

Director Muck added that they are looking at a July date for a greater community type of opening.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Joshi

The next meeting will most likely be in July. Director Muck stated the scoring is not back on the nature park grant. The evaluation process is going on now at the DNR. At the July meeting some projects will be brought to the committee.

D. Parks and Facilities Updates

1. Village Wood Lake Park – Commissioner Dooley

Commissioner Dooley did a presentation on Village Wood Lake Park with many pictures showing the different areas. The first thing he noticed was how well the park was marked. There is not a lot of parking but there is a handicapped section. The park is comfortable, clean, safe place, and looked stellar for the month of April when he visited. The trees looked healthy. There is a retention pond where people can go fishing and a private area in the very back of the park which would be a nice place to throw a Frisbee or football. The park is a nice balance of areas that people can walk on the path, middle land, and areas to preserve and help wildlife that might be living there. Commissioner Dooley highly recommends this park, which is clean, well maintained, and manicured. It is a hidden neighborhood gem.

2. Ella Mae Power Park – Commissioner Joseph

Ella Mae Power Park will be presented at next meeting.

3. Rotary Park – Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith visited Rotary Park and included Chase Farm Trails in his presentation which he used a drone fly over for the visual. The new signs at the trailhead and by Chase Farms Trail were pointed out. The drone flew over the parking lot, playground, and shelter. It continued over the south end Chase Drive, trees, Rouge River, and the trail that leads back to Rotary Park. Commissioner Smith commented that the playground looked great with woodchips, shelter and the restroom structure looked nice and clean. The tennis courts looks like they have been refreshed. Most of the trail is marked with pylons which were constructed as an Eagle Scout project fifteen years ago. The bridge on the trail seemed solid but could use a bit of paint. The creek normally has a lot more water. The trail leads into a couple of backyards. Commissioner Smith added it feels odd, but it is well marked and actual trail. He encouraged everyone to go explore.

Commissioner Joshi asked about how to access the Chase Trails. Commissioner Smith had several suggestions and explained the people that live there know that it is a trail and they understand having foot traffic through there.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Outdoor Exercise Stations

Director Muck presented the outdoor exercise stations which were discussed briefly at the last Parks Commission meeting. In March, City Council brought forth a special outreach program that was focused on increasing engagement, delivering support services and resources to senior citizens and residents of Novi with special needs or accessibility challenges. One of the immediate action items that was identified by a council member was a senior playground also known as an adult exercise park. On top of the physical health benefits there are psychological, physiological health, disease prevention benefits and it helps people adhere to a regular exercise routine. Outdoor exercise stations help decrease depression, increase energy, satisfaction levels due to access to green environments. Those are just some of the benefits that these playgrounds provide. An outdoor exercise park was installed on the Meadowbrook Commons grounds in 2015.

Feedback from this Commission and the Older Adult Advisory Board identified Wildlife Woods as the most ideal location to construct an eight-station exercise park. One of the reasons Wildlife Woods was selected was the opening of the pickleball courts. Adding the exercise part provides another healthy activity for seniors. We feel that this is going to make Wildlife Woods a destination location for senior fitness opportunities. The park is going to be accessible to the ITC trail and with the newly planned connector extension to the Ascension/Providence complex that will be coming this fall. There is a new entrance to Wildlife Woods off Wixom Road. The parking lot is adjacent to the shelter. This entrance has significantly increased the use and accessibility of the park. The proximity to the middle school allows for their athletes and physical education classes to utilize. The plan is eight units that would allow up to eighteen people to exercise at one time.

The exercise station will be located immediately south of the pickleball courts. The stations are designed for kids fourteen and older and there is also availability for wheelchair users. The exercise stations include a shade canopy for weather and sun protection and will help prolong the life of the stations.

Greenfields is a very well-known company that has been around since 2007 and doing the installation of this type of fitness stations all around the country. They are a vendor in our cooperative purchasing agreement, so we get a discount on the equipment. The company is also developing an App to launch in 2021 that will provide users the ability to search for gyms like this near their location, explore exercises available on the units, create workouts and access instructional videos. Director Muck continued, if Council approves this plan, we will install the exercise stations as soon as possible. It would be an eight – ten-week lead time for the equipment and additional time for the installation which would probably be early fall. This would be about the same time as the ITC trail extension.

