

This is for the pickleball courts at Meadowbrook Commons. There was also discussion of the Northwest Park Grant for the development of that park located at Twelve Mile Road east of Andelina Ridge Subdivision. This grant was for \$100,000. The playground equipment will be purchased. Unfortunately, we did not receive the Spark grant for additional pickleball courts and parking at Wildlife Woods. Director Muck explained the chances of receiving the Spark grant were small and they will not be trying for the next rounds. The funds are going to communities receiving higher need-based scores.

D. Parks and Facilities Updates

1. Ella Mae Power Park – Commissioner Dooley, Student Representatives Bheemineni and Raghunathan

The student representatives spoke of the positives and items to be addressed at Ella Mae Power Park. The signage at the front and by the playground was highlighted. The ballfields looked great, and the playground was in good condition. Weeds, a few benches that need painting, and litter on the ground were noted as improvement areas to be addressed. Adding some grass seed to patch a few areas would be helpful. The park was busy the day they visited with many people at the playground and on the baseball fields.

2. Rotary Park – Commissioner Staab - Tabled to June meeting.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Meadowbrook Commons Pickleball

Director Muck provided a brief recap of the Meadowbrook Commons pickleball courts. In December 2022 a grant application was submitted for \$250,000 to the Oakland County Senior Center Grant Program for development of pickleball courts at Meadowbrook Commons Activity Center. In January we were notified that we received \$150,000 from the Healthy Aging Oakland County Ad Hoc Committee. This will help fund the addition of four courts with nets, fencing, shade structures, benches, and connector pathways. There was a very short time frame to come up with plans when the grant was launched. The original plan was to put the courts by the gazebo in the green space next to the parking lot along Meadowbrook Road. After two meetings with a focus group of Meadowbrook residents it was recommended to move the location to the northeast corner of the property, which is Meadowbrook Road and Cherry Hill. The reason is concern about sound and disruption of the natural area. The new location has unused space with a berm to help with sound. Additional parking will be installed which will be designated for pickleball. The increased parking will better serve the residents and people coming to programs at the activity center. Director Muck said if the commission grants motion of support a design award and updated project estimates will be presented to City Council in the summer. If approved construction would probably start in 2024.

Further discussion occurred concerning fencing, bathrooms, pathways, and the seventeen parking spots. Director Muck stressed that these are community courts

but there could be designated time just for Meadowbrook residents. He continued saying that these are recreation level courts for beginner players. There will be no lights. The Parks Commissioners unanimously approved moving forward with the Meadowbrook Commons pickleball plans.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Park Project Updates

Director Muck showed photos of the Lakeshore Park tunnel from two days ago. City staff and the consultant AECOM have been working on the final punch list items. These are scheduled to be done before the beach opening on Saturday May 27th. There is still restoration and washouts around the tunnel to repair. They need to install the handrail, hook up the foot wash station, seal and paint the inside of the tunnel, and restore the garden bed areas. Plus, work on general pickup of the debris and cleaning the site. A front loader and tractor were being used by the municipal grounds staff to add sand and grading the beach in preparation for opening. Lakeshore benches are on order which will be placed along the retaining wall. It will be a nice seating area looking out over the lake. Plans are to add more benches and a bike rack on the park side of the tunnel after restoration. The retaining wall is all concrete and around ten feet of beach was gained during this project.

Director Muck is happy with how this project is turning out. Swing gates have been added on each side of the tunnel to secure both entrances. The tunnel is taller and wider than before. He is happy with how the schedule of the project went. A full crew has a complete day of work ahead. The indication was they are coming Saturday to finish up.

The contract is being finalized for Jessica's Splashpad. We are expecting to issue an order to proceed next week. By the first week of June activity construction should start.

The RC Raceway held their first race last Saturday. There were eighty-nine entries that consisted of fifty-four individual drivers, which is a pretty good size tournament. There are seven more races scheduled for this summer.

Director Muck updated the Nine Mile Road/ Garfield Road trailhead. A small trailhead facility is being constructed in agreement with the Terra subdivision. Director Muck has been working with the city's landscape architect and parks municipal grounds team to prepare for the official opening. There will be a comfort station, six parking spots, and a bike repair station. Park benches and trash cans, trail map, and bike rack will be added. There will be an announcement of the opening. It will be a nice spot to access the trail.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Programs & Services

Deputy Director Tracie Ringle started her update with Memorial Day activities. The Fuerst Field of Honor will take place at Fuerst Park on Wednesday May 24th. It will feature a patriotic concert, memorial ceremony, light refreshments, and a catered dinner for the veterans and guests. The park is decorated with commemorative flags and medallions. These will be up through the weekend.

People are encouraged to walk the trail throughout the holiday weekend. The Memorial Day Run (5K and fun run) will take place on Memorial Day starting at 7:30a.m. 230 runners are participating with more are expected to register. The parade will take place along Ten Mile starting at 10:00a.m. Entries are still being accepted and we encourage veterans to participate.

The Sizzling Summer Art Series begins mid-June and takes place on Wednesdays at 10:30a.m. at Fuerst Park. This year we will be partnering with Fountain Walk to offer Street Sounds. It will take place every Tuesday June 13th to July 18th from 6:00-8:00p.m. Live bands including good local names will be featured. We will support with our sound stage and family activities.

In 2022 we added a temperature controlled outdoor AED cabinet to Power Park. If the cabinet opens it sends an auto call to dispatch. The past year there has been no issues with functioning, tampering or destruction. This year we plan to add two more units to the park system, one outside the Lakeshore Park Building and one at the splashpad after construction. Deputy Director Ringle thanked Recreation Supervisor Greg Morris for leading the charge, in cooperation with Integrated Solutions, fire department, DPW, and dispatch.

Recreation Supervisor, Jeff Johns is overseeing the summer camp program. We have reached the number of camp counselors needed however, additional 18+ applicants can still apply. He revised the counselor in training program. It is open to students in grades 9th -11th that have an interest in being a future counselor. There is a one-time registration fee plus a minimal \$20 per week fee. There are ten applicants which will be interviewed, shadow full camp counselors, develop skills, learn leadership and be a feeder program for future counselors.

Deputy Director Ringle continued with soccer 2022-2023 season is wrapping up. Tryouts for the 2023-2024 season are taking place June 10th and 11th for the select teams. The adult tennis league has begun.

June 9th there will be a dance tribute to Beth Barr at Villa Barr. Beth Barr's background was in dance education and performing. The performance is by our resident Abbey Marchesseault. All of the commissioners have been invited.

Villa Barr also received a mini grant for \$750 from Keep Michigan Beautiful to be used for the continuing restoration of the gardens.

C. Older Adult Division –Director Jeff Muck

1. OAS Manager Updates

Director Muck thanked commissioners Riggins and Staab for participating in the second-round interviews for the Older Adult Services Manager. He did not have any news to announce on the finalist, agreements, or terms. Hopefully, the new manager will be announced at the next Parks Commission meeting.

2. Programs and Services

Director Muck said the medical loan closet is the most active support program. Sandy receives at least three inquiries a day. 99% of our equipment is currently on loan to area residents.

Sandy is working with the facilities department to expand and renovate the storage space to increase efficiency and add more items. The Aging Mastery Program with the Area Agency on Aging began on April 20th with thirteen participants.

Walk Your Way to Health has fifteen people registered, Cutting the Cord was held today with thirty-one registrations. Since the spring of 2022 over 100 people have attended the Cutting the Cord program. There is definitely a desire from older adults to learn more about this topic.

Director Muck added to the Memorial Day planning updates by saying there are sixteen parade applications from local organizations and business plus four classic cars.

On May 11th OAS partnered with the DIA and took a bus of fifty-four older adults to the museum. That same day Friends of Mayberry volunteers led a group of twenty-four people on an educational tour of the wildflowers in the park.

Yesterday Judy Klein took a group of older adults to Tiger Stadium for a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Upcoming on June 9th at 7:00p.m. will be the return of the popular Sip Sip Hooray program at Lakeshore Park. Participants are encouraged to bring their own drinks and join us for charcuterie style fare, music from the sixties – eighties, lawn games, and raffle prizes. Last year this event was a big hit with the younger older adults.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tolkacz

It is nice to see the weather is getting warmer and there are some events in the near future. The Memorial Day event on May 24th looks to be pretty interesting as well as the June 8th Sip Sip Hooray. Thank you and your team for the great work you do, it certainly keeps living in Novi exciting with all the activities. Thank you again.

Commissioner Joseph

Thank you to the student representatives. That was a great presentation. Great to see you taking the initiative to do such.

The Lakeshore pathway getting to the beach is really coming together. Great improvements.

Lastly it is good to see the trailhead at Nine Mile is coming together. It is going to be a great addition to the pathway. I have not had the opportunity to ride yet this spring but hopefully I can get there and see what is going on.

Commissioner Joshi

Great presentation student representatives, I liked it a lot.

I am really glad to hear about the two additional AEDs . I think they are in the perfect locations, places with a lot of people. Hopefully we still do not have to use them.

Just echoing the comments, that it is nice with all the programs, and I am looking forward to the Memorial Day parade and Fuerst Park.

Student Representative Raghunathan

For the pickleball plan I am excited to see the turnout. Do you know exactly when it will get started?

Director Muck answered 2024, that is as exact as I'm going to get.

For the AED it is a good addition just in case of an emergency.

Student Representative Bheemineni

The Lakeshore bridge looks great, that it is coming together, and it looks really great. I am looking forward to seeing it when I visit the area. I am also looking forward to participating in the Memorial Day parade as usual. The programs overall look great.

Commissioner Riggins

There is never a dull moment in Novi, so much to do. These activities and everything that we have, everybody come and enjoy them. I'm excited to see the Lakeshore tunnel. The project will be very beautiful. It will open May 27th.

I want to thank the student reps. You did a fabulous job with your presentation. I really enjoyed it.

Lastly, I hope to see everyone at the Memorial Day parade.

Commissioner Dooley

How many more meetings do we have with these student representatives? Can we get you reappointed? We would like to keep them. Thanks for the preparation. You should be very proud. I hope your proud parents were watching tonight.

I want to mention the Miss Amazing pageant that was held here at the Civic Center. It was year four for Miss Amazing and the City of Novi. This represents the entire state of Michigan. Last year it was a challenge with the event at Fuerst Park due to the weather. The decision was made for year four and subsequently to move it indoors.

The department was on top of things three days before the event took place. The city hall looked great, well decorated and professionally done. Jeanette was just amazing.

The Chairs, my wife and daughter, could not say enough great things about Jeanette.

She was fantastic. The volunteers that represented the parks department were clockwork, the front desk very accommodating for those families that came in with their special needs daughters. It was a tremendous event. It was the most attended event Miss Amazing has ever held in the State of Michigan. I keep talking and glowing about the City of Novi but this is what makes the city so great because we encompass everything. It is an inclusive city not an exclusive city.

Thank you to Commissioner Riggins for attending Dooley Dog Day that was held a few weeks ago. The city was very helpful through the Parks department once again for cooking 1,000 hot dogs. Hopefully we have the opportunity to cook a lot more in the fall. Special thanks to the department for helping it be successful.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice Vote

Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Dooley at 7:48p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jay Dooley, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson