

Good evening everyone. Welcome to the Cassidy Theater. I'm Mike Byrne, Mayor of Parma Heights. I know some of you are on a tight timeframe and want to get home and watch the Browns, so we have this timed out. But, before we start, I would like to acknowledge some people here. I would like to acknowledge a couple of our councilmembers that are here – our Councilwoman Marie Gallo, our Councilwoman JoAnn Koch, Councilwoman Everett is in the back, as well as Councilman McCall. I would also like to acknowledge our Service Director Dennis Patten; Recreation Director Joe Tal; Economic and Community Development Director Joe Sebes; as well as Law Director Mike Pokorny. They will all be here if you have any questions afterward. Most important to me, many of you have already met her, is my assistant, Erin Lally, she is here. One last acknowledgement, we are very fortunate to have with us tonight from Congressman Gonzalez's office, Mike Cunnington – Mike, thank you for stopping by. Before I turn, it is the same format. For those of you who have been here before, it is the same format. I am going to turn it over to Engineer Dan Neff who is going to give you a presentation. We will have questions and answers after that. I just want to emphasize one thing. Those who had questions and concerns regarding the first proposal that we made, the first draft we made, we heard you. We heard you loud, and we took to heart some of the suggestions and some of your concerns. I think you will find very quickly how this project has changed from the first draft to this draft. You will see the changes we have made. You will see that we have enhanced Nathan Hale Park from the beginning to what it will possibly be if everything goes well. So, with that, I am going to turn it over to Engineer Dan Neff.

Engineer Neff explained when we were back here in May or June ... *Erin; I need the screen moved around.* Erin, if you could go to the next slide. What I am going to do is – I apologize, sometimes it is hard to see in this room, but what I am putting out here is this is the overall city. We have our Big Creek Parkway running through. We have Kurtz Park up on the north end by 130th, Nathan Hale Park here, we have our schools, we have Stroud Park, we have Radlick Park, we have the Greenbriar Commons, and we have Reservoir Park as well as our neighbors to the south of the Nike site, the old Parma Recreation is adjacent to our property as well as our neighbor, Cuyahoga Community College. *Erin, if you could, the next slide please.* What we are talking about this evening, again, is this Nathan Hale Park, which was formally a Nike site, which comprises of 25-1/2 acres. I took a line and drew it through here. It stops here. This line here marks Parma Heights from Parma - the same thing on this side – Parma Heights from Parma. This is the only spot in the city where our property actually drops down and goes into Parma. That was part of the arrangements when the Nike site was split – part to Parma and part to Parma Heights. So, this is the project we are referring to and talking about. *Erin, if you could...* Again, I bring up, you see the park down on the bottom – a lot of color to look at – but what this represents is all of the accumulated complaints. When I say complaints, I mean actually filed complaints or written complaints that they either observe water in their house from storm backup, sanitary backup, or both. So, you get a pretty good idea – it is a pretty massive area. We have a big problem in this part of our city. *Erin, if we could go a little closer – the next one up.* This gives you a little better idea. The orange represents houses that have had sanitary backup. The green is storm backup that was reported, and then there is a combination of it. You see how much of this area is hit. We also recognize, from all of the studies that we have done, although we have areas that did not report... We know from the modeling that we did that these areas still flood. So, what we are trying to do is we have devised a way... We talked about this at the last meeting, but we are here to talk about a whole new project with a little different concept, is we are still looking to come up with solutions to solve our water problems in Parma Heights. This is our first phase, which is Nathan Hale Park,

which is a piece of the park up in this north corner, and I am also pleased to announce, maybe it is okay to mention, that we have been working with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and we are pursuing properties over toward 130th for a second basement, and we feel that this is actually, at this point, going very well. It is important to understand that each of these play a very important role in our stormwater management for Parma Heights. *Erin...*

Okay. Now, for some pictures. Turn a little bit and all the way to my side over there, north is facing up. Again, we have Nathan Hale Park, again showing the City of Parma, City of Parma Heights, our neighbors Tri-C, and again, for those who have seen it is water shed. What is draining where. Everything beyond that red line involved draining to Big Creek Parkway, all of it ends up down through [REDACTED] and down Alexander and heads out to the Parkway. All of this water here on Pleasant Valley is all collected and continues to go down to Baldwin Creek, which also then runs off past the airport and connects ultimately into the lake. So, at Nathan Hale, right here, we are dealing with coming from this part of our city and our neighbor, we are dealing with about 213 acres coming in at one point here, acres of drainage, 43 acres at this location here, and in addition we have these various areas of how much drainage and how much acreage is coming into our system. What our goal is to capture this water before it inundates our system, which it does almost every storm event. So, what we are looking to do is capture that, slow it down, convey it out at a slower rate so that all of the sewers that we see in these streets can operate without backing up. *Erin...* This is the focus area. Again, Nathan Hale Park. You can see. Right now, we have the ball fields that are there, some soccer practice fields, and again soccer fields along the south end of the facility, a play area for the young children. We have an old concession/bathroom building, but it is in pretty rough shape. We will talk a little bit about that as we go forward. Again, it gives you a little bit of bigger blowup. Again, I want you to look at this because you can see this outline again. See, this is all wooded. That is all staying. There is no need to remove those trees. To our neighbor, of course, they are almost complete on their construction on the Tri-C, the Safety Town, and then this area in here will remain wooded, because for their sake and I guess ours, it is mostly wetlands, and unless they do a lot of permitting, it may be difficult. *Erin...* So, this was the project you saw back in May, and everyone went, "What the hell?" Now, what we are trying to do and are still doing, we are shoring a body of water that in order to slow down the system so we can get the water out of our basements, the sewage out of our basements, and out of the yards and in the neighborhood. This originally had a large mound proposed, which, at the time, we talked about having removed, but we didn't have a definite plan in hand. We were working on this. This was the old plan. A dry basin, as you stated, many of you did, ugly, not very attractive. *Erin, if I could....* Now, what we are trying to do is we are going to create a lake here instead of just a stormwater basin. Some of these suggestions came from residents; some of them came from 3rd party, our state callers, Tri-C, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, City of Parma, and also the Federal Parks Department trying to make it more of a lake end. So, now what we have is the same thing. We will take it and have a little better shape. This thing will be the water surface during all events and as events get higher, the water will build up, and it will accumulate in this lake, and I will show you some of the other features in a moment, and ultimately out through the system and out. Again, the goal of this is the same goal that we had before is to stop some of the down-street flooding. This is the easiest way to do it. We are catching it before it gets to us. In addition, we are also picking up storm sewer that runs into and will dump into this system. This happens to be the deep portion of the lake, another deep portion; these are the shallow sides of the lake. *Erin, if I could....* These are the preliminary sketches on what we

are proposing landscaping wise. It is a little bit hard to see, but as you can see, the overall blue is where there is constant water. Meaning there will be water even during dry events because this is down below the inlet that is coming in from the stream to our west. We have also introduced a walking trail around the basin, around the lake, with a footbridge. We continue the walking trail around and back, and it ties back into what we hope is part of this project, maybe the 1st and maybe the 2nd phase. We will be doing a new bathhouse. In addition to the bathhouse, we will add an open-air pavilion so people can use it for public events. Note in this we still have our two soccer fields in the same location. Not shown, but you will see it in a while, below this all of the rest of those fields will stay the way they are. We are not touching them in elevation. We are going to be planting this. What you see in yellow is what we typically refer to as, these start to vary from grasses to wetland vegetation, and then as we get down into these lower-lying areas, it will be wetland wildflower. I will show you a lot of that as we go forward into this. You will see a little bit more of the palate that we are trying to create. I will give you some examples of where this has been incorporated and how it is working in other areas. *Erin...* Again, here, we are showing the permanent pool. All of this area in here, there are several sections that are deeper, 8 to 10 feet; this one is 6 feet or a little bit deeper; and this is called a four bay. Then, what happens is as the water rises, it gets up to a maximum elevation of about, you see the arrows here, it comes around, and that is where it fills up, and then it slowly drains itself back out. Again, we have the all-purpose paths. I guess we are going to be looking at different materials as we look at this, making some decisions, and hopefully getting input from the residents and the planning commission. Also shown here are all of the existing wetlands that have been delineated in a letter and all of that sent to the Corps of Engineers. Here is a neighboring wetlands, our portion of them on Tri-C's property, they do come right into our, and we have been aware of this. This area here, of course, up on the top is the existing stream that currently feeds our storm sewer system and inundates it after almost every two to five-year storm. We did introduce a few things along this parkway as well. We are looking at a possible small area for a gazebo to kind of create that overlook. In throughout here, and in a few locations, I will show you some pictures, we are going to be introducing some benches. We are going to be introducing what we hope will be informational boards. *Erin, if you could, the next please.* So, here are some of the palates and some of the things we are talking about. You see the drawing in the middle. You see the rest of the park that we have, or a good portion of it, not quite all of it. What we are trying to introduce are what are some of the elements that we think would be important in this project. I mentioned benches. As you start to create a lake atmosphere and you have that sitting area, benches become an important part of that walking trail and relaxation. We show them here, here, and we show a pavilion, but they could be placed throughout here. Another one in this location. Over on the far end of this basin or lake is a footbridge. Not that this is it, but this is very similar to what we are looking at. If we can do this, what we are trying to do is connect the trail all the way back so it is a continuous use of a trail. The trail, right now, based on this plan, measures about 2600 lineal feet, so about 4200ths of a mile. There are possibly other opportunities to wrap it into other things in the park, but we do not have a lot of walkways right now throughout the park. I talked about the gazebo, and this could be easily incorporated into this project. Another piece of this is that we would like to use spray fountains for a lot of reasons. It keeps water moving, it keeps oxygen in so when we start to feed this thing with fish, and again they will be able to live in this environment. We will try to keep water, keep the water moving, and keep the air moving so it continues to bring oxygen. It also adds a bit of aesthetics to it. This is kind of a small fountain. We would be looking at something possibly a little bit larger with the opportunity to have up lighting in it.

This is just two sections running through to give you an idea of how this thing functions. Again, at the top and on the left of each of these is where the existing basin is. This happens to be where we cut this first angle through here. What we have is, in this area, this is 18-inch what we call open waterway, 16 to 18 inches of water. There is a reason we do this. It creates the ability for us, as we bring water through, it helps filter. We have plant life that is in this. We have wetland vegetation. I am referring more toward wetland, wildflowers, and things like that. There are some grasses that do very well. There are a number of trees we are looking to put within this in these areas. To give you an idea, maple trees do well when they are flooded. They are able to survive. River birch is another tree that is very successful in water and wet areas. We have our landscape architects that are looking into a lot of that. The slopes, which would be about a 5:1 slope, which is just a little bit steeper than just the walkway coming down here. These will all be seeded with what we call a wildflower seed mix. Again, that is so that we create that beauty that comes out of one of these. They are low maintenance too. That is another thing we look at is, for these lakes and basins and lower line areas, we want to make sure we are not out there cutting grass all of the time because that continues to add to the pollution of the lake, so we will keep this as a no-mow or low-mow area. *Erin...* Talking about materials and plants, on this board here, it gives you an idea of some of the palates and some of the things we are looking at. Again, here is the wildflower mix. Again, you could flood it and it continues to grow. It is not an issue. We have the river birch up in the middle. We have some maples. Again, they take a lot of water. They survive very well. We have some ornamental trees that we are looking at a little higher up, more in the park area near the paths. Again, we have introduced a couple of other types of vegetation, shrub vegetation that do very well in wet environments. These are actual pictures taken from one of the sites that we did and I worked on at Oakwood Commons, and this just happens to be a little picture. This is over in South Euclid, Ohio, behind a shopping center, and it was 21 acres that we developed lakes and walking paths and all of that as part of the city park. *Erin...* So, in view, what I spoke about was over at Oakwood Commons, that is the shopping/retail center, that is all the way over on this end here, this was the stormwater management facility that we designed to not only act as a stormwater management but an open lake. This is during dry season in the summer. You can see quite a bit of water, quite a bit of water areas, and vegetation all along the sides and edges of it. You get other pictures as you see down in here. In that situation, we had a parking lot brought in and an area so people could then turn around and use the path systems throughout this portion of the property. This used to be part of the old Oakwood Country Club, and if you can see on the right-hand side, some of the comments from people just looking at Google about how it became a hidden jewel. They didn't expect it. There are a lot of things that people enjoy. This park, I can tell you, from all of the information that we have and all of the follow-ups that we do and reporting that we do, gets a lot of foot traffic. This is something we are trying to do is introduce a little bit more of this style, this type of an environment, into the park that we think it belongs. Again, I talked about the signage. These would be information boards, whether it is one, two, or three. The identify what is going on in this ecosystem and talk about its importance. Again, this project was one of them that we did for the developer, actually, Mr. Mitchell Schneider, and when it was ultimately done, he donated all of it to the City. *Erin, if I could...* Just to give you some ideas, we talk about, and I am a believer that lakes are part of parks, just like anything else. Originally, we looked at a stormwater basin; we looked at it strictly, because there was an economic issue. We are also proud to say that we have managed, through other contacts, to work a solution on where all that dirt, when we dig it out, will go. We also are working on agreements with our neighbors, Parma, to be able to take all of that soil. Our hope is that it would be taken all the way to Pleasant Valley so it is not

going to the neighborhoods that we all live in. Again, this just gives you an idea on how important the lakes become in areas in developments. This just happens to be another example of one where there is a lake and is servicing partially as a stormwater basin, but it always has water in it. You get a view of how it looks on the side. They have walking trails and paths. It happens to be about the same time of the year on that one. This is how these basins can work into neighborhoods into the park systems. This happens to be Rockefeller Park. If you have been through this area, it is a gorgeous part of Cleveland where we have all of the Memorial Gardens, but this happens to be Rockefeller Park and Rockefeller Lagoon, and you see the same types of features that we are hoping to incorporate. This aerating in green water, make it move so it creates a little bit of aesthetics. Coe Lake in Berea is another one that they have created a park around a lake atmosphere. Parma has redone Ridgewood and State Road Parks and enhanced those. What we are trying to do is bring people back to the water. Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is working with a lot of communities like ourselves in trying to incorporate some of these ideas. I will tell you that when we sat and met with them along the Tri-C, Parma and ourselves, they were very impressed with the fact that we could make a lake out of it. The district was supportive of it. Now we are working through what we hope are the next stages in development, which is taking this thing further, getting it ready, and getting it in front of the Planning Commission and Council for their adoption and hopefully approval. We are still working with the National Park Division on things they need us to do. I think we have a laundry list just recently on some of the other things they want us to fulfill, which we are working on. Also, here, this evening, if there are any questions regarding park facilities and how much we have in the city, our recreation director, Mr. Tal, is in the back of the room as well. With that, Mayor? My hope is not to keep you real late, but I will gladly stay and answer any questions that you have.

The Mayor commented that he just wanted to acknowledge someone very quickly who is very important in this project. There is only one ballfield over there at Nathan Hale Park. That was dedicated in memory of Mr. Litten. Bill Litten is here tonight. He is a former recreation director in the City of Parma Heights. He has worked with us in support of this with the understanding that we will re-dedicate that Litten Field to another field in Parma Heights. I can't thank Bill enough and I appreciate your support in that. With that, what we are going to do is open it up, once again, try to do it as orderly as possible. If we have a couple of other mics, or how are we going to work this, Ken?

Ken responded there is only one mic.

A resident who lives at 6799 Orchard Boulevard stated that this new project looks pretty good. I want to know what you're going to do with all of the dirt that was planned for the 25 foot that was going to be there. You're going to dig this out. Is the dirt going elsewhere, or are we still storing it?

Engineer Neff replied no, the commitment is that the dirt will leave the site as construction starts. As its being constructed, the dirt will be trucked off. We are still working out arrangements with our neighbors to the south of us, Parma and Deer Park, to use that drive so that we take everything out and onto the major roadway, which is Pleasant Valley. It is, right now, we have a potential suiter who wants all of the material to the point where they are paying for it. Right now, the agreement is that they will pay for the truck. That is what makes this ... all of a sudden ... from before when we were talking about all of the dirt that we had to get rid of, it now brings economy back into this thing in hopes that we can afford to put the amenities that we want to put in, providing that we have our third part, which they are still ... the last

we talked with them, they are definitely interested. We are generating almost 100,000 yards of dirt. Last time it was 88,000. They said that they could use in excess of 120.

A resident replied okay. The drainage that goes behind Orchard Boulevard, that little creek that is behind there, is that also going to help Orchard Boulevard's area to drain.

Engineer Neff replied yes. This now comes on through. It runs all the way across back around this, between us and Tri-C, continues down, gets into this structure right now, runs down Orchard, and then runs off Parma Park. We are still going to do that, but we are going to capture all of it. We are going to capture around 11.5 million gallons of water, let it out here very slow. This stream will be diverted. There will be very little flow in it, but it will be diverted primarily to the new lake to keep the lake constantly with water.

A resident commented that it doesn't seem like it's the 6800 block. It's the 6700 block where the issue is. The second block up into the middle, which, like you were talking the last time, it would go all the way to 130th – that whole section is where that would go.

Engineer Neff replied correct. We are taking 250 acres out of the system right now so that the system can work better. We will put it back in, but very slowly.

A resident asked and then you talked about planting maple trees? What about the seeds and who is going to maintain all of that? Is that going to go back into our sewer system?

Engineer Neff replied no.

A resident replied because maples are invasive. I know you talked about them being a great source of sucking up water, but they also drop a lot.

Engineer Neff replied they do. We haven't said to anybody today, "yes this is what we are doing." We are showing you ideas and giving you some palates. These are things that we see in these types of plantings in areas that survive very well. Yes, we are going to get some leaves to fall. They will fall into the lake. It's part of lake health, and if we have fish and wildlife, that's all part of that natural balance, but we are not going to be burying this place with trees. We want to keep a nice open view. We anticipate having trees scattered throughout and then there will be some trees down the lower lying areas that can handle some of that water. And those things help purify it. Stuff goes through and water goes through, it helps that. And the other thing it does is provide habitat. That's the other thing we are looking at is how do we introduce all of that and make sure of that.

A resident asked when do you anticipate starting.

Engineer Neff replied I will take you through the process. We are now in October. We are still working through. We just introduced this to Council before we came to you. Council gave us a great review on it and wants us to pursue it further. It still has to come back to them, but we are going to go further now. We are going to go back to Planning Commission. We don't want to go until we start working out all of these details. We have our partners that are also involved – Tri-C, Parma, and we are all involved in this decision making, because it is really a regional issue and not just a Parma Heights one. In addition to that, we have our friends at the National Parks who are kind of giving us a little bit more of a hint on what they

think we want to see and what we should do, and this is kind of the direction that we are moving in. Indications are that they like this option better. They can see how, at least when we introduced it, this is really a park feature as well as stormwater management. There aren't too many lakes out there today or too many ponds that don't function somehow or another with stormwater. Very few of them don't.

A resident asked if this isn't all set to go yet, my question is why did they go in there and tear out Litten Field and the fencing and stuff. There are giant rolls of fence in the middle of the thing. There are huge ditches where the front-end loader was digging down in the middle. That is a tripping hazard now. The fence is down. I mean, if they would have left the fence up, a lot of people take their dogs down there, and it was almost like a dog park. Right now, it looks like East Cleveland.

Engineer Neff asked if you are talking about this area up in here.

A resident replied no. I'm talking about Litten Field. All of the fence was torn down in May after our first meeting, on a Saturday. They tore all of the fence down, rolled it up, and left it. Now you have a big green ... where they have nothing but poles running up and down the thing. If it wasn't okay to go ... this looks beautiful ... if this wasn't okay to go, why jump in there the following week, on a Saturday, in the rain, and rip out all of that fencing and stuff, there are holes in the middle of that stuff. That's what I'm talking about.

The Mayor replied that the resident is absolutely right. We got ahead of ourselves; there is no doubt about it. We skipped a couple of steps. We got as ambitious as we could, probably a little overly ambitious, and we probably shouldn't have done what we did. That was honest – our mistake.

A resident stated okay. Now there are rolls of fence there. If you didn't know you were going to get the approval from the government to go do this, why would you go in there and jump down and tear down the ball field?

Engineer Neff replied we were a little bit overly ambitious. Our mistake. We are moving forward. We were too aggressive with it. We did make some mistakes.

A resident stated they thought very aggressive.

Engineer Neff stated we are probably in agreement that we were a little bit. We also had a lot of support and continue to have a lot of support. Again, we are looking at this as important for the neighborhood and all of the homes in the area.

A resident commented it was a beautiful ballfield.

The Mayor replied it was. And now this is going to enhance it more. I truly believe that this will enhance it more. More questions.

Francis Weakland 6928 Maplewood Road. The question I have for you is the difference between this proposal and the first one. On the first one, how many acres was it?

Engineer Neff replied we were talking about storage of 31-acre feet. We are still talking the same.

Mr. Weakland asked the same amount.

Engineer Neff replied yes. This area here we are talking about between the halves and all of this area here encompasses about 6-1/2 acres of surface area that will be transformed. It does not mean all of it is lake, but again, there will be part of the walking paths and there is some sewer repair work that we need to do back there as well. That still leaves us the balance of the park. As we all know, these wooded areas that we don't utilize will remain as they are today.

Mr. Weakland replied okay, well the question I have is, with the first proposal, dry, detention versus retention. The first proposal could store how many gallons?

Engineer Neff replied just about 11 million gallons.

Mr. Weakland replied okay. 11 the first time, and now you are saying it is larger.

Engineer Neff replied it is just about the same. We are a little bit higher by about 3/10 of an acre-foot higher, which is going to give me another 300,000 cubic gallons, so it's very similar in volume. We didn't want to encroach any further than we originally had talked about. We recognized and left the soccer fields. Again, these soccer fields will be there. They are there now. They may be redone as part of it. It's just because of the activity if they get disturbed. That is what we kind of listened to ... to just keep it as tight as we can.

Mr. Weakland replied his follow-up question then is how much water is in there before the storm? That's my question. How much room do you have?

Engineer Neff replied off all of the lows, the normal water level. So, as we look at this stream up in here, and we get what we call dry weather flow, it is a trickle that goes through here. I could tell you the elevation. If you look at this drawing and look at this outline of blue right there. That is what we call our low water. That is where ... everything from that point on is wet. What we have done is dug it deeper.

Mr. Weakland asked is that a couple of million gallons?

Engineer Neff replied he didn't know how many gallons that holds. Because it doesn't contribute to storage. It's always there. It's always wet. It's like filling up your swimming pool. It may rain and you may get an inch on top. It doesn't make any difference. That water is still there, and that is what this will do ... it will stay there.

Mr. Weakland replied okay. When the water comes in from a major storm that is going to come in at what level?

Engineer Neff replied it will come in starting at the street level and then continues to rise. We are diverting all of the flow into this, so ...

Mr. Weakland asked it continues rise ... even though the input is below the basin, water will still come in.

Engineer Neff replied water would continue to flow and it will get up to an elevation of 1167, which is still down below the bank of this existing creek bed that is here now.

Mr. Weakland asked at what point do you start releasing it after the storm.

Engineer Neff replied all of this comes in here rather quickly between this pipe, this inlet here, and it slowly is discharged through here. So, you ask me when is it starting to be discharged. It's a series of different [redacted] that give us different effects. Under a low storm, it all pretty much stays there. As it gets a little bit higher, there is another orifice that lets more water out. That's how we build this up so as it gets higher, we end up discharging. When we get up to 100-year storm, we are still holding it but discharging it much slower than it was before.

Mr. Weakland asked then when it comes in at the inlet; it's at a major creek somewhere around the college? Is that where this is pointed? I'm trying to figure out how does it get into there. At what point ... is it going to be like a big sewer pipe with water running out of the wetlands into ?

Engineer Neff replied yes. What we did is when we did the studies on this, we had ADCOMM, which is another engineering firm; assist us in the evaluation of this. In addition to that, the district hired Waytrim to do another analysis, another firm, and they reviewed our documentation further. What we are going to do is you know from living in the area that the water gets up pretty high in this streambed. Well, we are making sure all of this goes into this lake first. It never gets any higher than that streambed before. It actually gets a little bit lower as it is discharging out through the system. What we had happen on many big storms is this whole thing fills out, this infrastructure cannot handle that flow, it all fills up as you may know, and it floods out many of these yards and it continues flooding the system down the street because the sewers are over inundated.

Mr. Weakland stated that he believes the major problem the City has had – correct me if I'm wrong – is the Western Park of Pearl, Western Park near Maplewood and over to Parma Park. The reported flooding from major storms is in that location, and I'm wondering, hopeful down the road, that you can get another retention basin over near 130th. I'm trying to get a feel of ... 11 million gallons potentially going into this with major storms, will that have a major effect in your opinion.

Engineer Neff replied yes, in my opinion, along with other consultants, yes it will. It will take a lot of that water out of our systems, which are flooding. Our manholes lids start to push the water out. Then, it gets inundated. As you are going downstream, downhill, it just keeps pushing. Yes, it will have a very significant effect. As for that question, we are hoping that if we find others ... we are in very solid negotiations with Northeast Ohio Sewer District on another basin almost this size in our city under what they call the Regional Basin Project. They have committed, we have committed, and we are in the process of talking with property owners. I mean we do have the ability, as a city, to go after it a different way, but I think it is a very fruitful and a very healthy discussion right now.

A resident asked about the funding. You said some of the costs were trucking out the dirt. That's all going to be offset by whoever is taking the dirt. And we have the grant from the sewer district, so what other finances are involved here? Is that all approved? I mean are we going to be able to fund this thing. Or how is that happening?

Engineer Neff replied we did receive a grant from Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for a million dollars, one of the largest grants given at the time. We were grateful. They saw the benefit. In addition to that million, there are approximately \$400,000 in additional costs that we have earmarked from some of our storm funds in the city. So, the funding has been allocated to do this project. Does it mean that

the pavilion will go in right away? I can't tell you that until we start working on all of those details. Our intent is the bridge and then the walking trails, and the landscape. When we come back to you with the final plan, we will have the final design; we will have the help of the federal government on the parks division. We will have something that works. Then, we will budget the whole thing and make sure we are good, and if there are any sources in addition, we would have to look for that or we would have to find a way to fit with that. I will tell you – hauling all of that dirt out – when you look at it. If I'm taking 100,000 yards of dirt and moving it, my minimum cost to move that would be a million dollars. I have someone who is going to do it for me. I just saved that much. Do you remember that it was kind of a dry basin steeper slope? We took out all of the fencing because these are 5:1 slopes. Not much steeper than this walkway here in some areas. Benches and things like that help me walk into it for safety areas. You know, you look at a lot of these lakes and ponds around cities all over the place. Very few are fenced in. We don't want to do that. We want to create that closeness. We think it is very safe. We have taken out almost \$80,000 in fencing material. There are a lot of things that we have done and exchanged the money and move it to what we hope is better. We have also earmarked and allocated money to do a new bathhouse because the one that is there is horrible. Part of this building here would be a bathhouse, and the other part, if it is done my way or not, would just be a pavilion overhang.

A resident replied okay, also, I just wanted to support this lady about her comment on those Norway maples because that's what the sewer district put in when they did all of the water lines over on Maplewood, and those things are garbage trees. They are a mess, and they go down the sewer. If you don't clean them up. All those whirlybirds clog up the sewer system, and we are paying the sewer system to clean our sewers for trees that they installed, so make sure none of those go into this project.

Engineer Neff replied there are a lot of species of maples, we understand.

A resident stated basically, you are building a pond. And that is a temporary waterway. It is constant maintenance of being dredged out all of the time and what not. That is just a statement, and that is nature. There are ponds all over that are nothing now. I typed in retention basin the other day on the computer, and logged in to University of Pennsylvania, and it was either a retention or a detention basins. Detention is dry. Retention is wet. They are recommended for areas that don't have storm sewer systems yet. They work very well because they help limit the water going through the opening culverts, just like in Strongsville along Whitney Road, 130th, and all of that so we don't have street flooding, but they do not work well where you already have existing sewer systems because if the sewer systems are failing, they need to be repaired, and they are not being repaired. You can drive down Orchard Boulevard where I live, and you see where it all caved in. Some of them are caved into the point where it has taken almost three or four weeks to rebuild the masonry in there. You've done flow studies, you've done camera testing, but the sewers are a main repair. This started in 2011. According to your figures and everything, we have heard in this room, why haven't they addressed that system? Backflow preventers would cut out – you could probably put one in every house for what you want to spend on a pond. The creek you are talking about, the stream, that thing is jammed solid. That is 300 feet from my house. It used to be that water would come down there, and you'd see it flowing down there. Now, it goes over, runs out the backyards, onto Meadowbrook, and it doesn't go down to the end of the street. I didn't get flooded around the corner; I'm the 3rd house from the corner; there was no water even in front of my house, and there were all of the guys from the City standing there watching the water come flying out and then going down

Orchard toward Pearl Road. Don't say that it's always been maintained and dredged out and all of that. If the sewers were working, you wouldn't have sewage backing up into people's basements. You've admitted it that the sewers are caving in, and they need to be repaired. Nobody is fixing the sewers. We are going to go build a pond that is going to be a maintenance nightmare for the electric on the fountains, cutting the grass, and dredging the thing out every couple of years to keep the leaves and stuff out of it. It is not going to last. It isn't going to work because it's only going to go that one area.

Engineer Neff replied there are 250 acres out of a 400-acre drainage area, so it is taking off more than 50% before you even get to your system. Our systems are not young systems out there. They are old.

A resident stated the drain you are saying is going to fill this basin is clogged solid right now, and the drain that you're going to let the water release into is at the end of my street. That old creek, the old culvert that used to be there from the Crial Elementary School and what not was a ditch that was probably 5 to 6 feet deep is maybe 6 inches deep. And the water doesn't get to the sewer, which is doing nothing. All of the bars are missing. The abutment is all torn up. They went in there the last time and they pulled a tree out of there. Nobody came back and fixed it. It's been like that for four years.

Engineer Neff replied it's important that I talk about our partners in this deal. I mention Tri-C, and we have met with them, and we have met with the facilities. It's just important for us to keep this open and active so we can collect the water. That is part of the partnership we have with them. We have already started working with them on cleaning and making some of their ditches hopefully a little wider. They just submitted a plan for doing some parking lot work, and we have come back and asked him for some help in these areas. Yes, when we get heavy storms, things fall in it, because of bank erosion. What we want to do is bring this water into this lake ... keep in mind you are going to take it in an area that might be as wide as this screen, but once it gets past that area, it's a wide-open lake. Water slows down erosion slows down. This area here is called the [REDACTED]. It's a deep area. That's where most of our silt will land. That's something that we go in on a five to eight-year basis and clean it out because its required.

A resident asked who is going to pay for all of this. Fix the sewers instead of maintaining a sewer.

Engineer Neff replied we are building a large lake, and we are building stormwater management. Who is going to pay for it? All of us are paying for it. Right now, we are property owners in the City of Parma Heights. We pay through Northeast Ohio Sewer District a storm fund. We, as a City, are allowed to use some of those funds locally. We get 25% of what we contribute every year back as a local share fund. We have not been able to use that and have not been able to continue to repair catch basins and to fix storm sewers. This is eligible for ongoing maintenance with that as well. We've put the wheels in motion. I'm glad the district is here, and I said in the last couple of meetings as a partner, we couldn't solve these problems without a regional solution, and they came up with a law to enforce it. They did, and it's a great thing. We are talking about a million dollars here. We are probably talking a million-and-a-half to two million the next basin. Again, they are helping us. They are going to make that a regional basin. That one will be taken care of by the district. This one right now will be taken care of by the City under our agreement. The other thing is the district has provided a grant. We have met with them, and because we are behind what we would anticipate what would have been a normal construction schedule, they have already issued an extension on that grant, so we have that safety net. We don't want to lose the opportunity to fix the problems we have in the city. Yes, the sewer systems are old. We video tape them,

we clean them, we do every single one in this city less than every few years. Sometimes more. This neighborhood in here we have been doing quite a bit. We have done re-linings. We do replacement, as it's needed, like if something collapses.

A resident asked when?

Engineer Neff replied it is ongoing. It may not be the Service Department doing all of it. They are doing catch basin repairs. We have the Department of Public Works. The Sanitary Department helps us all the time. I mentioned in one of our meetings here that we spend close to 1.2 million dollars annually on our sewers.

A resident commented nothing on our street. We should have something done already.

Engineer Neff replied that we are hoping that this is something that you can understand will make a large difference.

A resident commented that you make this sound very appealing, better than it was, but I'm looking at the pictures surrounding it. The examples you give like Coe Lake and a couple of the other ones. This is very tiny compared to those. Your walking trail is going to be like walking in a circle getting dizzy. It looks real good on paper, but on walking that park ... I walk that park every day. I walk around it every day, rain or shine, for the last six years. I know that park like the back of my hand. The creek he's talking about, I've never seen it get more than 5 inches of water. It's going to fill that and it's going to take forever. Parma or Tri-C put in a retention basin next to the fire training building. It's always dry. They're not getting any water filling it up. You say our friends, Tri-C, they've taken so much ground where water used to soak in and built so much development on it, concrete, where nothing can get into it, that new SWAT training facility is right over one of the streams. This is all contributing to it. Yet, Tri-C is putting this on the backs of the Parma Heights taxpayers. We are going to have a pond that may or may not work. Tri-C has three ponds. All of the fish died in them because they can't get deep enough. This is Cleveland. It's cold. The ponds freeze. They have a fountain in one of theirs, but there is a lot of maintenance involved. If you go online and check the cities that have this, a lot of them have failed, not immediately, in time, due to lack of maintenance. They are going to put this on the taxpayers. We already pay more taxes than Parma. We pay too much, for what we get. Yes, this looks pretty compared to what you had last time, but it just seems too small, does not address clogging sewers, and does not address the fact that a lot of the problems coming from Tri-C and being put on our backs. I think the overall picture here is you are looking at a pretty picture. You're not looking at a true picture. You're looking at a pretty gazebo in a big park. You're looking at Coe Lake. Sometimes you have to rant to get your point across, okay.

A resident commented he is on the corner of Harrisburg and Oakdale, which is a couple of blocks from the park. I bought the house about a year ago. The previous owner flooded several times. I have a double sump pump. I have Ohio waterproofing. I even have the downspouts disconnected with hoses running out into the yard. This storm, I flooded. I have a sewer right in front of my house on the corner. I think it is antiquated as some of the people were saying. I commend the city and the partners doing all of these things. That's all nice, but the only thing I care about is when is it going to be done so I don't have to deal with a flood again. That's the bottom line. I don't care about gazebos and trees. I understand that's all the environment and you guys have to go with all that stuff. The other question I have, and I wasn't in

the area, one of my neighbors mentioned that there was an unfinished project, where the Speedway went in on Pearl Road now, on the corner of 130th, there used to be a project of some sort that was going to be a big shopping area. My neighbor said that ever since they either began that or stopped it, that's when the flooding started in 2011. I don't know if anybody knows about that, but my main thing is that if everything goes the way you want it, when is this going to come to fruition, and I'm praying that it's going to work, but what's a realistic timeframe. Is it going to be a year? Is it going to be two years? I'm not telling you to give it to me concrete, but I don't want to be here next summer and dealing with a flood again. I have sandbags in my basement protecting everything to try to isolate the water now. I like Parma Heights. I'm new, so I'm hoping that some of these things can....

The Mayor replied you could help us. There is a petition out there. If you are in favor of this retention basin, you can sign it. We are working very closely with the National Parks. Here is the challenge that we face. We are built on community. So, the only way you can put a detention or retention type of basin in is public property, parks, schools, or something like that. You go up and down State Road, Ridge Road, Broadview Road... I've done it just recently because my kids were looking for a house. There are developments there that I had never gone back into. I'll tell you one thing, what did every one of those developments have? It was either a retention or a detention. So, they work with sewers or they wouldn't be here. So, now we have that challenge, and we are built out. Where do we go? This is one of the areas that through many studies already, this has been going on for an extended period of time. We didn't just decide that this is the place to plop it, and it wasn't the City of Parma Heights that just decided this. This is a regional project that has been going on by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. They've come back after all of their monitoring and surveying and so forth. They've given us a few different areas that are public lands or school areas that make sense. This is one of them. That is my fault because I acknowledged to the gentleman that it was the City's fault that we got ahead of ourselves and we got aggressive by starting to rip that park out. We didn't get the acquisition. We have a good plan in place now. We need support from our residents. We need support from the people here. To think that this is going to impact and get you a better solution to the problems that many of you are facing. I'm going to say exactly what I said at the last meeting. I've been in too many basements that have flooded. I don't want to go into those again. We are doing the best that we can here in the City of Parma Heights to get this project moving. So, like I said, we got a great email from the National Park Service on Friday. It's almost like a 'check the boxes and we will go.' We are going to provide a comprehensive plan, but we need your support. If you are in favor of this, there is a petition here, and we need to let them know that you are in favor of this. To me, this enhances the park. Right now, it is a ball diamond that is used three months out of the year. That's what it's used. Now we have a main soccer field. Ron's here, he is our soccer director. The soccer field is not going to be touched. We are going to lose one baseball field, and to tell you the truth, the demand on that baseball field is not there anymore. When that got turned over to us in 1971, we had 1700 kids playing baseball. This year, I don't think we had 300. So, the demand for that field is not there, so we will go re-dedicate it. By putting this in, I think we enhance Nathan Hall Park. I think we enhance the neighborhood there. If we can alleviate some of the problems that you are experiencing with the flooding, even more power to this, we are not done. I'm always hesitant of saying too much. I learned from the Cornerstone project when I was on Council. I am extremely hesitant of saying too much, but we are in deep discussions with Regional Sewer for another basin that will assist in Maplewood too. Deep, deep discussion. Let me get off my bully pulpit here. If you think that this is going

to help and if you think, it is going to enhance the city, if it is going to help you individually, please sign the petition that we have.

Engineer Neff stated if we can get through the process, we will have to go back to Planning for the change in design and we have to go back to Council. At the same time, we have to satisfy the parks district on a list of things that they want us to do. Upon those completions, we would like to start. We are anticipating that this will start in the winter, maybe after the first of the year, which is actually great if we are just doing [REDACTED]. Our goal would be to finish it by summer. Our grant now says to the end of June, and we are going to try our best to honor that date. I'm not thinking they won't extend it a few months if we need it.

A resident asked if at all possible, for the next meeting, you mentioned where you have worked. Is there any way in the next meeting to show us a list of the areas within Parma Heights in the past year that have been worked on? Because some of us are seeing where the work is being done, yet we are not seeing where the work is being done. So we can know where the weak spots still are and where it's still necessary.

Engineer Neff replied the City has that ability to get that information. However, the Department of Public Works assists us with sewers as well as many communities around us. They keep all of the major logs and we keep the local logs. That information is available. We will put a request in. I might just get everything for the year and last year, because we have to do annual reporting anyways with how much we are spending and what we are doing with our systems. So yes, that information will be available. Probably the best way to assimilate some of that is, once we get the information, it can be put out on the city's website just as easy. The presentation this evening, although it may not be the exact same forum because of size, this will get into the website. You are limited on how much you can get onto a webpage and actually make it work, but we could put a lot of this on there.

The Mayor stated his assistant, Erin, has pass-outs on exactly what you saw there. She has them in the back, and as you leave, if you want to pick one up and take it with you and take a look at them. If there are any questions after that, don't hesitate to call Erin's office or my office.

A resident asked one more question, the outlet structure here you are putting in, it continues to go over and down Orchard?

Engineer Neff replied yes. It goes right here, ties into that existing 24, right down north to that large box that is there now. Here is Orchard. So, the 30-inch leaves ... this box goes down Orchard, and a 42-inch goes up toward Parma Park. Those will remain there, but what we are going to do is gather everything and bring it to here ...

A resident asked I understand that, but ultimately, is the capacity there now to service those areas, or [REDACTED].

Engineer Neff replied right. They are [REDACTED]. His question is are they [REDACTED] sewers? There is not capacity to handle storms. There never will be, and there never was one. So, what we talked about is a five-year storm event checking [REDACTED]. These sewers don't handle two year because of all of the infiltration we are getting. Our goal is to take that out. This is the first piece of the puzzle.

A resident asked if there is anything in the works that we could do anything to increase the size and that flow.

Engineer Neff replied not in this section. Again, as you know, if I increase this, I keep going and going and going, I am stuffing water further faster downstream.

A resident replied no, understandable. Down Orchard, where does that ultimately end up?

Engineer Neff replied straight down Orchard all the way to Pearl Road, over Pearl, cross down Alexander in a large box culvert. It turns when it gets to the metro parks and comes out behind St. John Bosco.

The Mayor asked if we have any other questions. I want to make sure that we have everybody answered who has a question.

A resident stated you have like fake asphalt. Will you continue with the fake asphalt?

Engineer Neff asked here.

A resident replied along the edge, on the walking trail.

Engineer Neff replied there are a lot of options. One of them is we are actually going to look at using a crushed material.

A resident replied we have the crushed granite down there, but [REDACTED] and Ridgewood both use porous [REDACTED]. It looks like blacktop and the water goes through it and drains, rather than adding to the problem.

A resident stated from my understanding, it is not any more expensive.

Engineer Neff replied no, it's not really bad, but [REDACTED] several acres of it in that development. It was one of the first retail developments in Northeast Ohio, so it works. Those are things that, with input from the walkers, too, we will find out what the best walking surface will be. Is it going to be a paved walking surface? Is it going to be a combination of crushed and hard stone? What is it going to be? So, those are things that we have to look at and see. Tonight was to try and take you to what we call the next evolution, the lake, the landscaping, and try to enhance it so we build a feature of the lake and the park. Again, we greatly appreciate it.

The Mayor asked everyone to please pick up a package. You might have some questions after you take a look at it. Don't ever hesitate to call my office or Dan's office. Thank you for coming.