

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016 – 7 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

ROLL CALL: Staab (Present), Bauss (Present), Dooley (Present), Jewell (Absent), Pratt (Absent), Thomopoulos (Present), Torimoto (Absent), Student Representative Wei (Absent).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved that the agenda be approved as written by Commissioner Dooley and seconded by Commissioner Bauss.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Dr. Mav Sanghvi, a Novi resident for more than 41 years, spoke on behalf of Novi Rotary to introduce Lee Mamola, a past resident of Novi. Mamola presented concept drawings to enhance landscaping in an area of Rotary Park with a monument that would highlight prominent Rotarians from over the years.

Commissioner Dooley asked about using native shrubbery at the site.

Commissioner Bauss asked about the location of the monument and gardens within the park. Suggested relocating as to not take up the lone open active space in the park.

Commissioner Staab appreciated the duo coming forward with ideas on park enhancements.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the design is compelling, but suggested putting the monument closer to the footpath to add visibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of July 21, 2016 minutes.

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioner Bauss

Commissioner Bauss said no new business. Next committee meeting is Sept. 15.

B. Novi Parks Foundation – Commissioners Torimoto and Jewell

Commissioner Staab said both representatives were absent tonight.

Director Muck said the Aug. 16 meeting did not have quorum, but Pour on the Shore was discussed.

Commissioner Staab thanked Rachel Zagaroli and volunteers for coordinating the event and said it was an excellent event.

Commissioner Bauss said it was a great event and well done.

Commissioner Dooley said it was fun to be there.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said she had a great time and thanked those who poured.

Director Muck said initial figures show about \$16,000 was raised from the event.

Deputy Director Ringle noted Discover Villa Barr would take place 2-5 p.m. Sept. 24 at Villa Barr Art Park. Wine and cheese event to educate people on the Barr family and art. Event will feature musicians, local artists at work, docents to speak about the art on site. \$20 tickets will get you four pours of wine, available online at noviparksfoundation.org.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt and Dooley

Commissioner Dooley said nothing new to report, hoping to have next meeting in September.

Director Muck said resolution and motion would be going to City Council to renew grant committee since two-year existence period has sunsetted.

D. Parks Maintenance Standards

1. Villa Barr Art Park – Commissioner Jewell absent.

2. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Thomopoulos

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the park was well maintained. It was very quiet, with a resident walking their dog who enjoyed the park, had no concerns or suggestions. Noticed the trees were all the same age and were struggling.

Director Muck encouraged residents and commissioners with tree concerns to contact the PRCS office to be passed on to landscape architect or city forester. There are guarantees on the trees where they could be replaced.

Commissioner Bauss confirmed fishing was allowed on the lake with a state fishing license. Said he's come across deer and blue heron at that park. Said it was more accessible and a nice pocket park.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Presentation and Discussion on Senior Transportation Bid – Recreation Supervisor Jessica Mistak

Director Muck introduced Jessica Mistak, who joined the department in February after working with Wayne County and Westland.

Supervisor Mistak introduced existing senior transportation program, which drives residents around within city to doctor's appointments and other errands. Utilize vans with wheelchair lifts as needed. Six vehicles traveled more than 94,000 miles last year. Provides more than 10,700 one-way rides per year; 3,340 to riders with disabilities. Access and Excel currently used for scheduling. Proposed software would utilize tablets that have flexible schedules while collecting data on fares, speeds, mileage, no shows and other real-time data. Auto tones indicate real-time updates when schedules change. Ecolane has helped improve services for providers in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Illinois. The Normal, Ill., municipal transition is very comparable in size and old systems. The next steps in the purchase would be 8/29 Council approval, data migration, staff training, marketing/FAQ and implementation in January 2017. Re-access program in July 2017.

Commissioner Bauss asked about licensing to individual communities and ability to do shared licensing with neighboring communities to reduce expenses. Also asked if federal dollars would be available to fund/subsidize this.

Manager Kapchonick said federal funding comes through the SMART program. Novi Police did not know of other additional funding sources.

Commissioner Bauss asked about mix of riders needing a lift vehicle vs. non-lift vehicle.

Supervisor Mistak said 33 percent of rides use lift.

Commissioner Dooley asked about metro radius of one-way rides.

Supervisor Mistak said there was a 10-mile radius limit from the Civic Center. Residents can call or go online to schedule an appointment, will be able to see list online of upcoming scheduled rides and will receive text message notifications regarding rides.

Commissioner Dooley asked about expanding hours of operation on both ends of the day.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said the new technology will be wise. Asked about length of licensing agreement and whether there was an app for smartphone users. Commissioner Staab asked about cost.

Supervisor Mistak said cost would be a little above \$75,000 to implement and about \$7,500 annually, including the cloud hosting and pre-purchased 10,000 text messages.

Commissioner Staab asked about demographic of users.

Manager Kapchonick said the majority of users live in own homes or apartments, or else at Fox Run and Whitehall. Usually do not pick up from living facilities. Some have limiting disabilities and live with parents, but are transported to jobs within the community.

Motion to support software bid and place on Council agenda approved by Commissioner Dooley and seconded by Commissioner Thomopoulos.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Project Updates

Director Muck said Pavilion Shore building is coming along. Expects substantial completion by 9/11. Will have more information coming out for ribbon cutting and/or dedication ceremony. Lakeshore Park Shelter 3 will commence construction in Sept/Oct. and be ready for next year. Power Park benches and dugout covers are complete and receiving positive responses from adult softball players. Pathways will be widened after Civic Center parking lot renovations complete. ITC trail segment from ITC Community Sports Park to Nine Mile is complete and finished well ahead of schedule.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said PRCS had been awarded a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs grant in late 2015 for the purpose of reinvigorating sculptures at Fuerst Park. Following staff turnover in that area, PRCS has received seven applications for new art installations at that park. Grant funding with match from Novi Parks Foundation would provide a \$750 stipend to artist for installing six sculptures, new signage, cement installation pads and possibly a marketing brochure. Applicants will be shared with Cultural Arts Advisory Board later this month to determine what six to install at that park.

Engage is out in the mail and also online at cityofnovi.org. S'more Family Fun Run is 10/15 at Lakeshore Park. "Run" one mile to collect pieces of s'more. Day of the Dead Mexican heritage event featuring Mexican Lindo Ballet dancers 2-4 p.m. 10/30. Fall soccer, our largest sport program, begins practices next week. In the process of wrapping up FY 2015-16 data and planning to wrap up in September. Commissioner Bauss asked how Fuerst Park application was communicated to local artists.

Commissioner Staab asked who was on the Cultural Arts Advisory Board.

Director Muck said the intention was representatives from the schools, library, public at large and a local artist, but it's gone through some fluctuations. New Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy is building it back up.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said 55+ Softball League is finished. Gatsby's & Orange Crush won the championships for American & National Leagues. Twelve teams involved. Senior golf league had 103 golfers. The 85th birthday celebration is 8/25 at Meadowbrook. The '50s Sock Hop is 9/29 as a partnership among five communities. The Senior Day at Michigan State Fair is 9/1. More than 50 participating, plus a waiting list. Health Fair 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 10/15 at Meadowbrook Commons. Celebrated 15th anniversary at Meadowbrook Commons last week. Commons broke ground on 8/17/99 and currently houses 199 residents. Sixteen individuals were part of the inaugural batch of residents. There are 42 residents who are 90+ years old and live independently. Refrigerators installed in ranches, hot water heaters being installed, security cameras coming in the future.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Thomopoulos said Pavilion Shore's pavilion/bathroom was happy to see the cedar blocks were painted to match the red arches.

Commissioner Dooley said he's glad the CIP passed 8/2 because it was something the city needed to do as citizens who voted. The Novi Ambassadors got together for dinner 8/2 with the first and second class of ambassadors. Anyone interested in signing up for the third ambassador class can email Sheryl Walsh.

Commissioner Bauss said there are so many things for every age group be engaged with in this community. Said he was grateful for the staff providing these opportunities. Said Pour on the Shore was a great example of the community coming together.

Commissioner Staab said he echoed what other commissioners said. Very positive. Said the \$16,000 is as good of a number as the Foundation has done with the several years of golf outings.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Staab at 8:02 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Charles Staab, Chairperson

Doug Bauss, Vice Chairperson