

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Thursday, July 18, 2013 – 7:00 PM

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with Commissioner Policicchio presiding.

ROLL CALL: Policicchio (Present), Bauss (Present), Ferrell (Present), Jewell (Present), Staab (Absent- Excused), Torimoto (Absent - Excused), Wingfield (Absent – Excused), Kodali (Present), Singh (Absent).

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER: Doug Bauss

Commissioner Policicchio welcomed the newest Commissioner, Doug Bauss, on behalf of the Commission. He asked Commissioner Bauss to tell about himself. Commissioner Bauss stated he is a Michigan native who was raised in Ann Arbor. He attended Brigham Young University for his undergraduate and Michigan State for his MBA. He accepted a job with General Motors and moved to Novi. He has been here for almost fifteen years.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Ferrell to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of the June 20, 2013 minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Jewell and seconded by Commissioner Ferrell to approve the minutes as written.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi - Commissioners Policicchio & Torimoto

Commissioner Policicchio stated there were three items. They went through a final review of a bicycle map for the City showing the three major types of routes taken based on usage and traffic. The second item was a final report or reading of the bicycle ordinance that will go before City Council for final approval. The main thing is that it creates an opportunity, if necessary, for the Planning Commission to consider waiver requirements for exception that may be necessary when there is construction. The third item is an update on the Medilodge trail connection between Beck Road and through Providence Park

and to ITC Corridor. This furthers the plan to complete the bicycle path throughout the City.

B. Novi Parks Foundation - Commissioners Staab and Ferrell

Commissioner Ferrell stated what the Foundation is focusing on is the upcoming Golf Outing on August 1st. They are trying to get more golfers, donations and hole sponsors. They are looking forward to a good turnout.

STAFF REPORTS:

A. Administration Division – Director Jason Mangum

1. July is Parks & Recreation Month

Director Mangum stated July has been designated on a national, state and local level as Parks and Recreation Month. We are encouraging people to get out and utilize their parks. They were out at Lakeshore Park today. For the last couple of days, with the extreme heat, the beach has been packed. We are excited that people are taking time to enjoy our parks. Our campaign for Parks and Recreation Month is “My Parks and Recreation is...” and we are encouraging people to fill in the blank. We have some thought bubbles that people can write on what their Parks and Recreation is to them. We are posting them on our social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

2. Update on Park Ordinance

Director Mangum stated Monday is the next City Council meeting and there will be a second reading for some updates on our Park Ordinances. As we prepare to open Pavilion Shore Park, there are some pretty unique features to that park we do not have at other parks. With that, we want to make sure that we are looking at some possible usages of that park. The amount of shoreline on Walled Lake at that park will lend itself to water activities. Throughout the public input process for this park we spoke to residents and people who live in the area. The request was this would be a park that would connect people with the water but it is not designed to provide boat access to the water. We wanted to make sure we changed a couple of ordinances so that we don't allow for trailer parking in that area and prohibit anchoring, mooring or docking at the park site since it was not built or designed for that. There were minor adjustments to some of the Park Ordinances. This would not prohibit a person wanting to put in something like a kayak so we wanted to make sure we worded the ordinances appropriately so the park is used for what it was intended. This will be at the next City Council meeting. It was presented at the last City Council meeting and we received some input and made some minor changes. Commissioner Ferrell asked if people are allowed to fish off of the dock. Director Mangum confirmed this and stated we will be encouraging fishing. There is a wooden pier that goes out over the water about thirty feet and there is an area we call the “Plaza” which is a peninsula. We are encouraging people to fish from the pier and not from the Plaza. He has been out to the park and has seen fish in that area. Hopefully we will have some vegetation to make a habitat that will take hold and make it a great place, especially for kids, to fish.

Commissioner Bauss asked if a craft that can be put on top of a car like a canoe or windsurfer would be allowed.

Director Mangum confirmed this and stated that is the intent. It is the motorized craft we are restricting and the vehicles and trailers that would involve because we have limited parking. It is a multi-use park with the primary features on the land and up against the water. We want the people who come to be able to have parking and be able to enjoy the waterfront as it is designed. That is the intent of those ordinances. There will not be swimming at Pavilion Shore Park because of the naturalized and native plantings on the shoreline. There is a beach with swimming at Lakeshore Park so the two parks will compliment each other.

Commissioner Policicchio asked if there was boating access from the City of Walled Lake side of the lake.

Director Mangum confirmed that there is.

3. CAPRA book standards

Director Mangum stated at the last meeting they talked some about the CAPRA standards and he found out after the meeting that the Commissioners hadn't received a copy of our accreditation standards. We are in the process of mapping out our journey to accreditation.

Accreditation is a series of best practices in Parks and Recreation. These best practices cover ten different subject areas which have been identified by experts in the field, academics and practitioners. It doesn't tell us how we should do things but what we should do. It doesn't say what a procedure should be but that we have a procedure. One of the procedures that recently came up to this group is how to defend against encroachment. It doesn't say how we should go about it but the standard is that we have some sort of procedure to defend against encroachment on Park property. This process we will be working on as a team. There are ten different chapters and covers things like agency role responsibility planning, organization and administration, human resources, financial management, programs and service management, facilities and land use management, public safety, risk management and evaluation and research. Many of these things in the next eighteen months will be coming to the Commission for input and recommendations. We need input from the public as well. He stated they now have a copy of the standards so that when something comes up they understand why we are addressing it at this time. Each one of the standards has not only the title of the standard but a brief commentary and suggested evidence of compliance. Our intention is not that we get a "rubber stamp" but that we provide valuable input and suggestions, looking at it with fresh eyes. We feel that if this happens we will not only achieve our goal and become the third accredited agency in the State but also have some tools that will help us run more efficiently and be the best department in the area.

4. Pavilion Shore Park opening – August 24th

Director Mangum stated we are tentatively planning the Pavilion Shore Park grand opening for Saturday, August 24th from 11am to 1pm. We are planning to have a waterfront ceremony where we will have an official ribbon cutting and some words from our Mayor and the Chair from our Parks Commission or a designee. We encourage Parks Commissioners to be

there. If you have any ideas for that, Superintendent Pratt is coordinating the opening. There will be hotdogs and ice cream or snow cones.

B. Recreation Division – Superintendent of Recreation Scott Pratt

1. Strategic & Recreation Plan process

Superintendent Pratt stated our Strategic and Recreation Plan is getting ready to expire and we need these updated to be able to apply for grants. We will be having “brainstorming” sessions with our board and will be looking at some community input sessions as well. We are looking at an evaluation process and will be asking residents questions. The “brainstorming” session is where we will generate those questions. We will try and find out what they want or want to see and what they would like improved, etc. It will be our guide in going forward in our day to day planning in our department.

Director Mangum stated there will be an analysis done by the Commission like the one done for the last Strategic Plan. That way we can take a look at our strengths and weaknesses and know how to map our future.

2. Upcoming Programs

Willy Wonka Kids is one of our theatre programs we have been hosting for the last couple of weeks. They have been practicing and their show is coming up this Friday and Saturday. It is only about a 30 or 40 minute show. The performances are at 7pm on Friday and 2pm on Saturday and the tickets are only five dollars.

In the atrium you will soon be seeing new boards which are more decorative and more user friendly. They will be on casters so they can be rolled making it easier for us to move them in case we have an event or need to move the art out of the atrium. We have had interest from people even outside the state to display their art in our atrium. We needed sturdier boards to display the art and that will hold the heavier art pieces. Currently, the Art Institute has their exhibition which will end on July 26. The Pastel Society art will open on August 1st. This is a popular group who hold art exhibits and gives out awards. It is a prestigious group and they are bringing their work to us for the first time. It will be big framed art so the bigger boards will come in handy.

The Sizzling Summer Arts Series has been going on every Tuesday with our Farmer’s Market. The last show was “The Fisherman and his Wife”. The weather was really hot. The next show will be July 23rd and will be “Animal Adaptations”. He will show different animals and is bringing out a bat exhibit as well.

July 26th will be our “Friday Family Fun Night”. We only run three throughout the summer. We will have the Candy Band. They do songs like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” with guitars and drums so it is like a rock song and the kids love it. There will be a bounce house, a food truck from Five Star Catering and we will show the movie “Wreck-it Ralph”. The music starts at 6:30pm. Our normal camps are kicking off again. We have Meticulous Basketball Camp to start soon. Those camps fill quickly. We have an August session of Girl’s Lacrosse Camp. We had a session in July. Our fall Youth Travel Soccer registration ends August 9th. We need volunteer coaches for the upcoming season. We have a multi-sport season coming up. It will start in September.

These programs are youth basketball and youth volleyball and they fill quickly since we are only allowed so many teams in the gyms we use in the school district.

The summer started out rainy but now that it has dried up we are dealing with heat problems. Shauna Lewallen and Theresa McClure have been working hard to get in all of the games that were cancelled due to rain. Adult Softball teams are excited about the new schedule for the double header league. Our youth softball teams have had successful seasons as well. Our field prep people from DPS, who actually take care of our fields, have done a tremendous job making sure they are watered and cut, and not cut too low.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: None

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Student Representative Kodali had no comment.

Commissioner Ferrell thanked Commissioner Bauss for coming onboard and that they are glad to have him. She stressed the importance of the Parks Foundation Fund Raiser on August 1st and hopes to see everyone there.

Commissioner Bauss stated he is pleased to be part of this Commission and to work with Novi Parks Recreation and Cultural Services. They do a tremendous job and are a great asset to our community.

Commissioner Jewell thanked everyone for their hard work and appreciates the excitement, encouragement and enthusiasm of Director Mangum and Superintendent Pratt. He hears a lot of great things throughout the community. He would like to encourage Novi residents to get out and enjoy the parks during Parks and Recreation Month. He welcomed Commissioner Bauss and is looking forward to having him on board.

Commissioner Policicchio welcomed Commissioner Bauss. He stated the department is at the peak of its activity with summer programs going on. They have been successful in the past and continue to be successful. We will have one special event this year with the opening of a brand new park, Pavilion Shore Park. He would venture to guess that there are not many communities throughout the State of Michigan who are opening new parks. We distinguish ourselves with not only the programs offered but also with the opening of a new park for the enjoyment of all of the citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Policicchio at 7:30pm.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Paul Policicchio, Chairperson

Harry Torimoto, Vice Chairperson