



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Presentations for Boards and Commissions candidates were held Monday, February 8th; presentations for boards and commissions previously interviewed by the Commission Interview Committee will be held during this meeting. Attached is the Mayoral ballot for appointments to Boards and Commissions, Council interview memo, presentation draft minutes, candidates' applications, and current Booklet List.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS  
**CC:** CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK  
**FROM:** DAWN SPAULDING, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
**SUBJECT:** CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 4, 2021

---

Attached please find applications for the current openings on Boards and Commissions along with a ratings sheet and current Boards & Commissions Booklet List.

- Joe Hurshe (Corridor Improvement Authority) is not eligible for reappointment.
- Bill Lawler (Library Board) does not wish to be reappointed.
- Craig Messerknecht (Library Board) did not submit an application for reappointment.
- Julie Maday (Planning Commission) resigned due to being appointed to City Council, creating a partial term vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Below is a list of current vacancies and expiring terms for Boards and Commissions that are interviewed by **Council**:

<b>Board or Commission</b>	<b>Number of openings</b>	<b>Term expiration</b>
Corridor Improvement Authority <i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>	2 partial terms	12/31/2024
Library Board <i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>	3 full terms	03/01/2024
Planning Commission <i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>	1 partial term	06/30/2021

## **Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:**

Katherine Dooley (Library Board) – attended 26 of 30 (87%) meetings since her appointment in March 2019.

## **Commission Interview Committee**

The Commission Interview Committee was scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom; however, that meeting has been cancelled pending recommended changes to Council Rules. Presentations by candidates for the openings listed below will be held at a later date.

- Cynthia Haley (Beautification Commission) does not wish to be reappointed.
- Colleen Crossey (Beautification Commission) did not submit an application for reappointment.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Beautification Commission; no candidate has received the four required votes to be appointed.
- Margaret Beller (Board of Review) was appointed as a full member in December 2020, creating a partial term vacancy for the alternate position.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Historical Commission; no candidate has received the four required votes to be appointed.

Below is a list of current vacancies for Boards and Commissions to be interviewed by the Commission Interview Committee.

<b>Board or Commission</b>	<b>Number of openings</b>	<b>Term expiration</b>
Beautification Commission	1 partial term 3 full terms	03/01/2023 03/01/2024
Board of Review	1 partial term, alternate	01/01/2022
Building Authority	1 full term	03/01/2024
Construction Board of Appeals	2 full terms 1 full term, alternate	03/01/2025 03/01/2025
Historical Commission	1 partial term	01/01/2023

**Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:**

Cindy Lang (Beautification Commission) – attended 28 of 31 (90%) meetings since her appointment in March 2018.

William Bluford (Building Authority) – The Building Authority has not met since his appointment in March 2019.

Jeffrey Bowdell (Construction Board of Appeals) – attended 3 of 4 (75%) meetings since his appointment in March 2017.

John Enkemann (Construction Board of Appeals) – attended 2 of 4 (50%) meetings since his appointment in March 2017.

Kamran Qadeer (Construction Board of Appeals, Alternate) – attended 3 of 4 (75%) meetings since his appointment in March 2017.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act this meeting was held remotely.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch

Mayor Gatt, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, present from Madison Heights, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Crawford, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Fischer, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Maday, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Mutch, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Peter Auger, City Manager  
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager  
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Gatt stated that they were removing Consent Agenda Item B because there was no need to enter Executive Session that evening.

**CM 21-02-011 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-011** Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt  
Nays: None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:**

City Manager Auger announced that they had Mike McCready on the Zoom call that evening. He stated that today was his first day working for the City of Novi as our Economic Development Director. He said we are happy that he is on board. Mr. McCready thanked the Mayor and said it was good to be with him, he was excited about the opportunity. Mayor Gatt said we are excited to have him on board. We expect great things, we know you are going to deliver, so welcome aboard. He told Mr. McCready that Council was there for him if he needed anything.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

Mayor Gatt said there were several people interviewing for a few positions. He explained that they will listen to their presentations, you will each be given an opportunity to speak for up to two minutes. At the end of the two minutes, he said he will cut them off to be fair to everyone. He stated that they have their application and their resume with them. He said the Councilmembers have studied everything and are prepared to hear their presentations with that knowledge already intact. There will be n decisions made that evening, the decisions will be announced at our next City Council meeting, which is February 22, 2021. Please keep in mind that we only have a few openings and there are several people. If you are not chosen on February 22, 2021. Please do not get discouraged, keep coming back because it is you that makes Novi so great.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS**

1. Sreenivas Cherukuri- Library Board, Board of Review, Planning Commission

Mr. Cherukuri said he is a lifelong Michigander, he and his wife moved to Novi twelve years ago. They were starting both a family and he was starting his business. He said he really has come to appreciate the quality of life and the quality of services that Novi has to offer. He said he was blessed. He stated currently he was unemployed because his business got bought out. He felt it was a good opportunity for him to join the team and really help to contribute to what he can offer here. He had a background in engineering management, consulting IT, and as an entrepreneur. He believed that it gave him a good perspective on the different ways, or the different stages of life people are interacting with the City. He hoped that his well-rounded background will be an asset whenever you may need him. Thank you.

2. Kathy Crawford - Library Board

Ms. Crawford thanked City Council for the opportunity to interview for the Novi Public Library Board of Trustees. She was confident that you have all had the opportunity to closely review her application. She said she was not going to repeat anything that was in her application. She stated that since she has been term limited in the Michigan State House, she currently has more time to devote to the local programs and activities that she is passionate about, such as the Novi Public Library. She has been very fortunate in her life to have had leadership opportunities that most people never get a chance to experience. She believed that we should continue utilizing our experience in ways that she thought could enhance local programs and activities. She said that is what she hoped to bring to the Library Board. She thanked them again for the opportunity to come before Council.

3. Katherine Dooley - Library Board

Ms. Dooley said she was reapplying to be a trustee for the Novi Public Library. She has served one term and was happy that she was able to apply again. She said she has

been a resident of Novi since 2008. She loves Novi. Her son attends Parkview, and she has worked with the City for most of her career, which is in communications over 20 years now. She specialized in public relations. She understood multimedia, social media, and all aspects of communications. She stated that a lot of what she does in terms of her background is strategic planning and visualization for the future. She happy to be in the community and be a part of the team. She hoped that after reviewing her qualifications she will be able to continue serving the community in this capacity. She appreciated the opportunity, thank you.

4. Swaminathan Gopalakrishnan - Beautification Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Review, Historical Commission

Mr. Gopalakrishnan thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. He stated that he came from India a couple of decades ago. He finished his Master's program in West Michigan and spent nearly two decades in Holland, Michigan and then moved to Novi a couple years ago. He said his work, Yanfeng Automotive brought him here. When he was asked to transfer, he did not look anywhere else but Novi because he heard great things about Novi. He said he liked to travel a lot to Mexico, Europe, and other places. He also loved to cook in his spare time. He said his passion is to serve and volunteer in the local community that offers him so much like Novi. He wanted to give back to the community by serving in a local government. He said the main reason for that is his wife, Priyanka Murthy, she is one of the other people that will be talking that evening. She is a current Novi Board member as well. He said she motivates him every single day, she does so many things beyond her full-time work, and as a mom. He said he would like to be part of the community as well. He stated that he is a program manager and can use his program management skills. He said he works with big teams globally with China and Mexico, and he brought diversity to the team. He is well versed with working with diverse teams and he gets things done. He thought Novi was such an amazing place to live. The last two years we have been enjoying so much living in this community. He said Novi was beautiful. He stated his first preference was to work on the Beautification Commission. He said if offered an opportunity, we can make Novi even a better place and more beautiful.

5. Vinit Gupta - Beautification Commission, Building Authority, Historical Commission, Library Board, Planning Commission

Mr. Gupta thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for giving him a chance to hear him out. He said he worked for ITC Headquarters in Novi. He moved to Novi about eight years ago because he was happy in his job and was looking for a place where he could raise his family, have a good education, and safe place to live. He stated that Novi popped up top of the list when he searched so he picked a job here and moved to Novi and has been very happy. He has two children, one in High School, the other in Middle School and his wife. He said he has been an active volunteer with Novi High School in their track and field, cross country program, and has worked a lot with setting up the systems and all the result ranking. In essence, he loved this community, and he wanted to help. He set up his HOA in the neighborhood when the builder transferred it and helped save the community about \$10,000 a year to reduce costs. He stated he is an

electrical engineer, so he has dealt with a lot of Federal, State and City regulators convincing them on energy policies and the citizens as well, showing them, we are bringing you the best value for your money. He felt that some of these things are needed for the board member, the fiscal responsibility as well as the ability to convince the City Council and others for the priorities we want to implement and get the citizens to buy in. He said he would love to serve on this committee because he wanted somebody like him who is searching for a place to live, and when they search, they find Novi at the top of the list, the best place to live. That was his biggest motive, he would like to keep it as the best place to live. Thank you.

6. Priya Gurumurthy - Library Board, Historical Commission

Ms. Gurumurthy appreciated the opportunity to come and talk to City Council about her interest in the Library Board position and if not the Library Board, the Historical Commission. She stated that she was an IT leader focusing on application of technology to business functions to improve and increase their day-to-day efficiency. She loved in Michigan for about 18 plus years and she strongly believed that giving back to the community is what she wanted to do as a parent, volunteer, and board member. Currently she is part of the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee. She is also a diversity liaison in the PTO Board for Deerfield Elementary School. She stated that she graduated from the prestigious Novi Ambassador Academy Program in 2019. She currently is working closely with Julie Farkas, April Stevenson, and the Library team with a new Be Active Bag Program that we launched last week. She said she also participated in different events at the Library, including the MLK Day. She submitted a video and presented, so she was really involved with the Library as much as possible in a more volunteering capacity. She said she was passionate about giving her time, skills, and energy to support the team. She also brought rich experience from being part of other Boards like the head of the Holland District Library Board when she was in Holland, the Tulip Time Festival Board, International Festival Advisory Committee of the city of Holland, Committee of the Holland Museum and Ready for School. She stated she was a confident woman of color with a strong passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She said she also won the individual champion of Diversity Award in 2019. She stated she has been able to continue her journey as a diversity champion and affinity chair at her work, Yanfeng. She felt due to this trait, she believed that she could always bring diverse perspective to the table. Lastly, what she does day to day at work is going to be really an advantage. She focused on customer problems, evaluate solutions, understood what the business value for the request, determined the right solution, approach, and execute the project with quality and delivery. She said here, her customers will be the people in this community. She thanked City Council for this opportunity. She was truly looking forward to making a positive impact in the community.

7. Sharon Larson - Library Board – Withdrew application

8. Travis Malott - Planning Commission, Building Authority, Historical Commission, Beautification Commission - Absent

9. Kathleen Neighbors - Library Board - Absent

10. John O'Brien - Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. O'Brien thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for listening and having him interviewed to be part of the Corridor Improvement Authority. He said for over 50 years, his family has been involved in some type of Grand River Corridor Committee and fortunately, he was appointed to the Corridor Improvement Authority. He said he was very honored and glad to be part of that from the very beginning as we develop plans to work with the businesses and the City to make Grand River a gateway for our community. On a personal level, he said he has been very involved in different activities in Novi. He stated he has been involved with Youth Assistance, and Parks and Recreation along with Youth Assistance. He said he believed in being involved in giving back to the community. He thanked City Council for considering his application and he looked forward to hopefully continuing to serve. Thank you.

11. Ratna Rao - Library Board

Ms. Rao thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. She stated that she and her husband have lived in Novi for over 22 years, their two children went through the Novi Schools. The Library has always been a part of their lives and that is why she wished to be on the Library Board. She said she took an early retirement from Ford Motor Company to pursue her passions and working in her community is one of them. She is currently the chair of the Silver Lining Mentors Program, which is a part of our Novi Youth Assistance. She has also served a term on our Beautification Commission a couple of years ago. She requested three things for Council to consider from her application. She stated she was a project manager, and organizer, volunteer at heart. She has exercised these skills in her professional as well as personal life. She said she has organized a 300-person townhall and countless volunteer-based initiatives. She cared deeply about the educational and emotional wellbeing of our community's children, which she is demonstrating by being a part of the Silver Lining Mentor Program for the past five years. She believed these qualities will relate well to the Library Board position. She asked that Council take those interests into consideration. Thank you.

12. Ramesh Verma - Planning Commission

Mr. Verma thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. He said he has been living in this beautiful City of Novi for the last 42 years. He said he has seen this City grow from 5,000 to almost 60,000 plus and full of ethnic diversity in it. As a professional, he said he has spent most of his time in his life doing construction management, planning, and engineering, and has also served the City on different Boards and Commissions. He said at present, he was serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has always wished to be part of the City Planning Commission, but never got a chance. He said he was applying for the same and requested that Council would kindly consider his name for the Planning Commission. He thanked City Council very much for your time.

Mayor Gat thanked everyone for their presentations. He said they were all welcome to stay and watch the rest of the meeting. He stated that City Council will make their



decision at the end or during our next meeting, which is February 22, 2021. We have a lot of candidates for a very few openings. If you are not chosen, please keep trying to volunteer for any other open Boards and Commissions. Novi needs you, so please do not give up on us.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt removed Consent Agenda Item C: Approval of updated deficit elimination plan for the Capital Improvement Fund as of June 30, 2020.

**CM 21-02-012            Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. January 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- B. Enter executive session immediately following the regular meeting of February 8, 2021 for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**
- C. Approval of updated deficit elimination plan for the Capital Improvement Fund as of June 30, 2020. **REMOVED/LATER APPROVED**
- D. Approval of a Temporary Access Easement by the City of Novi granted to Bond at Novi, LLC located within Parcel No. 50-22-15-477-006 and 50-22-15-477-005 for the purpose of general use ingress and egress.
- E. Approval of the final payment to L.J. Construction, Inc. for the 2018 (2019 and 2020) Boardwalk Repair Program in the amount of \$50,584.38, plus interest earned on retainage.
- F. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 60 feet of half-width right-of-way along the west side of Haggerty Road as part of the Berkshire eSupply commercial development (parcel 50-22-01-200-047).
- G. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 60 feet of half-width right-of-way along the west side of Wixom Road as part of Detroit Catholic Central High School frontage improvements (parcel 50-22-18-200-027), and approval of a cost share with Catholic Central High School of Detroit, Inc for sidewalk construction in the amount of \$23,510.
- H. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Hogan Holdings 71, LLC for PetSuites located south of Grand River Avenue and east of Beck Road (parcel 50-22-16-151-013).
- I. Reappointment of student representatives to library board.
- J. Approval to apply for the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant.