

## **PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018 – 7 P.M.**

### **NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Dooley (Present), Thomopoulos (Present), Bauss (Absent), Jewell (Present), Pratt (Present), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Jooho Lee (Present), Alice Wou (Present).

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was moved that the agenda be approved by Commissioner Thomopoulos and seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Approval of Oct. 19, 2017 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for October be approved by Commissioner Pratt and seconded by Commissioner Jewell.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Bauss & Thomopoulos  
Commissioner Thomopoulos said the last meeting was in September and feedback was given on the non-motorized priorities. The next meeting to finalize those is 2/15. The approved segments for 2018 are south side of Pontiac Trail (Beck Road to West Park Drive), a new crosswalk at Novi Middle School, completion of the ITC Corridor Trail from Nine Mile to 11 Mile, and completing a segment on Nine Mile at Plaisance.  
Director Muck said, at last Saturday's City Council goal setting meeting, the Walkable Novi Committee was directed to identify critical sidewalk gaps for the 2018-19 budget, with focus on connections to the ITC Trail segments and connecting major corridors.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto  
Commissioner Torimoto said the Foundation met in December and had a final approval of the bylaws. Within the bylaws, a vice president meeting was discussed and Brian Adams was elected to that position.  
Commissioner Staab said he was elected secretary, David Landry continues as president and Karen Taracks continues as treasurer.
- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Pratt  
Commissioner Dooley said tonight was the first grant meeting with the new City Council members, including newcomer Kelly Breen and incumbent David Staudt.  
Commissioner Pratt said staff have been or will be working on some Michigan Land and Water Conservation and cultural arts grants. Good things are coming our way.

Director Muck said the Grants Committee directed staff to look at one potential property acquisition. Staff will be writing a Michigan Land and Water Conservation grant to fund shoreline restoration at Pavilion Shore and Lakeshore Parks. That's part of the CIP plan. Will also be applying for a Recreation Passport grant to assist with the renovations and reconstruction of the Tim Pope Playground. The Recreation Passport grant is funded from recreation passport license plate fees. Priorities are given to renovations of existing facilities. Much more to come on both projects; cost estimating and grant writing before we get into design or anything.

Commissioner Staab said he's glad to see the grant targeting the Tim Pope playground.

D. Parks Updates

1. Wildlife Woods Park (Sept.) – Commissioner Torimoto

Commissioner Torimoto showed a PowerPoint display on the park behind Novi Middle School at 11 Mile and Wixom Roads. Torimoto said he had inspected the park a year ago at the start of the season and now at the end of the season and you can see the difference. The soccer fields were in great condition overall. The goals were locked together and looked newer. Those fields tend to flood, but it was overall in fantastic condition. The northern part's gate area changed. Pole was moved. Noticed tracks in the wet field.

Director Muck said new bollards were going in to discourage motor vehicles from going in, but still allow bicycles back there. New swing bollards are found to be more effective. Also going toward blue bollards as a standard color.

Representative Singh asked when was the last time the tennis courts were resurfaced?

Director Muck said it is maintained by the school district and we'd have to check with them. The City maintains ITC CSP and Rotary courts and has budgeted repairs into the CIP.

2. Villa Barr Art Park (Aug.) – Commissioner Jewell – Postponed to next month

**MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:**

A. Reassignment of Parks Update Roles

Commissioner Dooley asked is this something we want to continue doing, keep current assignments or rotate assignments? Said he personally does not care either way.

Commissioner Staab said we should continue. It's a mixed bag as far as continuing on the same parks as previously. Has enjoyed it. It's nice to have a benchmark from the past as you chart future visits.

Representative Lee motioned to postpone a decision until February.

Commissioner Pratt said a decision should be made tonight since everyone is in attendance.

Commissioner Jewell and Thomopoulos said it doesn't matter to them whether it's the same or different park assignments.

Commissioners Torimoto and Pratt suggested switching assignments after each park is visited twice (ie. annually).

Commissioner Dooley said he likes the idea of the same person hitting the same parks.

Commissioner Torimoto asked if people who didn't want to change it didn't want to because they had a preference of a specific park? He said we could go park by park to decide changes.

Commissioner Jewell said he'd support rotating every two visits, but is good either way.

Commissioner Dooley said he'd like to get this resolved tonight. Commissioner Dooley asked whether anyone felt strongly about doing any parks?

Commissioner Jewell volunteered to report on Lakeshore Park (June/December) and Pavilion Shore Park (February/July) in place of Commissioner Dooley. Jewell will also finish his second Villa Barr report (August) next month. Commissioner Thomopoulos volunteered to take Wildlife Woods Park (May/September) and Novi Ice Arena (January/November) in place of Commissioner Torimoto.

Commissioner Staab will retain Fuerst Park (March/July) and Ella Mae Power Park (June/October). Commissioner Pratt volunteered to take Rotary Park (May/September) and Meadowbrook Commons (March/December) in place of former Commissioner Bauss. Commissioner Thomopoulos volunteered to retain Brookfarm Park (April/November) and Village Wood Lake Park (February/August) until a new commissioner is appointed to fill former Commissioner Bauss' seat; at which point they will be appointed to Brookfarm and Village Wood Lake.

Commissioner Dooley volunteered to take Novi Dog Park (March/September) and ITC Community Sports Park (April/October) in place of Commissioner Pratt.

Commissioner Torimoto volunteered to take on Villa Barr Art Park (January/August) in place of Commissioner Jewell. Commissioner Torimoto also opted to take over Brookfarm in the interim from Commissioner Thomopoulos until a new commissioner is appointed.

Commissioner Staab asked whether the student representatives would like to participate in this also? Student Representative Lee asked what it would entail? Commissioner Dooley said, if the student representatives are interested, they can contact one of the commissioners and ask to accompany them on a park visit to review it and take photos. Student Representative Lee said he would be interested in the visits to Wildlife Woods Park.

Commissioner Jewell asked whether we want to change this on an annual basis. Commissioner Dooley said we can probably make this one for calendar-year 2018.

#### B. eBikes Discussion

Director Muck said there is Q&A info sheet in the commissioner packets from the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance. It relates to a 10/30/17-signed law by Gov. Rick Snyder that authorize the use of electric bicycles in Michigan, subject to some limitations. Some highlights of the act, which takes effect 1/28/18, are identifying an electric bicycle as a device an individual may ride and is equipped with the following: a seat or saddle for use by the rider, fully operable pedals for human propulsion, an electric motor of not greater than 150 watts (or 1 hp). These are already available and out there, people are using them and they're becoming more prevalent. There are three different classes of electric bikes that mainly relates to how much the motor assists, when the motor assists and the speed they can go. The bikes are subject to all the same legal requirements as non-electric bikes. You can ride your electric bikes on city, county and state roads. Director Muck said we wanted the Commission's feedback as this relates to trails. The authority of a trail has jurisdiction over the permits the bikes are using. Natural surface trails are the non-motorized ones at Lakeshore with a natural surface like crushed limestone or similar materials. Electric bicycles are not permitted on these trails unless we as a City decide we want to allow these bikes to opt in. Linear trails are asphalt such as the ITC

Corridor Trail. These are allowed on linear trails such as ITC and the M-5 Connector unless the community elects to opt out. We don't have any rail trails in Novi, but the City would need to opt in for those. In speaking with the Motor City Mountain Biking Association and seeing how the International Mountain Biking Association views these, we don't see any need to do anything in Novi. Staff's recommendation is mountain bike trails and natural trails at Lakeshore need to stay that way. They are non-motorized trails. For ITC Trail, these bikes would be allowed just like on sidewalks or roadways. Since they're classified as a non-motorized bike, they should be allowed on the ITC Trail. At this point, we do not have any plans to take anything forward to City Council to change rules, opt in or opt out based on this new public act, but we wanted to inform you and see if you had any strong options.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said these electric bikes are basically bikes with electric assists. You can ride it as a bike and not turn on the electric assist. For Lakeshore Park, Commissioner Thomopoulos said she'd allow them because you probably wouldn't use the electric assist going through those trails or else you'd lose control or feel like you're losing control. Commissioner Thomopoulos said she thinks we could allow electric bikes on Lakeshore trails, unless it becomes an issue. Then we could say we don't want them. It requires you to do something, which is odd. Commissioner Thomopoulos said she doesn't see an issue with allowing electric bikes on the trail because people would typically be using them in a manual mode anyway. We could always just wait and see if someone says they see someone riding and it's against the rules. She said she hasn't seen that. Commissioner Pratt said it's been seen throughout the state, the state parks, Waterloo Trail. eBikes are a major concern that the DNR staff considers a motorized vehicle. It hinders the people that are there for an actual workout. But the DNR will leave it to the local municipalities to do their own if they want it or not. Lakeshore is pretty tight. It's getting a little bit tricky. It's not flat like it used to be.

Commissioner Jewell confirmed there are currently no electric bikes allowed at Lakeshore. Said he firmly believes it should be the way it is unless you get people complaining about it. He sees pros and cons either ways, and he does a lot of biking, and he's see them at Island Lake and they're a nuisance. A lot of people say they don't engage them, but they engage them and they get in the way. Commissioner Thomopoulos said a good bicyclist can go 20 mph without electric assist. It's not like they're going faster than a manual bike.

Commissioner Pratt said that's why DNR staff called it a motorized and they didn't get into miles per hour, because you do get those speed racers who can get up that high.

Commissioner Torimoto asked whether speed is the biggest issue. Is it harder to steer?

Commissioner Pratt said it's both controllability and speed. If there's a pack and a lot of people out there, it gets harder to control with people walking.

Director Muck said he would echo Commissioner Pratt as that is what internal discussions with staff and the state park Public Policy Committee. There was a lot of concern about assisted bikes overtaking non-assisted bikes and how they're tearing up the trails that these volunteers are putting countless hours into. At the same time, we do want to encourage these bikes on trails like the ITC Trail because we want more people recreating and having healthy activities because they can go further and see more space. Around the state and like

Commissioner Pratt said, when it comes to land managers, these kind of bikes on single-surface, natural trails aren't a good idea at this time. We can always revisit when they become more prevalent and come out more.

Representative Lee said there's always a handful of people who go between the high school and middle school with them. Said he thinks it's a good idea, but when the roads are really salty, he'd go against motorized vehicles on the roads because there's always the chance of accidents or conflicts.

Director Muck said no action is needed at this time. We should monitor and potentially revisit if we start getting complaints at Lakeshore about them either being on there or not being on there.

Commissioner Staab said, from a liability standpoint, if we come out and say we allow it, wouldn't that affect our insurance? Director Muck said it potentially would.

Commissioner Pratt said it would impact our trail management.

- C. OAS Strategic Plan Presentation by OAS Manager Karen Kapchonick
- Manager Kapchonick said the makeup of America is changing, more Americans are living longer, healthcare awareness is on the rise, advanced technology is changing our lifestyles, economic lifestyles vary widely and the senior population is growing. Understanding these changes is important in serving our Novi residents 55+. In the next five years, we'll be providing service for three distinctive age groups: the Silent Generation (born 1945 and earlier), Baby Boomers (born 1946-64) and Gen X (born 1965-80). To position ourselves for the changes, we reached out to the community to obtain feedback through four community conversation focus groups and a survey. We had 98 individuals attend community conversations between the leadership team, residents and healthcare providers. We mailed out more than 4,400 surveys to past program participants and received about 260 responses back through SurveyMonkey and 71 paper surveys. We had a 7.5 percent return on that. The community conversations and the surveys gave us a broad range of information for our staff and Older Adult Advisory Board. Through that, we developed a vision, mission, strategies and an action plan. The vision is: "Be the premier community for empowering adults 55+ to live healthy, active lifestyles." Our mission is: "Promote healthy, active lifestyles that support independence and vitality for adults 55+ by providing opportunities and networks within the community for socialization, health and fitness, transportation, life-long learning and support services." For our strategies, we took on what City Council does in utilizing the letters in "Novi," which is N for nurture, O for operate, V for value and I for investing. Taking that a step further, that led us into our action plan, which assists our staff in strengthening our operations in implementing the vision, mission and the strategies. Through the public input, that led to identifying our four action steps. We have two clarifying statements to help us with fulfill with our continuous improvements. The four are communication avenues, a very common thread with both groups. Our program effectiveness and how we're doing with programs, should we offer them or look at other options. Resource awareness and what can we provide the residents with their many interests. And then strengthening community; that was an interesting one. We talked about what you see in other communities that you'd like in Novi. Some were golf courses, swings, swimming pool; things we know aren't feasible. Some were community center, some type of a senior center, somewhere we can go to maintain stability, fitness and have an identity in the community. Through that, we came

up with six service areas. One is exercise and fitness, another is health and wellness, another is lifelong learning, social enrichment, support services and transportation. Many we have currently, but we modified some of the names of those service areas. Global planning will be essential in all service areas, taking into consideration age, cultural diversity, economics, socialization interests, health and housing needs, and accessibility and evolving needs. As a five-year plan, we have to be broad in our thinking. Approval of the 2018-22 Older Adults Strategic Plan will strengthen Novi's commitment to provide premier services for those 55+ that promote healthy and active lifestyles. Next week, we'll share the plan with you via email and welcome any suggestions or questions you may have. Would like to have that completed by 2/2 and then share it with City Council.

Kapchonick said we had 333 responses when we compared SurveyMonkey with our paper surveys. The biggest age group was 75+, at 45 percent of respondents. And 36 percent came at those ages 65-74, and 77 percent were female and 22 percent male. Most individuals were retired. Eighty-seven percent of respondents said they were aware we provided activities, so that was good to hear. Fifty-two percent said, although they're not participating now, they would participate at some point. As communication has always been our biggest concern, we found more than 49 percent receive their information through Engage! and 33 percent is word of mouth. Eighty-two percent said City of Novi is a community for a lifetime. The participants we talked to directly is very appreciative of what City of Novi offers. A lot of concerns were about their health and who they would rely on later in life. Many felt it would be their children or spouse, but many thought it would be friends because they don't have children or they live out of state. We were trying to find out what would be a good time to offer classes and it was pretty split. Many felt it would be good to offer during the day on weekdays and it was pretty split for weekends between morning, afternoon and evenings. Factors one considers when deciding to participate in programs caught a lot of us by surprise. The top three were personal interest in a topic, program content and activities, and the schedule. Some of us felt we'd hear more regarding the cost of the program and the instructor, and that seemed to be on the lower end. However, factors one considers when deciding not to participate in a program was about the same. Program content, schedule, location and cost. Eighty-eight percent of respondents were aware of the social programs we offer. That includes the fitness classes and health and wellness. Eighty-seven percent consider themselves physically fit. Seventy percent said they had participated in physical activities or exercise in the past month. The biggest one was walking, which is the biggest nationally. If they have avenues for walking. A good example for Novi is the ITC Trail. Kapchonick said she would say 90 percent who responded, walking was their best form of exercise.

Kapchonick said, about transportation, 83 percent said they were aware transportation services were offered, but 79 percent said they are not using it now, but would if they needed to. The fact that they're aware of it is great for us. We had a rating on our customer service and our drivers rated very high, and the responsiveness of our schedulers. It's been one year since we started our demand-response software program. We asked them and most of them have their cars as their means of transportation. Six percent said they rely on family, friends, Uber or Lyft. Uber or Lyft and will be our upcoming competition in the years to come. The reason for services is 55 percent medical and that is very true.

Commissioner Dooley confirmed the deadlines as being before 2/2.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

#### 1. Park Updates

Director Muck said Council directed City staff to take back the Lakeshore Park project and have a public input session with the community. That was held 12/2 and we wanted to thank everyone who came out for that. We had a lot of commissioners there, about 75 residents there. Residents did share their ideas and visions with us. A lot of comments and robust comments, some that City staff didn't previously consider. Things like opening up Shawood Lake to kayaks or other uses, improving Shawood Lake and the water quality. Additional access points to the lake off West Park Drive or 12.5 Mile and Dixon to the mountain bike trails in that area, even creating a park entrance back there. People threw out some ideas and that is what that was for, what their vision was. We heard about a natural design for the building for an integrated design into the park. A lot of comments about nature. Where we stand is the City admin has met to debrief and discuss what residents have brought forward. The next step is City Manager Pete Auger to discuss what staff and Council heard and start deciding on what direction for staff will be, what that'll look like, the next iteration, what do they want brought forward for Lakeshore Park to take. Ultimately, it is what Council wants, so we're waiting for those discussions to happen. Hopefully we'll be coming back to you, after those discussions happen, with some additional information.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said thank you for hosting that event. It was well attended and moved fairly well, was well facilitated, given the number of people there and wanting to speak. Will be looking forward to what City Council and staff come back with. Said she does think whatever that concept it, we should have additional citizen input sessions like that – if the involvement is going to be on par with the level of investment as was previously proposed – to see if it's on track with what citizens want.

Commissioner Torimoto said a vote was taken and approved funding the Lakeshore project in terms of assumed scope of improvement. There were a lot of things that are issues now as far as expanding it, what sort of deadline is there in terms of it was approved, now we need to actually do something? His concern is it is being dragged on because there are different opinions. Is there a deadline?

Director Muck said Council could continue to say it's funded and we have the money, but they can decide whether its shovels in the ground this year or in the ground next year. If they wanted to completely pull it, there's no deadline. Commissioner Thomopoulos asked whether pieces of the project could be implemented before others are decided? Director Muck said it could, but would then cost a lot in the long run.

Commissioner Jewell asked whether all the projects presented to the Commission before are now on hold. Director Muck said they are.

Commissioner Staab said he agreed with Commissioner Thomopoulos in that the meeting was well attended and Director Sheryl Walsh-Molloy did an excellent job facilitating that were there for a vision and not complaints. After that meeting, he said he's heard from a lot of citizens that this was passed in Aug. 2016 and they want to know when are they going to see some fruits from the

referendum? Staab thinks it's time to put it back on the table and get to the next steps. The longer we wait, the longer it'll take and the longer the money will sit in escrow or whatever since we've passed the millage. Thinks we need to be able to show the citizens, this is what we did and this is the product going forward. Commissioner Pratt said he seconded it. He realizes money can get reallocated quick, so, if this is a priority, we need to keep with it.

Director Muck said ITC Trail from Nine Mile to 11 Mile we're planning to break ground likely in July. We're in the permit process and will go out to bid this spring. That'll finalize the complete ITC Trail this year, most likely in October. You'll see that constructed this summer and that is way ahead of what was scheduled. That was before Director Muck arrived in Novi. It is ahead of where the original vision was. The Park Maintenance and Facilities team has been working on a new storage building for ITC CSP. We'll be building a new storage building this spring. That'll house some of the items currently in the storage containers and also allow for the Parks Maintenance team to house things there that they're currently driving across town from the DPS building. It'll be a real benefit and cost savings. Villa Barr has had some brush clearing as part of the drainage project done by the road commission. We'll be doing some additional clearing this spring and tending to some drainage issues in preparation for the parking and pathways project in 2018. Hopefully that'll be done in September/October so we can do a grand opening to the public this fall, and we would have a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for that. Also for Villa Barr, Deputy Director Ringle and Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy-Ketchum have been working with the Friends of Villa Barr group on an artist-in-residency program. We have a volunteer who wants to be our test run of an artist-in-residency in Villa Barr this summer. We plan to have someone in that house so they'll be looking at things in that house to tell us what worked, what didn't work, what else needs to be done. Meanwhile, this winter, around \$70,000 maintenance will be taken care of within the Villa Barr residence itself that was contributed by the Novi Parks Foundation. Those will be things like the windows, stucco on the outside need to be repaired, some of the decks need to be repaired, painting on the inside and things like that. The Parks Foundation has funded that in preparation of getting Villa Barr ready. You will see Villa Barr open up this year to the public and to the artist-in-residency fully. One of the newest initiatives is the water tower property. We talked about this a few months ago and are moving toward closing on that property as we speak. For those just tuning in, the City Council has directed toward closing on the Novi Special water tower property on Novi Road almost across from the Novi Road Cemetery. At the Council goal setting last Saturday, Council set a long-term goal for 3-7 years to develop a walkable urban park on that site with a summertime modern splash pad and winter ice rink. In 3-7 years out, we will look at doing that big project. There's a lot of apartments down there and potential new developments at Main Street. The whole goal is to get people down at Main Street somewhere to go, but also to bring features to Novi that people have wanted for a long time. Those CIP dollars are being spent on Villa Barr, water tower and the ITC Trail.

Commissioner Staab asked whether there is a match from City Council for the dollars donated from the Foundation? Director Muck said no, because the City Council is taking care of the parking and pathways, along with the council for the arts.

Commissioner Torimoto asked whether Villa Barr Art Park is open? Director Muck said its public property, but there's no parking lot or pathways. It's not accessible. People do go out there and we take people out there. Commissioner Pratt asked whether the unit at ITC CSP is just a storage unit or whether there would be space to do repairs in there? Director Muck said it would have a bay area to work in.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said we've been working toward our winter programs and transitioning into the spring. One new program from Recreation Supervisor Cristin Spiller is Finding Bigfoot. It's a social media-based scavenger hunt encouraging residents to get into our parks during the winter. We have a Bigfoot who is a plywood schedule who is located every Monday to a different park and we give hints every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. People are encouraged to share their photos and people with the most participation earn a free week of camp at Camp Lakeshore. It's been fun for us internally, as well. If you go on our Parks Facebook page, you'll see photos and people engaging. Cristin is also working on our Daddy Daughter Dance, which is always a popular event and takes place 2/2-2/3. We have the potential to host more than 1,150 attendees over three dances. Saturday night is already sold out, Friday night is 55 percent sold out and Saturday afternoon is 23 percent sold out. It's always a popular event and we added the three dances two years ago, encouraging people to register early if they have a preference as to what dance. The Mother-Son Dance is also coming up 2/23 with Cristin. On the sports side, Recreation Supervisor Greg Morris and Programmer Chase Root are working on Camp Arctic Adventure, which is our mid-winter break camp that takes place 2/19-2/20. It has really great registration numbers so far and, but there are still some spots that remain. That takes place at the Novi Ice Arena and has kids interacting both inside and out, providing an opportunity for parents while the kids are off school. Our Chili Chilly Softball is back for the third year, fourth attempt, as we have winter weather this year. There's no snow, but the ground is frozen, so we won't be doing any damage to the fields. We have five teams and it starts Saturday at 9 a.m., then they'll come in and have lunch sponsored by Kerby's. It's another great way to get people engaged in the outdoors through the winter.

Recreation Supervisor Amelia Purdy-Ketchum and Programmer Carrie Morris in our cultural arts division have the Novi Civic Theatre presenting "School House Rock Jr." 1/25-1/28. We have two casts, so the shows will be split between those two casts. Auditions for the next show, "Honk Jr.," will be 2/10 and those shows are in May. Our theatre program continues to grow after getting a reboot and "School House Rock Jr." is our second reiteration of a children's show. It's been very well received and we look at additional revenues to enhance that theatre program. Lastly, summer camp registration starts 3/1. It sounds early, but it's just around the corner and our recreation staff is busy putting those together. That'll be up on our Web 3/1 and Engage! will be in homes 4/15ish.

Commissioner Staab said congratulations to Amelia Purdy-Ketchum for her nomination for Employee of the Year.

Commissioner Pratt said he'd be here Friday for the Daddy Daughter Dance. Commissioner Torimoto asked whether there was anything that could be done to host Saturday night in a larger venue? Deputy Director Ringle said there has

been discussion, but hosting it in a third-party banquet facility would cause a price jump. As far as having it here, we're really at capacity and the Saturday afternoon dance helps alleviate that.

Commissioner Jewell asked whether holding it at a new facility at Lakeshore Park would be bigger? Deputy Director Ringle said we'd be bigger here at the Novi Civic Center. Jewell said that'd be a consideration to make a bigger facility over there.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said some of the upcoming programs starting this week include Color Your World over at Meadowbrook. It's an art class that will be doing plate painting with Amelia Purdy-Ketchum, who is handling a lot of the art programs over at Meadowbrook. Another one is Colored Pencil Art that will be held next Wednesday, 1/24. Our famous Valentine's Day luncheon will be on Wednesday, 2/14, sponsored by Wellbridge of Novi. Another popular social service activity is the AARP taxes. On 1/3, we opened up reservations for time slots. We have about 360 slots available and have about 50 percent filled currently. We just had our one-year transportation software program anniversary. We also purchased a 2017 Transit van that holds nine passengers, with two wheelchair passengers. We hired two new drivers. At this time of year, we do have a tendency to have some of our drivers go south for the winter months. We sent you an update yesterday about the new e-newsletter, Enhance. Within that new e-newsletter, we'll touch base on four different programs, with links to those programs, and always include our transportation program. We're working with KMG Prestige over at Meadowbrook Commons about going into their newsletter. They do a monthly newsletter and we'd like to do an attachment to that, going into more of our programs. All part of our strategic plan.

Commissioner Staab asked whether we charge for tax preparation? Manager Kapchonick said we do not, but we receive anywhere from \$200-\$500 in donations per year.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Representative Lee said he's glad to be back since the October meeting. He didn't expect the meetings to be postponed and he didn't realize Sanidhya's term was ending, so he was surprised. Said he's glad to see everyone. Misses Sanidhya, but is glad he's not alone now.

Representative Wou introduced herself and said she's a junior at Novi High School. She thanked everyone for allowing her to be a part of this and she looks forward to being a part of this.

Commissioner Pratt said the department continues to excel and Light Up the Night was great. Looking forward to the Daddy Daughter Dance. He has been contacted about summer camp counselors, so he's just directing them to Cristin Spiller. They have to be 18 by the time they start? Deputy Director Ringle confirmed.

Commissioner Staab said it's good to be back. It's very comprehensive and he appreciates the updates. A lot has transpired since the meeting in October. Asked what the average attendance at Camp Lakeshore is? Deputy Director Ringle said we

can handle up to 60 children per day. Staab asked, if there was adverse weather, would they have to be herded into the existing building? Ringle said they currently do. Commissioner Torimoto said thanks for the feedback and information. He said the Lakeshore Park community meeting was great. Everyone will have different perspectives and opinions, but it was really fantastic. He was on Google looking for things. Thanks to the whole City for giving us the opportunity. Looking forward to seeing progress. Interested to see the older adults survey; curious to see how his feedback fits in with the action plans that are set up. Pretty excited hearing about the progress of some of the new parks, whether the ITC Trail, Villa Barr or the water tower, which sounds really cool. We used to go to another city where they do have a splash pad or outdoor ice rink. That's really unique and differentiates. Tonight, his daughter was at a trial lacrosse. Allows them to get off electronics and try something without a big commitment, meet other kids their age and other kids slightly older from the high school. Thanks for all the unique possibilities, programming, potential parks and even long-term vision.

Commissioner Jewell said thanked everyone for everything they do and wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2018.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said thank you to everyone and welcome to Alice. It's great to have two students here. Has been watching Bigfoot on social media. It's a great, cute idea. Hopefully it has the intended consequences with the interest.

Commissioner Dooley said great job. It's great as a commissioner to listen to all the fine things the department does. One thing to add is the deserved resignation of Commissioner Doug Bauss. He was very instrumental in giving back to the community and passionate about a lot of the ideas the parks department had and embraced.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **Voice Vote**

### **Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Thomopoulos at 8:32 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Dooley, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Thomopoulos, Vice Chairperson