

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, July 21, 2016 – 7 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Staab presiding.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of June 16, 2016 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for June be approved as written by Commissioner Pratt and seconded by Commissioner Dooley.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Capital Improvement Program Millage Proposal Information – Finance Director Carl Johnson

Director Johnson introduced self and detailed the CIP millage was for 1 mill and is dedicated to capital improvements. The city has three road millages from 10-15 years ago, with two ending and being paid in full. One ended June 30, 2016, and another ends June 30, 2017. Both are for about 0.33 mills apiece, levied to every taxpayer in the city. Council dropped the overall millage to 9.95 mills, the lowest in all of Oakland County and almost the entire state. Millages are voted on by the people for specific purposes, so we cannot roll the 0.66 from the road millages into a newly purposed plan. Six-year capital plan includes \$97 million of bricks and mortar and vehicles. A study of capital needs showed about \$10.8 million needed for Parks and Recreation; \$7.8 million which is included in the six-year plan. Funding isn't there without the millage. Parks & Rec millage is 0.5 mills run back to 0.37-0.38 mills and strictly used for operations to generate about \$1.2 million for programs and \$1.2 million from property taxes. None of it is available for extra capital needs. The general fund only has about \$2 million to put toward new capital projects. Parks & Rec only gets \$300,000-\$400,000 of that to use toward the \$10.8 million in needs. The 0.1 mill requested will bring in about \$3.2 million annually for 10 years, so about \$32 million total. Of the \$98 million in the plan, there are dedicated millages of \$20 million -\$30 million for roads that's excluded, as well as drain projects, water and sewer. It's Parks & Rec, fire trucks, DPW trucks, plow trucks. This millage is restrictive. It can only be used for capital, not personnel or operating costs. The CIP plan is online

at cip.cityofnovi.org with details on all of the projects in the six-year plan. We can't fund all those projects, so we've been prioritizing what we can. The City does not like to issue debt. They are strong believers of pay as you go. A debt bond would mean we'd get the \$32 million now, but have to pay it off like a mortgage and it would cost \$40 million-\$41 million paid over the next 10-15 years. The millage is another way to pay as you go. The two biggest short-term projects are the new \$2 million-\$3 million facility at Lakeshore Park and \$5 million Public Works facility. \$1 equals \$1,000 of taxable value to you. If your house is worth \$200,000, your taxable value is about half at \$100,000, so you'd pay \$100 per year with the new millage. Commissioner Dooley asked about spending money up front and recouping it in the remaining years, such as spending all \$32 million projected in the first six years and recouping during the last four years of the millage.

Commissioner Staab asked if the millage verbiage on the ballot lists the CIP projects. Commissioner Thomopoulos asked about what is currently funded out of the \$98 million six-year plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioner Bauss

Commissioner Bauss said they just had their first meeting since January and a lot of master plan issues and feedback was discussed. The next meeting is tentatively 6 p.m. Sept. 15 and will focus on reviewing the annual non-motorized plan prioritization update. Draft is reviewable online. Handed out a copy of Novi Today article about ITC Corridor Trail and the regional trail overview map with the different phases.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked about extension of trail north of I-96.

Commissioner Staab asked about sidewalks in subdivisions and impact of tree roots. Director Muck indicated those issues can be reported to the Department of Public Safety by citizens.

B. Novi Parks Foundation – Commissioners Torimoto and Jewell

Commissioner Torimoto said there was a meeting last Tuesday. Pour on the Shore tomorrow night has 414 tickets sold so far. Foundation bylaws and funding options discussed.

Director Muck said walk-ups will be accepted if tickets are available.

Commissioner Staab also mentioned a Sept. 24 wine event for \$20 at Villa Barr Art Park to get that location exposure.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt and Dooley

Director Muck said the committee had to cancel tonight's meeting due to lack of quorum.

D. Parks Maintenance Standards

1. Pavilion Shore Park – Commissioner Dooley

Commissioner Dooley said he was very pleased with the park. It was very clean, no residue. Saw some crew working on the park. Considers it a show piece.

Spoke with people who talk about parks in Novi and they reference Pavilion Shore. Spoke with resident Mike Wilson, who lives on the lake and rides his bike through it, and he's pleased at how relaxing it is. He really appreciated the historical plaques about the casino, amusement park and shelter. Wilson's parents met years ago there when it was an amusement park. City Manager Pete Auger was hoping the shelter would be ready for Pour on the Shore, but it

was out of the city's hands. Dooley spoke with Rachel Zagaroli and it won't impact Pour on the Shore. Said the signs and shoreline look clean. Commissioner Thomopoulos said she visits that park frequently, she hears tons of positive comments and it's been even busier lately due to it being a Pokemon Go gym. Patrons requested the upcoming events billboard include a map of all the parks in Novi since other parks are referenced. Patrons also requested benches in the shade on the hill, as well as more trash cans. Said the current trash cans are the most attractive ones she's ever seen. Commissioner Staab said a new marketing brochure is coming to Novi to allow people to buy a park bench to have new ones installed throughout the city.

2. Fuerst Park – Commissioner Staab

Commissioner Staab said in the 1980s, that park had a house there before being updated in 2009. Parks & Rec took it over and mitigated problems. The house was taken down and the park built. Several activities took place there over the years, ranging from the former farmer's market to film sessions and movies on the wall, as well as Township Hall rentals. Stopped by Monday while at the Novi Public Library and said it looked good.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck
1. ITC Community Sports Park Expansion
- Director Muck said the Grant Committee didn't meet tonight, but this item had been discussed for a while. Has the potential to make a great impact on the city as far as park property in the southwest region of the city. We have the opportunity to expand ITC Community Sports Park. We're looking at the 88.32 acres directly to the east. It's a former gravel pit and borders the current 73.81 acres of ITC CSP. The northern edge is where the ITC Corridor Regional Trail is coming in. We have plans to route the trail through CSP, which we received a transportation grant for in the past month or so. Maybury State Park is connecting south of Eight Mile Road. It has a lake and is a flat, open area. We started looking at potential. The ITC Trail and need for additional fields for soccer and cricket, as well as more park shelters. Speaking with the DNR, we could transform that lake into having fishing access. We could also put in new playgrounds, hiking paths and natural habitats, including a butterfly habitat. We walked the grounds a few months ago and there were butterflies everywhere. In order to do this, we are going to have to look at who we can collaborate with. Staff has met with representatives from the DNR, Michigan Jaguars Soccer Club, Novi Youth Baseball League and the Detroit Cricket League. The DNR has expressed interest in helping with the development of the park as far as trails and fishing access. Michigan Jaguars SC is extremely interested in this park property and expressed interest in establishing a turf outdoor field, potentially installing lights. Their program is growing and in need of a turf field, so they'd look to raise funds to construct that and develop a long-term lease agreement with the city on that property if we acquire it. They've been having to practice in Milford and outside of Novi because we just don't have the space. Novi Youth Baseball was interested as to how this would impact their existing fields at ITC CSP, but thought this would be a great enhancement for the city. Detroit Cricket League has been always asking us for space. They discussed funding a wagon wheel of four fields and making it their home base. Cricket is just booming in the area. They'd

look to raise funds to construct that on their own and secure a long-term lease. The CIP millage does include wording that it could be used for land acquisition. It's a new potential, so we haven't done any conceptual planning yet. If the CIP millage passes, we'd be in discussion with Council about interest in acquiring this land and going into negotiating with the land owner.

Commissioner Bauss asked about what put this on the radar. Said the features could be really cool.

Director Muck said upcoming CIP budget for reconstructing ITC CSP could be used to construct new ITC CSP section and use current area as practice fields. Jaguars expressed interest in artificial turf and lighting, almost a stadium feel. Commissioner Bauss asked about potential swimming in the lake and also the housing development east of the discussed property area.

2. Lakeshore Park Pavilion and Activity Center Information

Director Muck said he wanted to give a conceptual look at ideas for the Lakeshore Activity Center discussed in the CIP millage. Discussed the need to update to American with Disability Act codes and increase space for youth summer camp and adult fitness class demands. The building would have multiple functions, primarily with youth summer camps and programs, but also with being a polling location, public restrooms, community meeting space, Older Adult Services classes and possibly even a materials drop-off/exchange/kiosk for Novi Public Library, serving the needs of the residents north of I-96. This isn't the standard community center; it needs to look more residential and blend in with the park. With the redesign, we talked about moving the entrance due to land topography and lake view. Also for adding parking, paving parking lot if it'll be a polling location. We looked at traffic studies to stagger speeds of people entering the park. When the Motor City Mountain Biking Association has events, it currently backs up onto the road because you can only queue up two or three vehicles on the end. The playground and large shelter need to be replaced. I wouldn't pay attention to the new boat house, as those are not in the immediate plans. Currently used for lifeguard supplies. Not going to be a boat or kayak launch in the immediate future. New building would be potentially two tiers, could host sunrise/sunset yoga, baby or bridal showers, etc.

Commissioner Staab said it looked excellent.

Commissioner Bauss said it would be a tremendous asset to the community. Director Muck said rentals would not be large weddings. Building doesn't have a kitchen. Focus will be on kids, older adult programming and a polling location. Started showing conceptual images to homeowner associations and capital needs assessment has been viewed by City Council.

Commissioner Bauss asked if the initial response has been positive.

Commissioner Staab mentioned there was a casino in the area was there less than 60 years ago.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said, if approved, it'll be important to open discussion up with the residents.

Commissioner Staab said servicing north-end residents has been an issue for years.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle 1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said Camp Lakeshore and Camp PowerPlay are both sold out for the summer, encompassing about 100 kids per day. Cultural Arts and sports camps have limited spaced available in August. Availability viewable at cityofnovi.org/camps. Today is last day of house and recreational teams without a late fee. Sizzling Summer Wednesday series continues 10:30 a.m. each week at Fuerst Park. Last Friday movie is 8 p.m. Aug. 19 at Fuerst. First Movie on the Shore with band and food will be Aug. 30 at Pavilion Shore Park for viewing of "The Good Dinosaur." Festival of Chariots is this Sunday at the Civic Center. It's an Indian food and cultural event. There will be a helicopter flower petal drop over Fuerst Park for the first time. At 9 a.m. July 30 there will be a Motor City Mountain Biking Association Tree Farm Relay at Lakeshore Park. July is National Parks and Recreation Month and residents are celebrating at the beach. The busiest day has been June 17, which is the Sunday after school got out. Our busiest time is consistently 1-3 p.m. both weekdays and weekends. We do have a Heat Index Policy. Between 81-93, we encourage extra water breaks. When it reaches 94-100 degrees, we provide water coolers at our programs. This happened tonight at youth baseball and adult softball tonight. At 101-109 degrees, we may shorten the length of our programs. If the heat index is above 110, we'll cancel programs until it drops again. Novi Rotary invited Novi Parks to present to them June 30, which Jeff and I attended and gave them a quiz to see how much they knew about the local parks.

Commissioner Bauss asked if there have been any water quality issues at Lakeshore Beach this year. Deputy Director Ringle said it's been tested and found to be safe.

Commissioner Staab asked about the formation of the Heat Index Policy.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said Meadowbrook Commons would be celebrating its 15th anniversary soon. Helene Meizler is the August Volunteer of the Month. She's been a volunteer for the past seven years, starting out with Meals on Wheels and continuing with the canasta program, our special events, book mobiling club and started our ladies lunch bunch; where they pick out different restaurants in the neighborhood. We're currently looking at November and looking for vendors for our Health Fair at Meadowbrook Commons. We do flu shots compliments of Meijer. Next Thursday is Tiki-riffic luncheon at Meadowbrook, followed by our 85th birthday celebration Aug. 25 for anyone 85 or older. We celebrate their birthdays and any activities they've done. We create special keepsake books. Will be working with the Michigan State Fair to provide a free ticket and transportation. Looking for nominations for an outstanding senior. Also encouraging 250-word essay contest for experience at any fair. Sept. 29 we'll be hosting a Throwback Thursday '50s Senior Sock Hop in partnership with Northville, Livonia, South Lyon and Milford. It's an opportunity for us to do programs each of our communities can't otherwise find enough people to do a program. Also an opportunity to branch out and socialize. Tickets on sale now for anyone ages 50+. Our loan closet just finished up the fiscal year and does a great job providing a need. Commissioner Dooley asked about the OAS strategic plan survey results.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jewell thanked everybody and said the concept for Lakeshore Park looks outstanding.

Commissioner Torimoto said he's been enjoying a lot of the programming like usual. The outside movie was fun. He's always enjoyed Camp Lakeshore and considered it a jewel, but sees the opportunities with what was presented today. ITC CSP hopefully has the opportunity to move forward. Thinks the partnership approach is a great approach. Has to learn PowerPoint for parks maintenance standards. Hopes to see everyone at Pour on the Shore tomorrow.

Commissioner Bauss thanked everyone for all that they do. Said he'll be at Pour on the Shore as a celebrity pourer. Said he supports the millage. It would really help the budget process and keeping the city standard high.

Commissioner Pratt said the senior programs are great getting that whole group out and active. Also supports millage for Lakeshore Park; it's in need of some improvements.

Student Representative Wei thanked everyone for all they do. Said the parks are very well maintained. Recalled going to Pavilion Shore Park a few months ago and noticing how clean it was. Said Parks & Rec catches all the details for their parks and programs.

Commissioner Thomopoulos thanked everyone for the presentations and warm welcome at her first meeting. Looking forward to help maintain all the great programs and also attending Pour on the Shore tomorrow.

Commissioner Dooley said he echoed the comments of the other commissioners. Said the monthly presentations are great and staff isn't afraid to get their nails dirty to represent everyone by stepping up. Novi Ambassadors are getting together Aug. 2 for what they hope is a victory celebration for the CIP millage. Next Novi Ambassador class begins in September. Those interested can contact Sheryl Walsh.

Commissioner Staab thanked everyone for their presentations and urged everyone to attend Pour on the Shore tomorrow. Urged the audience to investigate and vote on Aug. 2, and vote positively in support of the millage so we can keep Novi a crown jewel not only in Michigan, but throughout the country.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Staab at 8:23 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Charles Staab, Chairperson

Doug Bauss, Vice Chairperson