Commissioner Dooley asked about the maintenance of the machines and user life. In addition, he asked if the shade canopy will be a three- or four-season type. Director Muck answered the maintenance and inspection will be similar to a regular playground. The warranty is ten years on posts and metal structures, five years on parts and bearings. An estimated lifespan was not provided. The shade structure will be a three-season due to snow load. He added that the equipment at Meadowbrook Commons has had 1 repair in six years and it is not covered by shade.

Director Muck continued that next location up for Council discussion and decision is Rotary Park because it is on the Southeast side of Novi. Another reason for this location is the trail enhancements as part of the Oakland County water and sewer project from Nine Mile Road to Roethel Drive. The stations could be located along the trail providing a great exercise opportunity. Rotary Park provides access to over 3,800 households within a one-mile radius. Invasive species has been cleared out along the trail which opened up space for the equipment. The stations will be easily accessible from Nine Mile. There will be four units allowing up to fourteen people to exercise at one time. The stations are designed for ages fourteen and over but different from the stations at Wildlife Woods. These work well along a trail as a supplement to walking. A shade structure was not in the proposal. The layout presented was just a tentative plan and there are different options to consider. The Wildlife Woods structures would also be part of the App.

The exercise station installation would be when the water and sewer project is substantially complete in late fall of 2021 or spring of 2022. The stations would be ordered soon due to the country's supply chain issues.

Commissioner Staab commented that the Rotary Park layout stressed mostly upper body exercises. Director Muck explained since people will be utilizing the stations while walking the trail the focus will be on upper body. Commissioner Staab also inquired about the sanitation protocol, Director Muck feels it is more similar to playground equipment and not indoor gym equipment. Commissioner Joshi questioned the weight capacity. Director Muck explained weight limits will be posted on the machines and in the user guide on the App. He added that the equipment is moveable and could be relocated if not getting enough use at Rotary Park.

The exercise stations will be taken to council on Monday, and we will see the response and hopefully get the exercise stations in the parks.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Projects Update

Director Muck started with Lakeshore Park updates. They are still completing punch list items and touches on the park such as the siding of the building being painted, parking blocks installed, adding benches, tables and grills with benches being installed by the lake shore. Additional landscaping will be added in June especially along the western side property line to help with screening for the residents.

There were two garlic mustard pull events- April 24th and May 8th. Thirty-six volunteers pulled an estimated 1800 pounds of garlic mustard. This put a dent in the fight of the invasive species however, it will need to be done again next year.

The Novi Road water tower project has started with taking down the existing antennas and putting up a temporary cell phone tower. Painting and sandblasting will start the week of June 1st. It will probably be a three – four-week project with painting and sandblasting.

The north ITC playground is fully opened with the new poured in place / safety surfacing. The ITC Trail Nine Mile segment is now complete. The trail runs from Eight Mile to Ascension. The Power Park Playground that was previously discussed is on order and should be coming in the next couple weeks.

Bosco will not be signed off yet because it was not acceptable to our standards. The contractor was tasked to go back and do additional seeding, irrigation, and patching.

2. CAPRA Re-Accreditation

Director Muck thanked Commissioner Dooley for bringing the staff ice cream. The week started Monday with a meeting with the visitation team which included the lead from Missouri and two others from Florida and New Mexico. Throughout the week they asked many questions and requested a lot of support documentation. It has been a stressful week for the staff since it much more in-depth than the initial accreditation. We have been providing documentation and staying positive. Friday will be the debrief and we are unsure if we will get a ruling or not.

Commissioner Torimoto asked questions concerning the process, time limits and if it is pass / fail. Director Muck explained that this visitation team is reading standards differently, they want every example of compliance where the previous visitation team was fine with two examples from the list. There is a lot of grey areas in the verbiage and overall accreditation process. Deputy Director Tracie Ringle added it is subjective because everyone has a different expectation of the examples. There are items that every municipality, park district does differently as far as levels of authority, procedures, and internal policy depending on the size of community. Director Muck believes there is a challenge type of opportunity to go back to the overall commission if we do not agree with the site team's findings.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Tracie Ringle stated the June to July Engage book will be in mailboxes next week. Inside there is a whole bunch of great programs for our

residents that our exceptional recreation team has put together. There is a full plate of summer dance programs which continues to be a growing program for us as people continue to add to their recreation repertoire. Art programs keep increasing as well, even beyond pre-COVID numbers. Camps will be in the Engage except for PowerPlay and Camp Lakeshore which are sold out for the summer. Fitness programs are also coming back as more people want to get back into that routine, feel good about themselves and get their heart rates up. People are getting comfortable with group settings.

Select team soccer tryouts will take place June 12th and 13th. A new process for the coaches to make placement offers throughout that weekend will be happening. It is difficult for children and parents to wait for up to a week to find out if they made a team. This change will be well received by the families. The volunteer coaches will need to make some changes however, Greg and Chase will help them out.

We have added some older adult programs including bingo. We are working with Tollgate Farm to do summer tours in mornings, once in June and July specifically for older adults. In addition, nature hikes will be held for that audience with a naturalist from Oakland County Parks. We have added the Backyard Classic which will take place June, July, and August. It will be held at a different park each month with games that our older adults played when they were younger and awarding a Backyard Classic trophy.

Deputy Director Ringle continued with information about two offers for residents at Villa Barr Art Park. The first would be a photographer for August – September and then a poet during October - November. A commission / jury reviewed and selected the applicants. Initial conversations were regarding the community benefit and interaction with the community.

There are new COVID guidelines, and we have all heard outside is good to go so we are very excited to have people being able to gather again. We have partnered with the library for the Sizzling Summer Art Series which has expanded by three shows in the evening. This will help working parents that were not able to attend in the past. The Wednesday shows will be at 10:30, Thursday and Friday in the evenings. Sizzling Summers will be held at Fuerst Park and Lakeshore.

Deputy Director Ringle continued that we anticipate facility rentals increasing due to a lot of interest with people wanting to host family events and business meetings.

Commissioner Joshi asked if the new Engage considers the lifted restrictions. Deputy Directory Ringle explained many programs did not list restrictions. We can now promote for higher audiences, adjust our registration software, and call people off waiting lists.

C. Older Adults Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Special Outreach Services Update

Director Muck said Judy Klein is continuing to make calls to Novi residents 55 and older. This has increased referrals to our transportation and loan closet. A tech support class was held May 20th in Council Chambers. Sandy Fisher mentioned that many participants signed up due to conversation with Judy. A couple OAS drivers are doing wellness checks a few times a week for people we have not been able to get ahold of by phone. They deliver an Engage and transportation

information. Council did approve the vehicle wrap expense for the rest of the OAS vehicles. This will increase the visibility with bright, shiny graphics and information. This should increase participation in the program with keeping medical appointments a priority.

Commissioner Joshi mentioned that she received a call from Judy Klein last week. Director Muck explained that calls are being made to phone numbers with someone in the household listed as 55 and over.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Joshi

I wanted to wish the best of luck for the Capra accreditation. I know it is always a stressful time. I hope they consider the previous accreditation, and that the city does a good job.

Commissioner Riggins

Today was such a beautiful day I hope everyone had a chance to get out in the parks. I also want to wish the best of luck for the reaccreditation. Commissioner Smith's presentation of the drone view was awesome. Have a great summer and get out in those parks.

Commissioner Smith

I hope to do a report on Lakeshore with the drone next month.

Commissioner Torimoto

I am pretty excited about everything that is going on. Mlive was having a day to spend or hang out in Northville Novi, and they picked up on Villa Barr and something that is unique about Novi. Greg Morris sent out different opportunities from learn to play to leagues to try out pickleball at Wildlife Woods. It is great to create opportunities for all the citizens. Looking forward to being outside more.

Commissioner Staab

I wish Jeff, Tracie, and the rest of the staff the best on the reaccreditation process. I've been through many audits, and I've succeeded on most and had issues on a few. Keep plugging away and your nose to the grindstone. I truly appreciate all the great updates and information of the exciting things as always in the City of Novi Parks Recreation and Cultural Services area.

Commissioner Dooley

I am looking forward to getting out there myself to play pickleball, it looks like a fun game. I agree with everyone's comments on accreditation. Director Muck, Deputy Director Ringle, and their staff are recognized in the state of Michigan for being quality, A+, it is incredible that we get to meet with them once a month to share those passions. I would like to acknowledge Damon and his staff for being part of Miss Amazing which happened at Fuerst Park. Miss Amazing is a pageant for special needs young ladies. On Saturday there were twelve contestants who represented different age groups. Last year's winners were on hand to crown the 2021 champions. The winners will go on to Nashville. Thanks to the parks support staff for setting up, working the event, and

cleaning up at the end of the day. The parents and contestants were very appreciative. This event put Novi in a tremendous light and was well represented the last two years.

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 8:22p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson