



it is safer. But we do not want to disadvantage the people who are going to be impacted the most because it is running through their front yard.

- B. Novi Park Foundation – Commissioners Joseph, Joshi, Staab & Torimoto  
Commissioner Joseph said the meeting was all things Pour on the Shore which is coming up July 28<sup>th</sup>. Everything is moving along quite nicely. Ticket sales are at seventy-three as of today / three quarters of the fundraising goal. The large sponsors still out to be defined but everything looks to be a successful event. Twenty volunteers are needed to help facilitate the event. Director Muck explained 11:00 - 5:00 will be support including set up, decorations and table skirting. From 5:30- 10:30, general activities around the event, clean up and pouring would be the main duties for volunteers 21 and over. Director Muck pointed out the balance of the Jessica splash pad account is now over \$242,000.  
Commissioner Staab urged people to get their ticket sooner rather than later. He also noted there is interest from three – four Novi Ambassadors in becoming involved in the foundation.  
The next Parks Foundation meeting is Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Joseph & Riggins  
Commissioner Riggins said there has not been a meeting so there are no updates at this time. Director Muck did have a few updates to share to follow up from the last meeting. We did receive a copy of the interlocal agreement from Oakland County for the Meadowbrook Commons pickleball courts. The agreement does need to be reviewed by the city attorney before being signed and returned with our invoice of \$150,000 reimbursement for that project. In addition, some of the properties and projects that we discussed have been investigated since that meeting. Typically, the grants committee only meets two – three times a year so there is not another meeting scheduled at this time.
- D. Parks and Facilities Updates
1. Rotary Park – Commissioner Staab  
Vice Chair Staab showed slides as he discussed his recent visits to Rotary Park. The signage at the front corner of the park would have better visibility if the fir and evergreen trees were pruned back a bit. The next slide showed the habitat and the trails going back into the woods, to Chase Farms. The trail goes back from Nine Mile all the way to Eight Mile and loops back around. The shelter was being used by two moms and their kids for lunch along with using the playground equipment. He noted the reservation sign on the shelter which posts the rentals so there would not be any confusion on the date people are using the facility. The playground equipment is in great shape. The only concern was the arranging of the mulch, a common issue in the spring which will be taken care of by the grounds crew. The tennis courts are in great shape and probably the best in Novi and probably do not get a lot of use. Director Muck clarified that Rotary Park's tennis courts are used heavily by the youth tennis program.  
Vice Chair Staab showed his "obligatory photo" of the men's room that was nice and clean. There were also pictures of the walkway, library box, and the trail going back into the woods. Since Rotary Park is a hidden treasure, he showed a

map of how to get there. It was also pointed out that there is a small sign for the park along Nine Mile. Commissioner Staab pointed out several people were using the park on their lunch break, eating, reading books, and walking on the beautiful day.

There was additional discussion on the Rotary Club's responsibilities and the outdoor exercise equipment planned for that area.

2. Lakeshore Park – Commissioner Joseph – Tabled to July.

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

### **STAFF REPORTS**

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck started with the Jessica Splash Pad. The contractor was given an order to proceed on June 12<sup>th</sup>, however, the actual start date has not been determined. The draft of rules and signage is currently being worked on and will be brought to the Commission in the coming months.

The City Council approved design engineering for the Meadowbrook Commons pickleball courts at their June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting they also approved the purchase of a Zamboni for the Ice Arena to replace an aging model.

Playground equipment for Northwest Park was also approved.

The Ice Arena roof replacement is underway and should be completed next week. We are working on the schedule with the contractor for replacing the windows in the apartments, main building, and ranches at Meadowbrook Commons. A July or August start time is proposed.

There was a ceremony for the ITC Nine Mile and Garfield trail head. The pavilion is dedicated to Wayne Wrobel. It was a nice turnout of family, friends, council members, and city staff. The trailhead is now open with parking, a bike repair station, trail map and benches. A bike rack and trash cans are on order and coming to the facility. Today the webpages were updated to reference this as an easy access point for the ITC trail. The trailhead is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile east of Garfield Road at the Nine Mile intersection.

The Beacon Hill Park Property on the Northeast corner of Twelve Mile and Meadowbrook is officially owned by the city. The property is currently being used for staging the Great Lakes Water Project on Meadowbrook Road which is expected to conclude at the end of the year. There are no immediate plans for improvements to the property, next year at the very earliest.

Director Muck advised that the July meeting is very important. The consultant along with Recreation Supervisors Morris and Root will be proposing three different concept plans for the ITC Community Sports Park. July is also National Parks and Recreation month. We typically want to recognize and do special things so it will be a robust meeting with a full agenda.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Programs & Services

Deputy Director Tracie Ringle said it is June 15<sup>th</sup>. We are in the thick of our Parks and Recreation summer with a busy office getting all the programs running and serving the community. The youth and teen division are off and running with both Camp Lakeshore and Camp PowerPlay which are both full. All of the camp counselor positions have been filled and the camps are running smoothly. July is parks and recreation month, and we typically do special programming. This year will be 100 Hours Outside Challenge. The community members have been challenged with spending 100 hours outside and to let us know how they are doing it. There is a chance to win prizes through the department. We are looking forward to encouraging people to be out in the parks or their yards. Deputy Director Ringle continued with the Nature Nurture Novi programming. The Novi Birders meet every other Monday. We are offering a star gazing program on the 25<sup>th</sup>. An edible plants program on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. In the sports division, youth baseball starts Monday, sand volleyball began yesterday, and adult summer softball begins next week. The Cricket Cup will return this year. It will begin the weekend of July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a great tournament that takes place over two weekends. A very large softball rental, the Generals Tournament, will be occurring next week Thursday through Sunday. Girls from across the region will be playing at Power Park, ITC Community Sports Park and West Bloomfield. It is a really large tournament that will generate revenue for local businesses.

Soccer is the largest athletic program under recreation. Recreation Supervisor, Chase Root has been busy finalizing the details for the Lightning teams. Tryouts were last weekend. This year there will be twenty – thirty teams playing in WHISTLE and MSPSP leagues. The leagues have mandated new referee fees increasing the incentive for referees to work additional games. This will increase our expenses by more than \$30 for each game and will impact on our budget. However, the increase in teams should offset the extra referee expense.

T - Bolts began this week with 160 kids registered. This program began last year, currently we have fifteen more players than in 2022 not including late registration. Chase Root and tennis contractor Todd Beyer are doing a great job. Unfortunately, Kat Scozzari has resigned her position on the facility side. Her last day was Tuesday. The position has been posted for facilities and events.

Traditionally that job serves meetings, social events in this building and off site. It supports programs in parks, our department and community relations. The events side of the job will be enhanced to attract a stronger candidate pool. Already there are some good applicants. August 1<sup>st</sup> is the target date to have someone in place.

#### C. Older Adult Division –Director Jeff Muck

##### 1. Programs and Services

Director Muck provided some background on the OAS Manager position which oversees the administrative aspects of the Older Adult Services program. During COVID this position was not filled. Coming out of COVID a recreation supervisor was hired to do the groundwork to establish programs. Since Madison Lachance has moved to the Cultural Arts Recreation Supervisor position, we evaluated the need and decided to put someone in charge of the entire OAS administration with aspects of programming. Director Muck introduced Kit Kieser and added

that we are pleased with her background, experience, and are happy to have her on board. She started last Tuesday.

Kit Kieser said she is excited to be part of the team. She is impressed with the depth of what has been possible so far with the older adult services and what Novi provides. Ms. Kieser has spent the last ten years serving older adults, the last seven at the YMCA in multiple capacities. She managed thirty – forty programs including sports, aquatics, health living, social, plus mental and physical well-being programs.

OAS Manager Kit Kieser provided the updates for the Older Adult Services department. The 2023 Memorial Day parade was a great success. The parade included ten dignitaries, twenty organizations and business, antique cars, a veteran trailer with eighteen decorated veterans, the Novi High School Band and Novi public safety was represented. Hundreds of bags of candy were distributed to the citizens.

Social Service Coordinator Sandy Fisher is working with the non-profit organization Technanagy to present one on one assistance to older adults for help with iPads, phones, and computers. These high school students will be at Meadowbrook on July 14<sup>th</sup> for the next session.

Sip Sip Hooray took place at Lakeshore Park led by Madison Lachance and Judy Klein. Approximately fifty adults came out for music, charcuterie style snacks, lawn games, and dessert provided by Walton Wood 12 Oaks. Participants brought their own drinks. Raffle prizes were given away at the end of the event.

The Mackinac Island Grand Experience trip is now sold out and there is a waiting list. There are fifty-three older adults registered for the trip October 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>. Novi has seventy-five wrist bands available for Senior Day at the State Fair on August 31<sup>st</sup>. These are free to Novi residents. The program includes entertainment, lunch, snacks, and entry for a raffle before heading into the fair.

Estate Planning, AARP Smart Driver, an ice cream social and 4<sup>th</sup> of July luncheon are all upcoming programs.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

#### Commissioner Riggins

I think this was a very good meeting with a lot of updates and good things going on in Novi. We always have all types of events. I am interested in the 100 hours challenge. It sounds interesting and I will try to participate. I also liked Commissioner Staab's report about Rotary Park. Thank you.

#### Commissioner Joshi

It was a short meeting, but it was still robust. I think we had a lot to talk about, especially from the Walkable Novi meeting. Thank you for all the updates. Welcome Kit. I always feel I'm in-between age and I can't attend those, but I am looking forward to the events for older adults. Thank you for all the updates.

#### Commissioner Torimoto

Welcome Kit. I really liked hearing about the continued expansion of the programs. Also, the opportunities to redefine ITC. I have learned it is not just a sports park anymore but a neighborhood park. It is a need for the community, and this will provide an

opportunity to reimagine what we have. I am really looking forward to this for the rest of the year.

#### Commissioner Joseph

Welcome Kit, glad to have you here. I am impressed by the soccer numbers. Growing up in Novi playing soccer, we did not have that many teams. It is incredibly impressive. It is embarrassing to admit this, but it was the first time I attended the Memorial Day Parade. I had the opportunity to drive a vehicle this year. I was shocked to see the number of people and amount of candy that was given out.

I am really excited for the July meeting and hearing the findings of the ITC master plan and what the consultants have to say.

#### Commissioner Tolkacz

My comments are going to sound similar to my colleagues. Welcome Kit, great background. Glad to see you have hit the ground running and already engaged, great job.

The recreation division continues to impress as my colleagues said. My kids went through the programs, and I thought they were great then and every month they exceed the previous month's bar.

I am also looking forward to July. I can't wait to see all the great stuff planned for the new ITC 2.0.

#### Commissioner Staab

Commissioner Staab Welcomed Kit, and stated any time you need assistance, help, or talk about the history of Novi Parks feel free to give me a ring. Today he did a run through ITC Park. He noticed a couple people out there with dogs and asked how do we handle this?

Director Muck explained that dogs are allowed on a six-foot leach in all the parks except Lakeshore Beach. If someone is concerned about dogs running loose, they are encouraged to call the non-emergency police line and they will come and investigate. Commissioner Staab said it was very busy at the ITC play structure with seven – eight kids plus their mothers.

He agreed with Commissioner Joseph that the soccer numbers are phenomenal and was glad to see the camps are rolling on.

He looks forward to the ITC findings in July, however, he will not be in attendance due to being in Germany.

#### Commissioner Dooley

Welcome Kit.

I can't begin to tell you how much these meetings are just a joy. Sitting here as Commissioners and everybody's great comments honoring what you folks do in this department. Chase, Greg, and Madison along with the whole department do a wonderful job. It is a tribute to you leading them as senior leaders in this department. It just makes our job so much more fun when we get to hear these reports. Thank you for that. I echo all the comments as well. I thank you all for being part of this Commission. It is an absolute pleasure.

We had an older adult services meeting on Monday night, and it was brought to my attention that our ratings are just as good as City Council meetings. I attribute that to this wonderful Commission. I look forward to seeing everyone in July.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Riggins and seconded by Commissioner Joseph.

**Voice Vote**

**Unanimous**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 7:55p.m.

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

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Jay Dooley, Chairperson

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Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson