not take away from the land that is being proposed for use.

Director Muck stated he was tasked by the Grants Committee, along with the City Manager, to open up that conversation with Catholic Central. We will have to do that quickly as we develop these plans.

Commissioner Joseph stated he was curious about the crushed stone versus the natural. At Villa Barr the crushed stone appears to be extremely difficult, at least at that location, to maintain, with the grass growing though, etc. Probably it would be much different in a wooded area, but he was curious why that would be the proposed versus the natural.

Director Muck stated the crushed gravel was recommended by the Grants Committee for better accessibility by everyone. It is ADA compliant. As we have seen at Villa Barr, it does need some additional maintenance. Our team has had to go out and roll it and crush it back down and put weed killer down. We will have some challenges with gravel. Dirt trails would not necessarily be considered ADA compliant. We would not score as high with dirt trails versus gravel. The Grants Committee felt that asphalt, the next level, would not be appropriate for this property with trying to make it a natural area. Crushed limestone, like we have at Villa Barr, is middle ground.

Commissioner Smith stated he agreed with Commissioner Joseph about moving the parking lot to the other corner by Catholic Central. He stated the play area seems awesome and thinks kids will really like that.

Director Muck thanked Commissioner Smith and stated as a bike rider, maybe he has seen some of the things the kids have done out at Lakeshore Park on their own with their imagination.

Commissioner Joseph asked how you manage the liability of the natural play area. He has some concern.

Director Muck stated that is the biggest question and may be a concern for some people. These are popping up all around the country and it is all how you label it and all how you sign it. It is completely different than anything we have in Novi. In Novi we are used to slides and ropes and steel and plastic. This is not that. It will be an education when people come to the park. This is a natural state, and you are using it at your own risk just like the trails at Lakeshore or Rotary. You are going out there on your own. We are doing our research and following those best practices.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if the intent of the park is to be available in the winter or year-round.

Director Muck confirmed that it is year-round, but the trails will not be maintained.

Commissioner Staab asked if Twelve Mile Road will be paved.

Director Muck stated that is a good question. He had to ask about that. It is not on any paving schedule.

Commissioner Staab asked if Twelve Mile Road was maintained by the County. Director Muck replied it is maintained by the City. He pointed out where the pavement ended and resumed on his displayed graphic. It is not on a paving schedule because the subdivision has an out route that is paved in the other direction so that stretch is not a priority. What it will accomplish is when we do the park development we have to complete the sidewalk segment. We are the only property right now, right here that does not have sidewalk. That sidewalk development will go hand in hand with what we are doing here. Just walking the park this week, he noticed people had tramped down a pathway across the front of the property already.

Commissioner Smith asked if the prairie restoration area is going to be more sensitive to traffic. Will it be signed so people do not create trails through that area?

Director Muck stated there will be interpretive signage stating this is an active regrowing prairie. Please stay out of the sensitive area. That is why we will only put the trail around the restoration area.

To summarize what Chair Dooley mentioned and what came back from the Grants Committee is the suggestion for staff to follow up on the parking lot on Twelve Mile Road of from 12 to 20 parking spots, which will depend on the engineering, and the location of that parking lot. Also, the suggestion of crushed stone for parking to maintain that natural feel the property and crushed stone for the trails around the perimeter. The interior trails would be dirt and they would develop as people continue to use the park on their own. Then a directive from staff to open up some discussions with Catholic Central on their property.

Commissioner Dooley thanked the Commissioners for their questions and ideas. Director Muck also thanked the Commissioners stating this is what he needed from the Grant Committee and Commission to be able to take the next steps. He will return in February with some updated figures.

Commissioner Staab asked Director Muck if in the discussions with Catholic Central being amenable to the parking lot, are we looking for any cooperation from a funding standpoint or just their blessing to use that area.

Director Muck stated that is a great question and is something we will have to figure out because it will open up some cans of worms on the grant funding and the parking lot. We will not be able to build the parking lot with grant funding if it is not on property that we own. There could be cost share agreements on building the parking lot and keep that out of the grant. Then the grant would be strictly for development of the trails, the prairie, the signage, and the play area. We will have to figure this out quickly.

Commissioner Dooley stated there was some discussion on where, off of Twelve Mile, the parking lot potentially could go. He asked Director Muck to display the drone picture of Northwest Park. He then showed the three options of where the parking lot could potentially be located.

B. Park Shelter Rentals Update

Director Muck stated that City Council approved the recommendations from the Commission for changes to the rental policies at their last meeting. Park shelters opened last week and so far we have twelve rentals. Nine of those rentals are at Lakeshore and three of those are half days. Two of the half-day rentals are in the later time slot and one is the earlier time slot. The rentals will continue to go up as the weather gets warmer, the gathering restrictions are limited, and people realize they may need a spot for their events.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Lakeshore Park Opening Date

Director Muck stated he is proud to announce that we are on track for the February opening of Lakeshore Park. There is not an exact date yet. You still need to follow it on social media. There are going to be some videos coming out and there will be more announcements. There is a chance that we will be opening the outside amenities without the restrooms available to start. The restrooms may take some time to get our TCO occupancy. That should be OK since we do not have restrooms available in the parks in the winter. Follow us on Facebook

and check the City website. At our next meeting we should be celebrating. Over the holidays we made a concentrated effort to notify the residents who live in close proximity to the park. We sent them a thank you card and a newsletter that updated them on the same things we are discussing now and thanking them for their patience.

We are opening in February but will be back in March to finish landscaping, putting in picnic tables and all of those other things.

Commissioner Joseph added that Lakeshore Park did not lack activity during the closure.

Commissioner Staab asked Director Muck what he envisioned the opening to be.

Director Muck stated he was not going to give a full spoiler on that but there is not going to be a public gathering until this summer but we will be doing some things with City Council prior to that.

Commissioner Staab would like for at least Commissioner Dooley be present as a representative of the Parks Commission.

Director Muck stated the initial opening will be more of an announcement by those dignitaries and the larger public recognition would include the Commission. The Library Board is going to want to be involved, with their kiosk being there. We hope for a larger event with that kind of focus, in the summer.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle stated that we got some good news that we started to get back to programming. We are not quite there with a full sports schedule yet but it looks like February 1st we are planning on that. We are able to hold some classes now, but as far as sports we have resumed non-contact practices for basketball and volleyball this week. We put schedules out for games on the website beginning on February 6th. We are moving forward with everything we are allowed to do when we are allowed to do it. This is a continuation of our fall season. Typically, these would be wrapped up by now and we would be offering our winter basketball and volleyball season. We are hoping to offer some opportunities for those players. It may not be a traditional league at this point. We are looking at some clinics or a very small revised league. We are in the process of sharing that information for those who registered for the winter leagues. They will be getting information going forward on what opportunities they have to continue playing basketball and volleyball into early spring.

Soccer registration is open for spring and we are seeing people register so we know everyone is looking forward to being outside. We are also registering for Adult Softball for spring leagues. It went well this past summer. We anticipate running those similarly within any restrictions that are mandated to us. We are getting ready to launch our Adult 55+ Softball league which is on Tuesday mornings. We will also launch our Older Adult Golf League which went extremely well last spring and continued spring, summer and into early fall for those looking for something to do outside and feel safe doing it.

Floor hockey is another indoor program we are planning on starting shortly. Our young age groups are going well. Our older age groups are a little slower with the registrations. The deadline is coming up soon so we will see how that goes.

As far as our youth and teens, she just looked at an Eggstravaganza flier today so our first special event that aligns with things we have done in the past. That will be on Sunday, March 28th and will be an egg hunt, some photo opportunities with the bunny, and take-home crafts. Everything will be social distanced. It will be using Power Park instead of Fuerst Park to give us more areas to break people in to groups for safe distancing. We are looking for a little bit of normalcy as far as our special events programs go.

In Cultural Arts, our dance and fitness classes continue to be virtual. Some of those will transition to in-person when their next sessions begin, next month. They are in mid-session right now so about mid-February some of those would begin to start in-person. We have had about a 50/50 response from our instructors as to whether they feel comfortable or are wait and see about how they feel about offering programs. Our dance is extremely popular and is ready to go and we are looking forward to that.

We are working on securing our camp staff for Camp Lakeshore and Camp Power Play. A couple of our long-term counselors are coming back, who worked last year and are aware of some of the restrictions. Cristin Spiller, one of our Recreation Supervisors, has been on some seminars and webinars, learning what some of the restrictions may look like this year and if there are any changes from last year. We will start registration for Camp Lakeshore and

Camp Power Play on March 1st. We will initially limit to 30 full week campers per location, per week. We will see if things open up and we can add to that and add some partial week registrations, too.

Going back to Cultural Arts, we have not had a traditional theater camp since last spring. In the Mitten works with us and with our licensing company and will be able to do "Shrek, Jr." this spring. We will be doing the rehearsals virtually but they will use park locations and locations around the City to actually film the production. Then we are able to stream that to families who want to watch the production. They can download a link and watch it with their family.

Art in our atrium is back. We have not had anything in the atrium for a while so we are looking forward to that. We will allocate about half of the space we previously did for our artist and they will also be promoted through social media. We are having some visitors to City Hall and it is nice to brighten up the atrium.

Kudos to our team for continuing to be flexible and taking on different roles to make it happen. Our Recreation Supervisors have gone with the flow and continued to bring new ideas and enthusiasm. It is nice to work with that group. As a City, we are one to look at to be able to turn things around and offer programs. Our new February through March Engage will be put in

mailboxes

very soon, likely in the next week.

Commissioner Torimoto stated he had filled out a survey regarding the Daddy Daughter Dance potential and wanted to know if she had any initial indication of the possibilities for that.

Deputy Director Ringle stated they have talked about it with Recreation Supervisor Alyssa Golles and have a couple of directions. Possibly we could have it in the spring, outside. We could do something that is a take-away date option. We have not come to a decision on that yet. That is something everyone looks forward to and is one of our bigger events. We definitely want to be able to host that in the safest way possible.

C. Older Adults Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Program & Services

Director Muck stated everything is starting to ramp up again. Older Adult Services is on that same page. We are trying to get more programs and Services. We have virtual classes up and running now targeted toward the older adult services population. If you got our e-newsletter today, you could see that Tai Chi and Stretch and Strength are returning to the Civic Center in February. Those are both very popular.

We are also going to start a Parent Child yoga class this spring.

We are going to promote a community quilt project at the beginning of February. The plan is to make a twin-size quilt with ten-inch squares.

In the e-Engage that came out today we announced our SOAR (Society of Active Retirees) Program. It is a partnership with a program based in Farmington Hills. It is a community based, lifelong online learning initiative affiliated with Wayne State University and the Rhodes Scholar Institute Network. It offers a broad range of non-credit courses and related activities with opportunities for social and cultural enrichment as well as personal growth for

our older adult population. It is a volunteer faculty drawn largely from Wayne State and other area colleges and universities. There are classes and seminars in things like history, literature, and travel. We did take that to the Older Adult Services Advisory Board in December and asked for their input. It received unanimous support. We even had several members of that board indicate they had participated in those classes. We developed a memorandum of understanding with them and will start enrolling with those in the February through March 2021 Engage.

We also held an AARP Smart Driver New Vehicle Technology Class. We had twenty-five attendees. That went over well, and he could see that happening again. That is an important and unique thing with all of the new technology in new cars these days.

AARP tax preparation is in full swing. We had one hundred and ninety individuals schedule appointments. We only have about forty-five remaining spots available so if you know someone who has taken advantage of this in the past and needs it, they should call our office right away. Things are a little more restricted and this year there is a little more online work that needs to be done. There are two meetings for each return due to COVID and social distancing. We may be able to add more appointments if the COVID restrictions are lifted.

Older Adult Transportation continues to be in full swing. Our end of year numbers are that we transported 12,360 passengers and travelled almost 109,000 miles. That was through the pandemic. We were seeing a steady increase in passengers before the pandemic. This year the program had about 3,400 less riders. He thinks that is a pretty amazing number considering where we were in March, April, and May. That is a testament to the commitment from our drivers and our schedulers who kept that program running in the height of the pandemic. That program continues to be such a necessary service for people.

Last week over eighty percent of the residents at Meadowbrook Commons were able to receive their first dose of the COVID vaccine. That was done in conjunction with the CVS program where they are able to come in and issue the vaccine to Senior residential and housing facilities. We had over eighty percent of the residents, the staff of KMG, our management company, and also, our OAS transportation drivers able to receive the vaccine. Over two hundred people were able to receive their first dose. He personally got some calls from residents who were so grateful and thankful for that. That is really a testament to the KMG staff who manage the building. They stayed on top of that, got the people registered and processed everything.

Director Muck asked for any questions.

Commissioner Smith asked if the eighty percent was due to people who did not want to take it or did they run out.

Director Muck replied that some people elected not to take it, some of the residents are not currently residing at Meadowbrook, they may be in the hospital or not currently able to. It is a great number to have over eighty percent.

Commissioner Staab asked if the vaccine was Pfizer or Moderna.

Director Muck stated that he did not know which it was.

Commissioner Staab asked if there were any occurrences of reaction. Director Muck replied that there were not. Commissioner Staab stated it was a testament to get those folks inoculated. He stated he is sure we have awareness programs about registering beyond the residents of Meadowbrook Commons. Director Muck stated the biggest is to sign up with Oakland County and to double check with your healthcare provider.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Smith stated it is good to hear of all of the programs coming online in a safe way. He continues to be impressed by the way the department continues to react to the challenges of operating in this environment. He is really excited about getting Lakeshore Park open and bringing on the new Northwest Park.

Commissioner Riggins stated she seconded the excitement of getting Lakeshore Park open in February. She is actually excited about the nature park because since the pandemic many people have been out and about, walking around, and it will be good because people wanted something like that. It will be awesome to see that come to life. She wished everyone a great 2021.

Commissioner Joshi wished everyone a happy New Year. There are very exciting beginnings at this meeting. There is a new park, an old park becoming new and everything new in the recreation division for this spring.

Commissioner Joseph wished everyone a happy New Year. He is looking forward to a more normal year, but it is not like the parks lacked any activity. They saw an increase in activity throughout the year. Kudos to the group for all the hard work and the City of Novi for having those facilities available for individuals to take advantage of during a tough time. We have great facilities and continue to expand on that. He is looking forward to working together this year.

Commissioner Torimoto stated he echoes what everyone else is saying. He saw an article this week, considering COVID, the best places to live around the country. The first method was affordability of housing, but the second method was the percent of the population close to a park. That was the second of a number of methods they used. With today's discussion about Northwest Park and Lakeshore Park it is a very exciting time. The influence of parks moving forward, and the programming are so important. Thank you for all of the opportunities. We are excited about it.

Commissioner Staab wished everyone a happy New Year. It was a good kickoff to the year and good comprehensive programming with all of the issues we have been facing. The inoculations at Meadowbrook Commons are great this year. One thing he has noticed is at the corner of Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook Road, on the northeast corner, just down from Tollgate Farm, there is a sign there that says, "Future Home of a Park". He thinks it is in conjunction with the Pulte subdivision. He asked if we are going to be involved in that or is it something they are generating.

Director Muck stated he is right on track. That is Beacon Hill, a subdivision. Part of the agreement of the building of that subdivision is that we are receiving property on that corner. They are putting in a parking lot. We would have a trail head and a bike repair station because it is next to the M5 connector. There is a little wetlands pond area out there, too, where we may have a little overlook. The developer has been in touch with him with different conversations about having some public art on that corner. That property will be dedicated over to the City. It has been a while since we have talked

about that property, he wants to say about three years, but we can recycle back around on that. The City will be taking possession of that, shortly.

Commissioner Joseph stated that a few months ago we had talked about the potential of the pathway going from Taft to connect up on the north side by 96 or 696 to try and connect the ITC pathway. Perhaps he was talking to Brian Adams about this and was not discussed on one of our calls. He asked if there has been any more discussion around how to facilitate getting foot or bike traffic across 96 potentially on the ITC extension.

Director Muck stated he has not been involved with them, but he knows there is a Roads Committee, and he believes they just met last Monday. He knows that there has been the focus of a connector over 96 via Taft Road. He knows that pre-COVID there had even been some discussions. We are definitely going to need State dollars, if not Federal dollars on that. One of the focuses on that would be a pedestrian over cross connecting path over 96.

Commissioner Joseph stated that for some reason he thought it would go under via the railroad, but he knew there was not enough easement.

Director Muck stated from what he heard it was a bridge over, which would be a multi-million-dollar project.

Commissioner Dooley wished everyone a happy New Year. He was looking forward to continuing robust, dynamic meetings and look forward to the meeting in February.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:14 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson