

plan is put together. We'll have to keep watching for Villa Barr Art Park and hopefully we get a lot of use out of it.

- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto
Commissioner Torimoto said we were supposed to have a Foundation meeting this past Monday, but that's been delayed to another Monday. We did have another recap of the Pour on the Shore. The final numbers were a little bit down from last year, but the expenses went up. So the profit's final number was down from last year. As an event itself, had nice weather. It was a little windy. The food trucks were a nice adjustment. Discussions moving forward is a potential date adjustment. There's another craft brewery festival that happens to go on the same weekend. Also looking at the potential offerings. It's been focused on the craft beer, but we could look at the potential other offerings.
- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Pratt
Commissioner Dooley said thanks to Walkable Novi and the importance of that. There was not a Grants Committee meeting this month. The next will be in October or November.
- D. Parks Updates
Commissioner Dooley said the reason they do this is to divide up the parks and go through the parks and talk to people. We talk amongst ourselves about the pros and cons of the parks in the city.
1. Wildlife Woods Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos /Lee
Commissioner Thomopoulos said she last visited Wildlife Woods Park in May. The park touches both Wixom and 11 Mile Roads. It's tucked behind Deerfield Elementary and the middle school. When she was there last week, the lawn service had just left. Everything was perfect, well maintained, the pavilion was in great condition. The ball fields and tennis courts were both beautifully maintained, even with all the rain we've had. There are also soccer fields. The women's room cement floor crack is there. We talked about that last year, but it was late in the season when the schedules were already set. There's the trail from the back of the ball fields to the ITC Trail pathway. When she went in the spring, you could see it and it was well traveled. When she went last week, she couldn't find it. If it's a hired company, maybe we can emphasize for them to go in maybe 10 feet so you can find the start of the trail. Director Muck said there are plans on the radar of the CIP to get that improved and connected long term. Thomopoulos said it gives a nice shortcut from the school to the trail. Coming in from either road, you don't realize you're at Wildlife Woods Park, so maybe we can add some signage. The amenities at this park are significant, but they're also pretty spread out. A map showing all the amenities would be good at any of our parks. The facilities, parking locations acceptable for the park use since we share with the schools, some sort of sign showing where the trail entrance is, the cement floor and fixing the trail. Otherwise, the park is in great shape. Commissioner Dooley asked said there is a little brown sign along 11 Mile Road that says "Wildlife Woods Park" and asked if additional signage was coming? Muck said he'd address some of those types of updates in his report. Commissioner Torimoto said he played some of his tennis matches there and some of the courts do need some work. There's quite a bit of wear and some of the tape is giving out. Overall, it's very well used.
 2. Rotary Park – Commissioner Pratt
 3. Novi Dog Park – Commissioner Dooley
 4. Villa Barr Art Park – Commissioner Torimoto

Commissioner Torimoto said this is a fantastic opportunity to talk about an art park. The park itself isn't open yet, but has a home, studio and sculpture garden. On Friday, 10/12, at 6 p.m. is the grand opening ceremony. He'll unfortunately miss it, but it'll be great. Commissioner Staab said there will be a shuttle running to the grand opening event from ITC Community Sports Park since there is limited on-site parking. Torimoto showed a map of the park with the new parking loop and explained what areas were cement and gravel, where the house was located and where the sculptures are. An updated map with the sculptures in color would be beneficial. Torimoto displayed photos of the entry area, house/studio exteriors, pathways and some sculptures. Asked if there were any plans to update the studio. The backyard opens up into a fantastic view. New concrete pad and benches looked great. He went off the path to look at some areas. Looking at the art pieces, he said it was hard to determine what the message being portrayed was. Something like a QR code explaining some of the artwork would be useful. Some of the artwork had paint chipping. Lighting and plumbing for some artwork is still in-process.

Director Muck said Cultural Arts Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy-Ketchum has been involved with the interpretive signage that'll be going out there and the artist-in-residency program. He has been involved with the construction aspect, but Deputy Director Ringle has been serving as the lead on the project as it pertains to the artist-in-residency and getting the sculptures prepared and everything with the opening.

