

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 – 7 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

ROLL CALL: Dooley (Present), Thomopoulos (Present), Joshi (Present), Muzzin (Present), Pratt (Absent), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Student Representatives Alex Fortsch (Present), Ananya Kamalesh (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Gary Zack of 359 South Lake Drive said he wanted to comment on a LAHA note about goose issues. He asked the City to work with LAHA on the goose issues. It's key that everybody work together. He saw that the City is doing what the DNR recommends, but he has his doubts that the DNR recommends some of what he sees going on up there. He hopes the City will study what the DNR recommends and he thinks some of that will be tall grasses to block the progress of geese. Not fishline on stakes. He would be interested in hearing what the plans are to take care of the geese. He said he thinks the geese think of it as the Novi buffet on that whole parkland. He said it's critical we protect both Walled Lake and Shawood Lake. He said we need to start thinking about Shawood Lake, water flows and some of the issues that have developed over the years. Some of the other lakes in the city have been taken care of many times to alleviate these problems and he hasn't really seen that with Shawood. He said it's starting to fill in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of Dec. 20, 2018 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for December be approved by Commissioner Thomopoulos and seconded by Commissioner Joshi.

Voice Vote

Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Muzzin & Thomopoulos
Commissioner Thomopoulos said there has not been a meeting yet this year.
- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Staab & Torimoto
Commissioner Staab presented the flyer for the fifth-annual Pour on the Shore 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, 8/2. The event will diversify with more wine and looking at other beverage tastings. Dancing and cigars. He encouraged everyone to put it on their calendars to get a ticket because attendance will be limited to 500. Director Muck said a majority of Monday's meeting was regarding Pour on the Shore, but also included discussing the Tim Pope play structure, which is scheduled for replacement in fiscal year 2019-20. We were not granted grant funds through the Recreation Passport grant. We had applied for \$150,000 in

grant funds and did not get it for that. Staff has approached the Parks Foundation about supplementing that \$150,000. It wasn't an official request Monday night, but the Parks Foundation has taken that under consideration and will most likely vote on that at their March meeting. They're also considering doing some fundraising efforts for that, encouraging community members, those whose kids grew up playing there and maybe even helped build the playground to donate toward matching funds. They're going to take an official vote and have more discussion on that in March.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said that's consistent with how it was built in the first place. That historically makes sense to do it that way.

Director Muck said it wouldn't be a community build, it would be more donations in memory of. The materials would be installed by a contractor.

Commissioners Staab said the existing structure has pickets around the structure that were sold back in 1997. He believes it's still the most active play structure in the city. He's glad to see the Foundation considering funds for the update. Many people will recall the project was put together with donated funds, grants and via friends of former Councilman Pope. No Novi dollars were used. They also set aside \$15,000-\$20,000 for continuous maintenance, which is why it's lasted this long.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Dooley & Joshi

Commissioner Dooley said there was no committee meeting in January.

Commissioner Joshi is the new appointment to the Grants Committee. On 1/2, Director Muck sent out an email to the team mentioning Pope playground, but also the 20 acres.

Director Muck said we closed on the 20 acres on Nine Mile Road, west of Garfield Road. The total acquisition cost was around \$490,000 and the City only had to pay approximately \$122,500. The rest was matched through grant funds via the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Important work by the Grants Committee and we'll touch on the Master Parks Plan further down the agenda. He mentioned the Recreation Passport grant. Management Assistance Chris Jackett is going to attend the 2019 DNR grant workshop during the annual conference in Kalamazoo the last week in January and he's planning to attend a roundtable session with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board at the same conference. The committee is planning to meet in February prior to the Parks Commission meeting.

D. Parks Updates

1. Novi Ice Arena – Commissioner Joshi

Commissioner Joshi said she was there on a busy Sunday and the parking lot was nearly full. The only thing she noticed was the trash was nearly full, but it was a very busy day. Free skate was going on in the red rink and a youth hockey game was going on in the blue rink. A birthday party was going on and kids were running around. It was a busy place. She spoke to a few people in the free skate area and many said it was their 2-3 visit and they loved it. A light in the women's bathroom was out. There was really nothing other than there were so many people. There were games, free skate, birthday parties and something else going on.