Deputy Director Ringle said school bus-sized turnaround is correct with the plan being to work with Novi Community Schools to offer field trips. There are five parking spots there. When we do programming, if we're expecting a big crowd, we can do shuttling. And with that additional connection to ITC CSP in the future, people will be able to walk back and forth. The red studio building has not had any renovations at this point, but we did just have a Friends of Villa Barr meeting to create a wish list and that is one of the items on it. The use and the size of it right now does not hit ADA requirements to open it up for public use, so there is some conversation there and we're looking to add it to the budget to reside, repaint and do some exterior work.

Director Muck said there were pictures of the house from May with a lot of vines growing on the stucco. That was all repaired in part of a \$70,000 donation from the Novi Parks Foundation for work on the exterior of the house. He said they would prefer the interior of home not be visible since it'll be a working home for an artist at times.

Deputy Director Ringle said you do not need to stay on the paths. Items are meant to be looked at from all different angles and perceptions, so you are encouraged to walk up to the pieces. Interpretive signage is coming, with four throughout the park explaining the pieces. A kiosk will also be installed with a map of where the pieces are. We'll also encourage people to visit our website at cityofnovi.org/villabarr to visit picture by picture of what's there and what David Barr's thought process was. We don't want to hand out too many brochures in case they become trash in the park. The 40-foot-diameter pad is great for hosting things, but we encourage people to use the whole site. Muck said if you were to go out to the property right now, it would look very different because it is a very wet property. That pond rises and falls with the rain and snow. That will factor into what we can use the lawn for, whether we can put a tent up or hold classes. Days like today you can't use the lawn. Ringle said for repairs and

maintenance plans, we know some pieces need to be resanded and painted over the next few years. Digging through Barr's archives, some of those pieces have been 2-3 different colors over the years. We have contacted a company that can do that and will be doing it when we get the pieces on loan back from Farmington. We also contacted Inch Memorial about what they can do with the granite. She would not anticipate any restoration done for the opening. There are four additional concrete benches that will be delivered on 10/1 and added to the small cul de sacs. There will be one at the front cul de sac and two near the Koan sculpture at the back of the property. The piece that's secured to the basketball hoop right now was done by Kaz McCue. He's from Michigan Legacy Art Park and spent two weeks at Villa Barr. There's a concrete pad that's set aside for it where he'll install it before the opening. He'll have separate signage since it's not a Barr piece and that pad will be rotating between the artist-in-residence pieces that are on loan for a certain amount of time after they do their residencies.

Director Muck said the last thing is the solar and wired-in lights, which are left over from David. There's still a lot to do and we'll be spending the next year evaluating the use of the park, what are the comments from residents and the Parks Commission, and what are the uses of the park. That's a conversation we had with the Friends of the Villa Barr last Monday, starting a five-year plan for that park and the operation of that park and how it's used by the surrounding communities.

Deputy Director Ringle said we hired a landscape crew to work through the gardens and restore some of the gardens. Some flowers and bushes have been replanted. The opening is 6 p.m. Friday, 10/12. We're going to have students from Eastern Michigan University that will be on site to talk about the pieces to the patrons there. The Friends of Villa Barr will be there to talk about David and Beth and some of his visions, as well. The artist in residence will be there and she'll be able to talk about what she plans to do there and her interactions with the schools. It'll be a great event and we'll do an actual dedication as part of that event. The Novi News is going to come out and do a walking tour with some photos and video and learn a little bit more. The Detroit News picked up the press release this week, too.

5. Village Wood Lake Park (August) – Commissioner Muzzin

Commissioner Muzzin said it's an undeveloped park with water front. There are a number of people who take advantage regularly of the fishing opportunities there. We went early in the morning and there were already 3-4 people out fishing. It's hidden in the neighborhood, so there are so many secret gems I'm finding. Signage shows fishing is allowed and the park hours. There is one solo picnic table in the whole park, but that was one comment by one of the gentlemen that it'd be nice to have a second one. It was up against a shaded area near the water. The path goes to a keyhole look and back around. It's very nice and there is ample parking for this park.

Commissioner Dooley asked if there were still soccer fields at the nearby Brookfarm Park? Director Muck said there is, but it's not used often.

Commissioner Joshi asked to verify there were five parking spaces at Villa Barr Art Park and the park would be open to the public after 10/12? Director Muck said the initial thought was to get the park open to the public and that's what City Council wanted, as well. Not knowing the volume of use it would get, that's why we did a small parking lot, but it was designed in case we want to expand it.

Commissioner Torimoto asked what the planned hours for the park are? Director Muck said it's the same as the other parks at 8 a.m.-dusk.

Commissioner Staab asked if there were plans to put out signs that it was closed in situations where it's wet out? Director Muck said there are no plans to do that and it'd be like any other park. It's up to peoples' discretion to use that. Staab asked if any CIP items would be submitted for that. Muck said not for next year, but it needs to be evaluated and one thing is upgrades to the studio. Staab asked if they planned to do fundraising through Friends of Villa Barr? Director Muck said that's not really their role. They're more advisory and the fundraising is more Foundation or staff role.

Commissioner Muzzin asked if there was a way to close it to the public for security reasons in the future? Deputy Director Ringle said the driveway to the house was gated off for the security of the artist in residence. As far as securing the property, the sculptures have been there since David lived there. They're heavy and bolted down, so they're not going anywhere. Having an artist in residence adds a layer of security and keeping an eye on the park. Muzzin asked if there were any plans to put barricades up to prevent vehicles from going in. Director Muck said it's possible, but there are multiple entry points to that park. People could come in from the neighborhood to the rear of the park. Like most parks, if someone wants to get in, they'll get in. The only time he said he sees it being potentially closed is if there were another phase of construction or massive flooding where it needs to be closed for a few weeks to dry up. No plans at this point.

Commissioner Muzzin asked what the timeline was for the next artist in residence? Deputy Director Ringle said they're due 9/30 for the January residence that could go up to 16 weeks. They propose different lengths to us and a commission of folks review them.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Nominations

Director Muck said we've proposed something different than we've done in the past to make things easier for commissioners. At each commissioner's seat is an appointment interest form where commissioners can fill them out tonight and turn into staff before they leave. Management Assistant Chris Jackett can then compile the responses. Instead of debating and going back and forth at the table, we can bring you forth a ballot at the next meeting, tallying them up and you can vote at the next meeting and we'll transition into the new roles for the November meeting. Just fill out the interest forms, put your name at the top of the sheet and turn it into staff at the end of the night.

Commissioner Torimoto said he likes a lot of the parks and asked if he can circle more than two? Director Muck said he could.

Commissioner Dooley said he liked it and it was democracy at its finest.

B. Wildlife Woods Park Improvements

Director Muck said there is a new development going in north of Wildlife Woods Park named Villas of Stonebrook. We've talked with them and they're going to have access off Wixom Road. They've proposed to get his access. What the developer needed to do was to make sure access was still provided to the gas well, but it couldn't go through the neighborhood. What we've discussed with him and have actually come to agreement is he would provide the road and a separate access point into Wildlife Woods, provide a 10-spot parking lot for us

and a parking lot leading up to the pavilion. Now, we have reached our goal of a separate access, separate away from the school district. We now come in off Wixom Road and have a dedicated entry point from Wixom Road that's not mixing with the school traffic. That can be an overflow parking. Our pavilion is rented there, but it is quite a long walk from the shared parking lot. We think will increase our rentals. But it also leads to the conversation about future use and opportunities in this area.

Commission Thomopoulos asked if the field to the west was just practice soccer fields? Director Muck said they were since they're very low lying and wet areas. It's not usable very often without putting money into construction and drainage. Commissioner Staab asked if the Novi Bobcats still used that area? Director Muck said they've move to the high school. There's some lacrosse, but a lot of the green space isn't used.

Commission Thomopoulos said she loves that we're getting access for park users that feels more comfortable. She also appreciates that we're sharing an entrance instead of cutting down more trees to add more cement. Kudos to the developer and staff's conversations with that developer to bring that about. When given the chance, she will also ask for pickleball. Director Muck said that is 100 percent what he'd like to put in. Staff are hearing over and over again that that's wanted. This seems to be a prime spot for pickleball. We're working to get quotes for pickleball now. Thomopoulos asked if it would interfere with the ball field? Muck said it's mainly used for kids' games, so we're not worried about distance. He said he failed to mention the development is very age-focused for 55 and older. It's starting to line up as a perfect spot for pickleball. We've been looking to find a perfect spot for pickleball for 4-5 years. You have to consider the noise to other residents around the court, the population that uses the courts and the time of day they use the courts. We've had questions on why we couldn't just put the pickleball courts on the existing tennis courts and that could create backlash from the tennis programs. The stars seem to be aligning to have this as our pickleball court area.

Commission Thomopoulos said sand volleyball is something that could be considered for the unused area to the west of the pavilion. It could get use from families using the pavilion. Sand also drains fairly quickly.

Director Muck said he'd like to hear commissioner thoughts on the playground. The school does have a large playground within walking distance of the pavilion. If we put in pickleball courts, what are commissioners' thoughts on a large playground or small playground?

Commissioner Staab said there would be space for something small in the back.

Commission Thomopoulos said she thinks you've got one right there, unless there's some discomfort level with using it during the summer or weekends.

Director Muck said we haven't really had issues with using the playgrounds or tennis courts, but he has heard there's school security and safety, which is why we don't really program anything at the park when school is in session.

Thomopoulos said maybe we need input from the community. You don't want to duplicate something that's already there. She said children using Lakeshore Park, quite a bit are moms with young children. They're pre-elementary school, so they might feel their kids are too young if the school kids come out and they can't be there when the school kids are there. If we did something focused on the toddlers, the playground like the one in the back of Lakeshore Park could be

appropriate. Director Muck said, to wrap up the conversation, the priority for staff to focus on is to focus on the pickleball for the initial first stages.

Commissioner Staab said, as a counter to the playground, you're only about four miles away from the Pope play structure that's going to be redone in the next year or two. Commissioner Dooley said he agrees with that statement and we don't need another playground. Commissioner Torimoto said he's used the playgrounds at Wildlife Woods as his daughter was growing up and it seems redundant to have another playground there, even if you're trying to differentiate between the different ages.

Commissioner Torimoto asked what the trail back there is doing? Commissioner Thomopoulos said that's the ITC Connector to Providence Park.

Commissioner Staab asked when the development is scheduled to be developed? Director Muck said they're still working through the permits, so at least 1-2 years probably.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck said ITC Corridor Trail's updated map was just shared with Walkable Novi to reflect the segments that have been completed and also that the segment from 10 Mile to 11 Mile is now under construction. Brush clearing and grading has started in the Nine Mile and Garfield area, so we do anticipate this project will take into next spring due to the amount of boardwalk that needs to be constructed and due to the sheer size and volume of the pathway. This map will be updated in the future with access points to the trail, as well as amenities like the comfort station when that goes in at Nine Mile and Garfield. When the ITC Community Sports Park storage building is done, we'll add that in there, along with things like bicycle repair stations along separate points along the trail. Speaking of the ITC Community Sports Park storage building, you may have seen that's going up very rapidly and should be done no later than October. That'll house our park maintenance equipment so our park maintenance team won't have to haul equipment all the way across town from the DPW building, which is being reconstructed, as well. It'll be a very efficient and time saving building for them, but will serve as a focal point for access the ITC Trail at ITC Community Sports Park. If you haven't been out there lately, take a drive out there. Bosco Fields is out to bid. We are currently getting those bids back and we'll be taking contract approval to Council in October. Any construction we can have before the snow flies; we'll do, as well. The water tower property some of you had asked about at the last meeting. That is still in process. There's a well on the property that's scheduled to be abandoned on 10/1. We are about ready to put out a bid for site work around the tower; brush clearing, a small shed on the property that needs to come down. That'll be put out to bid and we're also getting close to putting out the bid for the actual water tower restoration. That would be sandblasting, painting and restoring that. That work is being targeted for next summer. Lakeshore Park and Pavilion Shore Park shoreline stabilization is in the design and engineering phase. This is to address the erosion issues we're having on both of those shorelines. Those will be going out to bid this winter and planning for next spring or summer for work to be done. Other things we're doing is we're getting close to budget season, so staff has been updating quotes for our capital improvement program, things like

playgrounds, our mobile soundstage that needs to be replaced, and those other types of items. Budget is rapidly approaching, so we're getting those done. Lots of projects and lots of moving parts.

Commissioner Staab asked if the restoration of the actual water tower, what would the painting on the side be? Director Muck said staff is proposing that be redone as is. Staab asked if it would keep the original Novi Special? Muck said it would propose to leave that as original, but to weigh in with Council when that comes up if you have thoughts on that.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said coming up is Villa Barr on 10/12, but the next day is our S'mores Run, which is our 1-mile run into the woods to pick up pieces to make s'mores at Lakeshore Park. The Novi Concert Band has a performance 10/21 here at the Civic Center. Day of the Dead will be 10/28 and that is the Mexican heritage celebration put together by our Mexico Lindo Ballet Folklorico group. New on 10/27 we're partnering with Novi Town Center for a Halloween event. Rather than duplicating efforts, we're partnering with the Town Center who does a program. They're providing a storefront for us to do some games, activities and meet and greet the Novi community there. They've had a great turnout in years past. And then 9/29 is Dooley Dog Park at ITC Community Sports Park. Soccer is underway and a few of you are ingrained in that program, as well. It's an exciting time in the office.

Deputy Director Ringle said she talked about summer camps at the last commission meeting and said she'd provide some statistics since it's a point of pride for staff. We have camps in cultural arts, which are dance, art, theatre and music. We have outdoor, which are Lakeshore and PowerPlay, as well as education. And we have sports, which is soccer, basketball, lacrosse, volleyball and a few others. Cultural arts camps had a great summer with six new camps offered: a tropical luau dance class, a fairy magic dance class, a comic art class, rock stars and divas dance class, young stars musical theatre and young stars choose your own musical theatre. Young stars are the tikes getting ready to be in our musical programs and the dance program, and the rock stars and divas and fairy magic dance are young performers who are joy to watch come in and out of the Civic Center. All of those, the last day of camp the parents were invited to come for a performance that the kids and parents both thought were great. Cultural arts camps saw a 36 percent increase in campers over 2017, which is great with those six new camps. We offered, for the first time, before and after care 7 a.m.-6 p.m., which allowed some campers to participate and 36 participated in before and after care. We're going to offer that again next year with a few tweaks and anticipate that to increase as people realize that's an option for them. Our revenue was up 28 percent over last year. Amelia Purdy-Ketchum is our lead on cultural arts camps and she's done a great job. Outdoor and education camp details. Scienstational was a new camp for this year and they had 27 campers. They did everything from building rockets and robots and learning some minor chemistry and things along those lines. We partner with Community Education on some programs so we're not both duplicating efforts, but we're both taking registrations. If it's a smaller robotics or LEGO camp with a niche group of kids that would be interested in that, we both do enrollment and host it either here or at the schools. We're able to offer that and the kids are

happy to do that. In outdoor and education camps, we saw a little bit of a dip at 3.5 percent lower than 2017. We had a few reasons for that. This year, the Fourth of July fell on a Wednesday, so Camp PowerPlay and Camp Lakeshore, we offered camp Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. When it falls on a Thursday, we offer Monday-Wednesday so its consecutive days. When it falls on a Monday, it's the second half of the week. So, when it falls on a Wednesday, it is harder to enroll kids. That's the one week Lakeshore wasn't full with registration. We start registration in March and a lot of kids register to make sure they have day care. As we get closer, they peel off dates for vacations. Our policy for that is 10 business days – about two weeks prior – is a \$10 penalty for doing that. What we had to do is go through the waiting list and call. They registered in March and canceled in July, they've already found another place for their kid. To fill these spots, it is staff time. Sometimes there were times where we didn't get a space filled back in. At our national conference for parks and also at some regional meetings, we are going to discuss some different cancellation policies that have a little bit more of a penalty for cancellation. We're looking at what's a month out due versus 10 days out. Hopefully it will queue people to let us know about their plans a little earlier so we can refill those spots since the need and want are there. We do surveys and after action reports for a lot of our programs so we know what to change year after year. We're looking at changing some of our contracts and to see if we can have some new offerings, as well. Despite having a 3.5 percent decline in registrations, we saw a 5 percent increase in revenue. We did a price comparison and did a price increase for Camp Lakeshore and PowerPlay of \$10 per day and \$10 per week. We're still way within range of camps around the area, so it didn't deter people from registering for camps in March. Our sports camps also had some new programs for 2018, partnering with X-golf for a premier junior clinic, girls lacrosse skill sessions that had 28 participants and we worked with our tennis pro, Todd Beyer, to offer a junior tennis tournament that had 16 participants. New offerings are always increasing and turning over interest for the community. We had 10 percent additional campers over 2017. The Detroit Pistons camp was a great story, increasing 32 percent since 2017 and 98 percent since 2015. That first year, we had 42 campers. People are happy, they bring out their mascot, Hooper, and do some fun Globetrotter style tricks on the last day of camp. Camp revenue for sports camps were up 22 percent over last summer. We had a great summer and look forward to having a lot of those kids back, both campers and camp counselors.

Commissioner Staab asked how many enrollees were in Camp Lakeshore this summer? Deputy Director Ringle said we have 60 per week for eight weeks, so about 480. Between the two, we were close to 800. We do have some people who do just a day or two, too. Staab asked, if we had our new building, the smaller building, how many more could we accommodate? Director Muck said, depending on the size of the building, we could do 75-100 per week. Staab asked if staff thought they could sell that out? Ringle said they believe they could. The waiting list is 40 deep.

Commissioner Torimoto said if the target was to maximize revenue, there's only so many kids you can take, even for the outdoor camps. The Lakeshore camp was saturated and as soon as PowerPlay started, the waiting list blew up. Because of the convenience of PowerPlay, as well as the population location, at some point there's a capacity issue. It's just going to show, unless you increase the cost per camper, the revenue is going to be flat, right? Deputy Director

Ringle said yes. Torimoto asked if staff was just trying to maximize the number of participants to keep everyone happy who wants to go to camp while keeping the cost competitive? Ringle said yes, servicing the community is number one. Our costs increase. We are now paying our part-time employees more and the cost of some goods are up, as well; so the costs to run the camps have increased, too. First and foremost is to service the needs of the community, more than hitting a revenue goal. Torimoto asked if the goal was to have zero wait lists? Ringle said that would be great. Torimoto said the cultural arts camps saw a pretty big jump and asked if staff runs into not having enough lifeguards or instructors? Ringle said all of these are outside instructors. Our next step to expand the dance program is to hire another dance instructor. Our dance instructor has her assistants, but we're at the capacity of what they can do. Director Muck said there are programming space issues, too. We cannot accommodate all the programs we want here either.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said Medicare 101 learning the ABCs of Medicare will be held 1 p.m. 10/3 at the Novi Public Library. Our second-annual Pinochle tournament will be held 2 p.m. 10/6. On 10/11, we're holding "What you need to know about beneficiaries" here at 10:30 a.m. at the Civic Center. There is no charge for that one. Medicare is going to be a hot topic between now and 12/7. We are going to have Medicare open enrollment two-hour presentation as far as what to look for when working on Medicare. We're also going to offer six sessions of one-on-one counseling, which are approximately an hour and a half by appointment. We have individuals who will sit down with them and a list of their medications and guide them along to try and help them out as much as they can. A new program we have in cooperation with Schoolcraft College is an evening of Broadway hits via 40-member wind ensemble. That musical will be here 10/24 at 7 p.m. and will be free, as well. Our annual flu shot clinic will take place 10/25 at Meadowbrook Activity Center, starting at 1:30 p.m. We'll also have blood testing, glucose testing and something new is the bone density. There's no reservations for that, people will just come over to Meadowbrook Activity Center. Our annual Halloween luncheon will take place on Halloween, 10/31. It'll be sponsored by Right at Home, an in-service to come to your home and help with your parents to give you some free time. Our veterans brunch will take place 10 a.m. 11/8. We encourage and invite all of you to attend any of those.

Commissioner Dooley asked to verify the Medicare 101 date? Manager Kapchonick said its 10/3. Dooley asked where the veterans brunch would be held? Kapchonick said it'd be at the Novi Civic Center Thursday, 11/8.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Representative Wou said the new parent drop off at the orchestra lot has been doing pretty well and she's heard from her classmates a lot of positive feedback. It's not as hectic. There aren't as many kids walking between cars and it helps to have the administration out there directing everyone. Commissioner Dooley said he remembers

when the middle school did that and those were the same comments they had as parents.

Commissioner Muzzin said she has no further comments.

Commissioner Staab said she appreciates the very in-depth meeting they had this evening. The presentations have really raised the bar. Really in-depth information and he appreciates Deputy Director Ringle's graphics on the summer activities. Staab asked if she worked on that with Management Assistant Jackett or put it together by herself? Ringle said they always work together. Staab said he likes the pop ups and how it's spliced together.

Commissioner Joshi said there's been a lot of discussion online with social media about the planning and development of the city and where this is going. As parks and rec and as one of the commissioners, she said she feels sympathetic to preserving green space, even if it's just a lot with trees on it. She hopes they can continue to go in this direction as the commission looks at the future. She's hopeful this should be a good sign.

Commissioner Torimoto said Novi was listed as one of the best places to live in the country, it made the top 50. If you look at the reasons why, its availability of events, hiking, engagement, park access near Walled Lake, etc. Just the balance of nature and programming you have available. Looking at the list of parks today, we have a woods park, a dog park, an art park and a lake park, and we haven't even talked about Meadowbrook Commons, Lakeshore or the ice arena. Just the availability of facilities, the programming and everything you guys do make it a great place to live.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said we always have presentations from Director Muck and his staff. Today, if you think about it and all the stuff you went through with the improvements to Wildlife Woods, the water tower, the ITC Trail and the excitement with Villa Barr Art Park, your passion and excitement for what you do for us as the city residents came through. It always does and you guys are great about it when you give us updates, but today it was very poignant and appreciated. It's been an exciting fall for your staff and hopefully people are going to take advantage of all the opportunities you create for them in this city. Thank you.

Commissioner Dooley said it's really wonderful that we all have a passion for parks, rec and cultural services, whether it's us behind the table or listening to the presentations this evening from our various chairs. We don't take this lightly, we're very passionate, we all have our interests. Commissioner Torimoto said it well. We have so many different parks in this city. If he had his way, he'd do a presentation every month on every one of those parks. We've all visited every one of those parks for the most part and we're very blessed to have what we have in Novi. It's one of the reasons why Novi truly is one of the greatest places to live in the United States. It's a blending of cultures and a blending of the different networks that make up the City of Novi, including the department and the commission. He's very happy and proud to serve on this commission. He's looking forward to a robust discussion on, as you turn in your ballots, on where your interests lie for November.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 8:26 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Shelley Thomopoulos, Vice Chairperson