Representative Fortsch said it's heartwarming to see commissioners going around and taking pictures to fulfill their duties. He and a lot of other people have great memories there. It's important to keep these parks clean and well maintained.

Commissioner Torimoto said it's important to note the decorations and the Olympic banners for the countries represented by those who train at Novi. Commissioner Dooley said it's cool that people can essentially skate with people they saw on TV at the Olympics. And they coach on the side.

2. Villa Barr Art Park – Commissioner Muzzin

Commissioner Muzzin said the 4-acre property was previously owned by international artist David Barr and his wife, a well-known dancer, Beth Barr. It includes the artist home, a studio, small pond, sculptures throughout the company and a path to walk around and reflect. She likes art, but isn't as well versed in sculpture, so she appreciated the displays explaining the art and the selection of their locations. The red building is the studio. She did not see restrooms there. Deputy Director Ringle said there are portable restrooms there, but seasonally. None in January, but they'll be back in the spring. Muzzin said there's a small pad area with a table and she appreciated the pathway that allows for you to move and reflect on the pieces. There's also bench and gravel pathway that goes along the property line. There appears to be a water issue at this park, but the path was really well installed. Because of the layout of the park and land, she thinks water will always be an issue. As the turf gets thicker, that will help. The parking is limited, but the park is truly a drop in our cap. The road is very busy. The upcoming event at the library is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Mr. Barr. The park will be a great asset. The noise from the road is distracting, so maybe a natural screen could be considered and could be helpful.

Representative Kamalesh said the no bathrooms and limited parking may be intended for people to not stay for a while. It's supposed to be calming and there's traffic, so she agreed a natural screen would be good.

Commissioner Muzzin said if there will be field trips, she's not sure where the buses would go or if they'd go to ITC Community Sports Park.

Director Muck said the parking intent was to get the park open. It was specifically intended to be small due to the cost and investment in that, and also to have less disruption to the grounds. There is room to expand parking if we want to in the future. That'll depend on need and what we see from the attendants. The lot is designed for a school bus to come in there and drop off and the bus can either go there or down the street to ITC CSP.

Deputy Director Ringle said we did have a school group come out in November and the bus did pull into the lot and hug the shoulder on the Napier Road side so cars could still pull in and out. We are working with our landscape architect about future plantings, but in winter the leaves are down so it is a little louder than spring or summer.

Commissioner Muzzin said it'd be a great place to take engagement photos. It will be used a lot.

Director Muck said the brown gate is where the port-a-Johns sit behind. We can fit 1-2. As far as the water, we spent a lot of time with our engineering department. That's why the pathways are designed the way they are. With our engineering, there really is no solution to this unless you do some major earth movement. The best was to avoid the wet areas with the pathways as best we could. Commissioner Muzzin said they were all dry.

3. Rotary Park (Sept.) – Commissioner Pratt

- A. Youth & Teen Update by Recreation Supervisor Cristin Spiller
- Supervisor Spiller said she oversees youth and teen programming, which encompasses special events, camps and other contractual programs. Light Up the Night is a full sponsored event. No City dollars are budgeted for that event. We do rely on city businesses to fund that event. Some of the things we've added since Spiller joined staff is the fireworks, which has been a fan favorite to most attendees. We've had issues in the past getting a tree to thrive and survive in the soil, so we've been able to purchase an artificial tree. We made tweaks to the Santa line so people don't spend the entire event in line. The event used to encompass the entire Civic Center campus to the library, but to make it easier for people to enjoy the full event, we have it all centered at the Civic Center now. When you attend the event, you'll see a strong cultural arts presence on the indoor stage where we get to see a lot of performances on them. It's a full hands on deck event where our entire department makes it happen. The Daddy Daughter Dance is in the next couple weeks on 2/1-2/2 this year. This event has grown over the years. When Spiller started, we had two dances and had to tell little girls they couldn't come, so we added a third dance on Saturdays from 2-4 p.m. We have more than 1,000 people who come to our three dances. It's so fun and to see all those girls spending time with someone special in their life is exciting. This year's is called the Super Groovy Daddy Daughter Dance to tie into the City's 50th anniversary and 1969 with tie-dye. We have a fun VW bus and a Beetle and tie-dye stuff to tie it into the anniversary. This is probably Spiller's favorite time of year, running camps. When she started, all we had was Camp Lakeshore and we were telling kids they didn't get to come to camp because we had huge waiting lists, so she was able to convince Tracie to let her run Camp PowerPlay here at the Civic Center and just give her the Activities Room. We weren't sure on the response and started it by offering it to 25 kids and the one- and two-day options, and it filled up instantly. Camp PowerPlay typically fills in that first month of March and we have a wait list of 30+ kids wanting to go to PowerPlay. A lot of them do register at Lakeshore and transfer so they can enjoy both Camp Lakeshore and Camp PowerPlay. We were overwhelmed by the response we got for Camp PowerPlay, so the second year we increased it to 35 full-time campers, so we do end up having with our 1-2 day campers, 35-45 campers throughout the summer. It's amazing after that last week of camp ending how quiet it is. They have so much energy and you see them in the front of the building and at the library and they attend Sizzling Summer. Camp Lakeshore is still the great camp that it's always been. This year, with the construction at Lakeshore Park, we will be hosting Camp Lakeshore at Meadowbrook Elementary School, which is just up the road not too far. We wanted to keep it on the north end so people are accustomed to staying over there so next year when we're back at Lakeshore Park, they're ready to go over there. Spiller said she's meeting with Meadowbrook staff Monday to do a walk through and decide what rooms will be the best fit for them to use throughout the summer. The biggest thing with programming is Camp Lakeshore is so used to having four days a week that they get to go swimming at the beach, so we need to fill that time. One thing we're looking at is, working with Amelia (Purdy-Ketchum) and her Sizzling Summer performers, the performers will come over to Camp Lakeshore after their performances and give a performance for those students. That's helping fill in some entertainment and programming time for them. Our S'Mores Run at Lakeshore Park has been a super fun and enjoyable

event. They run a half mile in, collect the supplies, run a half mile out and then make some s'mores while listening to great music. Our campout is usually at Lakeshore. This year, we're hosting it at Wildlife Woods to utilize the large amount of parkland and offer additional activities over there. We have Finding Bigfoot. He's actually out right now. This is his second year out and it's fun to see the families who go out and the photos they take. A few years ago, we were challenged to find ways to get people out to the parks in the winter. This year, we have added some additional community partners who are hosting Bigfoot. Eggstravaganza we used to hold at Tollgate, but we've moved over to Fuerst Park and, when it's chilly out, the high school lets us use their Atrium. Doggie Dive In, if you have a dog and are a member of the dog park, is super fun. We host it before the beach opens and after it opens. They would love it if they had access to the beach once per week. The dog park community is a great community itself. We have our Mom and Me Tea which we change the theme to yearly. We had Nerf Wars last Friday. We had 50 boys and girls in the Four Quarters shooting nerf darts and playing different games. When 8 p.m. hit, they were disappointed to have to go and were asking when we'd be running the next one.

Commissioner Thomopoulos said they applaud Spiller. Thomopoulos said some commissioners have kids in the programs, but it's been a few years since hers have been young enough. We see it around town and the kids talk about it. Thomopoulos said Spiller is doing a great job and she's impressed.

Representative Fortsch said he didn't know about the Doggie Dive In, but he'll be bringing his dog to it. He asked if there was a reason it's not called Mommy & Me Tea so it'd rhyme? Supervisor Spiller said it could possibly be tweaked for future years.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if Camp Lakeshore still did field trips once per week? Supervisor Spiller said both camps usually travel together on Fridays typically. Thomopoulos asked if some of those involved water activities? Spiller said Rolling Hills Water Park is one of the field trips scheduled. Commissioner Joshi said they also went canoeing last year.

Commissioner Dooley asked what website can someone new to Novi go to to get involved? Supervisor Spiller said there are nine squares on cityofnovi.org's home page and there's a registration button where you can find all the programs. Engage! will come out in mid-February that will have that and camp information. Camp registration begins 3/1.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked if Daddy Daughter Dance tickets are on sale now? Supervisor Spiller said they are, but Saturday night has limited spaces available. It tends to be our fastest selling dance.

Representative Kamalesh asked if the Mom & Me Tea is connected to the 50th Anniversary? Supervisor Spiller said it is not, but a company will be providing two Disney princesses to do some singing and dancing with the moms and daughters. A week of camp is tying into the 50th anniversary and Movie on the Shore at Pavilion Shore. The original "Pippi Longstocking" came out in 1969, so we'll be showing a version of that to tie into the 50th anniversary. Spiller said some of her other colleagues are doing events hitting on the 50th anniversary. Deputy Director Ringle said Sizzling Summer nights in June will be Peace, Love and Parks; one of the Wednesday performers will tie into it for Sizzling Summer and as we progress and see opportunities to tie into 1969-70, they'll do that, as well.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck said commissioners should have received a memo put together by our Facilities team last week in regards to some construction updates. That included an update on the ITC storage building, which will also serve as a trailhead point jumping onto the ITC trail. That's nearing completion and the parks maintenance crew is excited to move in there and get set up. As far as Lakeshore, after receiving guidance from City Council with respect to building location, we had to go back to our architectural firm to reshape the design because we had to resize and redesign the building. We've completed schematic design review and are awaiting the final rendition of that building. They're still completing the final site plan for that development. The architectural firm has to work with the civil engineering firm to develop the site plan. We're hoping to have a full review and staff will sign off on the site plan internally. After that, it'll go to formal application and bid documents. We're still on track to bid the project in late February with the bid having the condition that construction will begin in spring 2019. It's taking a little bit longer than initially thought after Council approved it, but it's still in the process and moving forward. Pavilion Shore playground had an article in the Novi News about how quickly that happened. We're proud of how fast that pulled together and unanimous decision by Council to move forward on that. It's getting a lot of use, even in the winter. City Council had their initial goal setting, visioning and budget session last Saturday. There were quite a few parks-related items that came up. Some short-term goals directly related to parks were complete sidewalk connections to ITC trail on at least one side of 10 Mile Road. Factoring in 10 Mile may at some point have construction done to it, but that is one goal they wanted completed in the short term. The other short-term goal directly related to parks was to accelerate funding of neighborhood park improvements at Wildlife Woods, Novi Northwest Park and Village Wood Lake Park using the CIP millage. Here we've talked about Wildlife Woods and potentially some pickleball courts going in, but the other two parks were asked to move up, as well. The long-term goal is where we get very interesting. The biggest discussion and highest voted in a long-term goal was to fund and build a public recreation facility. Some of you may have been around when Signature Park came around and was proposed, and that didn't go through because that was launched at the downturn of the economy. So that is a long-term goal of Council, so staff will start vetting that out. Tons of discussion to be had on what that looks like, what that means, where; all of that would still have to be determined. When we talk about long-term goals, Council considers that 5-6 years out. Related to our older adult services, place greater emphasis on aging in place for senior services, talk about what that meant, include strategy development to allow residents to stay in their homes longer and age in place. That'll be something Karen and her team will be working on. The last one for long-term goals will be parks master plan where every City of Novi resident should be able to walk to a park within 10 minutes of their home, which correlates to about half a mile. In previous meetings, he's shown the radius map that shows a mile from parks. We'll now shrink that down to a half mile and connect that to the ITC trail and M-5 Connector and see where we fall in meeting that goal.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked, for the master plan development, can Commissioners review master plan questions before they're incorporated into the survey that speak to the rec facility? Rec facility means something different to so many people, so asking what amenities people are wanting in such a facility. It would be nice before the survey goes out if Commission could review it. Director Muck said he'd provide the full timeline and what we're looking at for the master plan to answer that question.

Commissioner Thomopoulos asked whether there will be a public viewing of the Lakeshore updated rendering before it goes to bid? Director Muck said he's not sure and that's a conversation that still needs to be had with the city manager. Thomopoulos asked if it would go to Planning Commission? Muck said it's the same answer and they're focusing on buttoning up the plans and trying to get them to the spot they want them to be.

2. Master Plan Update

Director Muck said the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires municipalities to develop and approve a five-year master parks plan to make us eligible to apply for and receive state and federal grant monies. Through the development and approval of our last plan – which runs 2015-19 – we've been awarded more than \$1.2 million in grant funds. So this is a real key document to our operation and our grant funds. We posted an RFP for the development of the plan and City staff used a qualifications-based selection called QBS Process where each firm's experience was weighed on the scope of the project. We reviewed those qualifications and proposed fees and we recommended the contract for development be awarded to Landscape Architects and Planners. We took that recommendation to City Council and they approved it. The five-year master plan includes elements of both a strategic and master plan in accordance with MDNR requirements. Landscape Architects has been around 29 years, they're based out of Lansing and their principal, Bob Ford, has been involved in the state's recreation plan – the SCORP plan – and they had recently completed the Dearborn parks and recreation plan. That was important to us because Dearborn is one of four agencies in the state, along with us, who are CAPRA accredited. That was important to get their feedback. We got other references and called people in the field and they all said to a T they do a great job. They're a smaller firm, but there's nothing wrong with that since they give everyone personalized service. The way the time frame will work out – since you'll all be heavily involved in that – we do have an orientation meeting set up with Landscape Architects and Planners and our leadership team in the first week of February. Then we start moving into the inventory of the parks facilities. Then we have opportunities for public engagement, such as an open house at Spring Palooza in May and we're planning to have an input session for everyone who attends that. We'll be formulating that plan as we meet with Landscape Architects and Planners. Knowing the attendance here, that'll be a great opportunity for us to get some input, get some questions answered on what people are envisioning and what people would like to see as it relates to parks and rec. The months of March through May are more analyzing the plan and synthesizing everything. Landscape Architects and Planners plan to have a draft of the plans to us by May, potentially June. Then you get into late summer with a 30-day review and, ultimately, you want to have the final plan ready to go in August or September so we can bring that to Commission for

review and approval, then to Council for formal approval. We'd like to have that filed with the DNR by September or October. Almost a year process, but lots of opportunity for public input as this goes. We will be doing an online survey. We will be stakeholder roundtables. You'll all be invited to that, along with leadership and boards and commissions. There will be multiple avenues for that. We'll know more once we get into the orientation the first week of February with our consultant. The other thing is, the way we wrote the proposal, is that the City contributes and the consultant doesn't just do the entire plan for us. Our City staff work on many, many components of this. It saves us money, but we also have the resources as a City to provide that. We're able to give them maps, inventories, demographics, the citizen survey results and a lot of documents. We save the City a lot of money by doing that work internally and sending it to the consultant.

Commissioner Torimoto asked how the long-term and short-term goals fit into the master plan, or if it was more personal perspective? Director Muck said all of the City Council goals are listed in the master plan. We want to recognize in the master plan that Council has set the goal of a recreation center and trail connectivity. That definitely helps.

Commissioner Torimoto asked how we were doing compared to the last five-year plan? Director Muck said it's really good. When he brought that to Commission in 2015, we said this isn't just a document you put on a shelf and take down every 4-5 years. This is a document we update each year with the goals in there. Every staff person mentioned in there with a strategic goal has to update a spreadsheet with progress in each of those areas. That's also part of CAPRA accreditation as we track that. They all mold and fit together into one cohesive operation.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Program & Services

Deputy Director Ringle said 90 percent of Recreation Supervisor Spiller's camp counselors and lifeguards come back every year because of the joy of working for Cristin and the opportunities she provides them for growth and personal growth, as well. She's getting ideas for these parents on her own, talking to parents. She really does touch the department in a lot of different ways and is a sounding board for a lot of our other staff members.

Deputy Director Ringle said the Chili Chilly Softball Showdown is this weekend at Power Park. In the past few years, it's been warm and muddy. This year, it'll be cold enough and not have to use our backup date. Futsal is a type of soccer indoors, 5v5 on almost gym flooring. We offered futsal for the first time this year – partnering with the Farmington Futsal Center – which is just on Haggerty Road and had a number of teams able to participate in a league there. With the response there, we're going to add another clinic, another league session and a futsal tournament using the Novi school gyms 3/23-3/24. An extension of our soccer program, it's a little different. It gets kids on the ball and learning the game in a different way. That's been a great opportunity for us. Winter basketball and volleyball are under way this weekend and at capacity. That's always a popular program that fills every year. The parking lot was full here today for an audition workshop because we'll be holding "The Lion King Jr." as our next play. Auditions are this weekend and we have more than 130 kids registered to audition for the show. That's above and beyond what we've had in the past, so

we're looking to see how we can cast as many kids as we can and look for those upcoming stars to play some of those key roles in the "The Lion King Jr." The City's 50th anniversary is going to be celebrated 6-8 p.m. 2/11 here in the Civic Center. Community Relations has curated an exhibit that'll have photos, artifacts and a car in the Atrium for the month of February. It'll come down 3/4. It'll be a good opportunity to see how Novi has changed. Also for the 50th anniversary, Community Relations is hosting a pep rally 1/24 at 3 p.m. Novi Community Schools and Catholic Central will be involved, as well as the Tigers Caravan. It's also a celebration for Team Novi, so it'll celebrate our CAPRA accreditation and the Police Department's CALEA accreditation. If you have an opportunity to come out on 1/24, you'll have the opportunity to cheer on ourselves and the Tigers.

Representative Fortsch said he's excited for "The Lion King" because they did it at the high school three years ago and he was Pumba. He encouraged everyone to attend the caravan since he's in the choir and will be singing there. Commissioner Thomopoulos said the 50th anniversary calendars are out and available. Those photos and write-up are very helpful and interesting in understanding where we've come from. Probably done by the communications team. Deputy Director Ringle said the Historical Commission did a committee to do some of the research through the Novi News archives to find some of those tidbits, so it was a team effort.

2. Mobile Stage

Deputy Director Ringle said we bring out our mobile sound stage to Light Up the Night, Memorial Day and Spring Palooza. That stage was purchased in 1995. It was purchased with the purpose of our summer concerts and was used at the '50s Festival and other community events. After 23 years of use, it's surpassed its life expectancy and is in need of replacement. The stage we have now is 36 feet in length and weighs about 23,000 pounds. It's not easily maneuverable, it's not an easy set up and we can't put it in all the places for all the uses we'd like to in our parks. We are recommending for replacement this stage that is 24 feet in length and weighs less than 10,000 pounds. It's going to provide us the opportunity to bring us to more events, more parks, it's easier for parks maintenance staff to set up. It's a push-button hydraulic thing. Our parks maintenance staff is excited on that and we've worked with that team to identify their needs and came to this conclusion. Some of the highlights of this stage is the opportunity for custom event and sponsorship banner display. For rigging, you can actually rig side vertical banners, across the back there's an opportunity to rig banners and, as we move forward and potentially work with the Parks Foundation as a naming right, we could do a wrap and graphics on the outside of that, as well. It's an LED lighting package, there's sound compatibility with speakers, there's an ADA lift and the back of the stage can be opened up for a clear view. The stage will continue to be used at events like Memorial Day, Spring Palooza and Light Up the Night. Given the ease of the stage, it can be used for our Sizzling Summers, or new Music in the Park which Cristin is overseeing, as well as some outdoor programming at Meadowbrook Activity Center and use for when we have large national tournaments at Power Park. It is our intention to continue to provide the stage for the Michigan State Fair and The Main Event, and then to make it available to the Novi Parks Foundation for Pour on the Shore. We are going to store the stage indoors for the

winter, which helps with the life expectancy. This is a canvas vinyl siding, so that is independently replaceable, that is key. If a component damaged within the 15-year life expectancy, it's easier to change that out than it would be with a fiberglass sheet. One of the questions we'd be asked is about renting this to private entities. It's not off the table, but we want to get a year of this under our belt to see how maneuverable it is, see how easy it is with training other folks. In that first year, we want to keep it to just us and those we partner with. Ringle showed a video of the stage in action opening and closing. She said it can be towed around via pickup truck, which is easier to move just down the street. It's going to be 24 feet long, which is smaller than the 36 feet we had before. We anticipate bringing this to Council at the 1/28 Council meeting. Commissioner Staab asked when it would be purchased if Council approves on 1/28? Deputy Director Ringle said it would be ordered soon after and we'd be looking at a June delivery date at this point. Staab verified we wouldn't have it for Memorial Day and Ringle confirmed. Ringle said it was budgeted for a year out, but was moved forward in our budget due to the condition of the current stage. Staab asked if the present one would be suitable for this year? Ringle said it's suitable and will be sold once we receive the new one. That will help recover some funds from the sale of the present stage.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Program & Services

Manager Kapchonick said there are a lot of exciting activities that have taken place, including with an inter-generational. This Monday, we met with 50 fourth-graders who came over to Meadowbrook for an hour and talked to a variety of seniors, asking them questions. They brought their iPads over and, as they were talking to the seniors, they were recording them and in probably four weeks they'll come back to meet with the seniors again and present them with a memoir. It's the first of several intergenerational events offered to our residents. Mahjong is a game similar to Gin Rummy, but with tiles. We've been offering it for about two years at a more advanced level, so we decided to offer an instructional class. We had about 24 individuals show up for that, which was a surprise to us. A lot of our Boomers came to that session. Hopefully through that instructional we'll move on to a beginners class and eventually more advanced classes. It's a game that is becoming popular. Our theme lunches with Valentine's Day 2/14 and St. Patrick's Day 3/14 are both coming up with tickets on sale now. Those are two of our popular programs and those go fast. When we talk about resources and informing our residents, we have a speaker series. Two coming up shortly are 1/24 "What You Need to Know About the Required Minimum Distributions" and that's a popular session. It's important to be aware of the minimum required distributions after you turn age 70. Another one that we see a lot of attention in the speaker series is "Wills, Trusts and Lady Bird Deeds" on 1/30. These are free evening programs, but we ask individuals to register through Older Adult Services. We also have some new fitness programs coming up. We'll be offering a golf conditioning program Monday evenings starting in March for six weeks. They can register online for that. Another one is Get Fit with Lola, which is a new six-week small group training. We're trying some new fitness programs out there.

Commissioner Staab asked for more detail on golf conditioning. Manager Kapchonick said they'll focus on muscular strength, stability balance and

flexibility, and emphasis on core strength training, balance and consistent stabilized swing. It'll be held here at Novi Civic Center.

Commissioner Torimoto asked about how ages are determined for the financial planning courses since some are 55 and older and others are not? Manager Kapchonick said they usually talk to the presenter and they usually have a better handle on what ages would be appropriate for their topic.

Representative Kamalesh said the Get Fit with Lola class is a cute name. She asked if Lola was from a gym? Manager Kapchonick said that's her name and that's the name she gave it. It's for anyone 18 and older, and anyone younger than 18 can attend with a parent with them. It's a small group so she'll focus on each individual's needs. The max is four people per class. Representative Fortsch said to get ready because his dad will be at the golf training.

Commissioner Staab said he's seen and read about a lot of seniors who get to retirement age and they can't afford to stay in their homes. He's heard different ways of handling it like getting roommates, selling their house and getting apartments. He asked if there was anything we had that would address that or if it was more of a social need? Manager Kapchonick said it can be addressed through Area Agency on Aging and they can work with them, a lot of the financial planners can help. We are also developing a trifold resource of all the senior housing in the area with a ranking. If they wanted to give Older Adult Services a call, our social services coordinate could work with them.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Gary Zack of 359 South Lake Drive said, in the late '80s, he was looking at homes in the Eight Mile and Garfield area where the gravel pits were not too far from the parks over there. When doing his due diligence, he came across something Michigan published called the Act 307 List of environmental issues. He learned there was a landfill at Eight Mile, just west of Garfield. It ran back through the '30s-'50s and not capped, mined and a lot of industrial waste was put in there. At the time, the EPA was doing a lot of monitoring wells – and he doesn't know if the park has city water or well water – but he wanted to mention, if we have well water, it's probably a good idea to check it once in a while for chemical issues we might have. He said he doesn't know if there's any problem, but there was a lot of concern at that time. He said he tried to look it up and it's fallen off the map, there's no more Act 307 list. He didn't know if anyone was aware of it. That was a pretty big landfill on the outskirts of the city and a lot of industrial waste was going in there back in the day before anyone worried about that stuff. He said it probably was not an issue, but he wanted everyone to be aware of it.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Muzzin said she has no comments.

Commissioner Joshi said wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed Student Representatives Alex Fortsch and Ananya. She said she's looking forward to being on the Grants Committee and she knows there's been a lot of talk about preserving green space and the long-term goal of having parks within half a mile of their house. She said she has a park within half a mile of her house, but hasn't thought about others and how important that is.

Commissioner Torimoto said happy 50th to the City of Novi. He said it's pretty awesome and he's been reading stories, such as one by Mayor Gatt when he was an officer in the '70s. Torimoto said when Spiller put up the pictures; he was looking for pictures of himself. They were doing the "YMCA" at the Daddy Daughter Dance and his daughter

was at Camp Lakeshore. He said all the programming available, he's had the chance to be involved in quite a bit of it. Now Older Adult Services he's coming to. There's just such a variety as to how you can engage and it's phenomenal here.

Representative Kamalesh said happy New Year. She said she's looking forward to coming to more meetings. She said she's shocked Novi is 50 years old because that's the same age as her dad.

Representative Fortsch said he thinks it's great that we do a lot of historical things to preserve the history of Novi. He moved here from New York during seventh grade from a city that was very historical, but didn't do a lot to preserve the history, so it just fell out. He's really glad Novi does. He said he lives near Rotary Park and the Rouge River. He said there used to be a lot of nature trails there and now it's overrun. He said, when he first moved to Novi, he used to use the trails a lot, but now you just can't. He said you can't go there in the winter because it's freezing and he has to wear sandals. In the summer it's overrun with mosquitos. In the spring, there are things that stick to your clothes. But overall, great.

Commissioner Staab said happy New Year to everybody. He said he appreciates Mr. Zack coming out with audience comments. Staab said there are a lot of things on the platter for the department and he's looking forward to a very robust and energetic year, putting shovels in the ground at Lakeshore Park to get that project off the ground and running. He's looking forward to the Foundation working with the Pope play structure. It'll be very exciting going into the 2019-20 year. Thanks and he appreciates all the hard work.

Commissioner Thomopoulos thanked Spiller for coming to give her update. Happy New Year to everyone and thanks to the students for joining the Commission. Comments are appreciated and it seems both are comfortable giving them. Welcomed the students to the Commission.

Commissioner Dooley reminded everyone of their purpose to inform everyone in the audience and viewing from home. We truly do have these great jewels in the City of Novi. We heard two great presentations tonight and will hear more next month. Dooley urged residents to provide feedback. If you like what you hear, tell us. If we missed something, tell us, as well. Happy New Year and welcome to new student additions.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

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

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Shelley Thomopoulos, Vice Chairperson