



## CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3  
September 9, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Boards & Commissions

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Interviews by City Council for Boards & Commissions were held Monday, August 12th. The initial appointment date was Monday, August 26th; however, only Member Verma received the minimum of 4 votes to be appointed. Member Verma was appointed to the partial term ending January 1st, 2022. Therefore, there is still a vacancy for the partial term ending January 1st, 2021. Attached are the Council ballots for appointments to Boards & Commissions, Council interview memo, interview draft minutes, candidates' applications, and current Booklet List.

Additionally, applicants Allan Dranberg, Alysia Hicks, and Arjun Tuteja were not interviewed; therefore, their names do not appear on the ballot. They are eligible for appointment through write-in vote.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Appointments to Boards & Commissions

**BALLOT**  
**APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL**  
**September 9, 2019**

\* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
1 partial term- Term Expires 01/01/2021

Brian Bartlett

Term Ending 2021

Term Ending 2022

Lola Faleix

Term Ending 2021

Term Ending 2022

W. Clift Montague

Term Ending 2021

Term Ending 2022

Michael Thompson

Term Ending 2021

Term Ending 2022

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Council Member Signature

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS  
**CC:** CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK  
**FROM:** DAWN SPAULDING, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
**SUBJECT:** CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
**DATE:** AUGUST 8, 2019

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

- Brent Ferrell (Zoning Board of Appeals) resigned 6/18/2019 due to his Planning Commission appointment, creating a partial term vacancy.
- Cynthia Gronachan (Zoning Board of Appeals) resigned 6/18/2019 due to her Planning Commission appointment, creating a partial term vacancy.
- Arjun Tuteja would like to be considered, but is unable to attend Candidate Introductions.
- Alysia Hicks would like to be considered, but is unable to attend Candidate Introductions.

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

Board or Commission	Number of openings	Term expiration
Zoning Board of Appeals	2 partial terms	01/01/2021 01/01/2022

**Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:**

N/A

**Commission Interview Committee**

N/A

together a bond, they do not have all of the details, but they are hoping that it will include a space for them and all of the other robotics teams.

Mayor Gatt thanked Member Breen for inviting the Robotics Teams.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS:**

1. Brian Bartlett – Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Bartlett stated that he has lived in Novi since 1985. He brings a number of interesting things to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He said he was on the Parks Foundation as a volunteer for 7 years. He served two terms as secretary. He said the Council at the time appointed him to the Walkable Novi Committee. He was the only member on the Walkable Novi Committee that had lived in three of the four quadrants in Novi. He has an engineering degree in computer engineering, and he also has a bachelor's degree in business. He spent his entire career in the computer engineering field on the vendor side of things. When he started everyone was using punch cards which people cannot identify today. He said his last assignment has been to support and market products in the cloud. You have to have flexibility for continuous learning; you have to be able to adjust to different environments.

2. Allan Dranberg – Zoning Board of Appeals – Absent

3. Lola Faleix – Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Faleix said she has lived in Novi since July 2014. She recently moved from a condo to the West Park Drive area. She also owns a business, Get Fit, LLC which is a health/fitness studio in Novi. She is currently licensed as a real estate agent salesperson and has had her license since 1993. She learned about the opening on the City's website. She wanted to get involved and be a voice for other residents. She said she would be bringing 26 years of experience with her real estate background. She started out with Chamberlain, moved on to ReMax, and then Remerica in Novi. At each brokerage she was involved on different committees to get things done from education to charity work. She understands the importance of zoning laws and ordinances for conforming purposes. She also understood that at times variances may be necessary. She said she was eager to get involved and utilize her knowledge and skill set in zoning in both residential and commercial area. She felt that she could be impartial to the applicants. The City of Novi has been good to her and she is ready to give back. Thank you.

4. Cliff Montague – Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Montague said he was a 22-year resident of Novi. He currently works for Albert Khan Associates an architectural engineering firm in Detroit. He has been a licensed architect for 40-years. In his career at Albert Khan, he has been a project manager, program manager, and he is currently executive vice president. He has in his capacity of doing projects around the world and has dealt with a lot of regulatory agencies. He

has experience in Qatar, Brazil, Korea, and around the states, such as Kentucky and Michigan. He fully understands the process of zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Having been in the City for 22-years and getting close to retirement he was looking forward to giving something back to the City. He loved the community. He believed he had a lot to share with his experience. He noted that he was on the Planning Commission in Berkley.

5. Mike Thompson – Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Thompson said he lives in Island Lake. He applied previously and he was put on the Construction Board of Appeals. He said they have not had a meeting as of yet. He said he is an auto recycler. He said he would like to give back to Novi also. He does some coaching for the kids and he is on a golf league in which they talk about things that are going on in the City. He was interested in being on the Zoning Board of Appeals and he thought it would be a benefit for the City.

Mayor Gatt stated that they would not be making any decisions that evening and they will announce their decisions at a later meeting. He thanked everyone for coming out.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENT:**

Brian Smith, 41516 Fawn Trail, Novi said he has been a Novi residents for 35 years. He wanted to say a few things in support of the FIRST Teams. He said there are three levels. There is the FLL which is the elementary level, FTC which is the middle school level, and FRC which is the high school level. The high school is well supported, they have space in the school, and they have teachers to help out. The FTC and the FLL Teams are strictly supported by their parents. That means that for someone like himself, in 2011, it was one of the first FTC Teams in Novi and he had team in their basement for 6-months. Expanding the teams requires expanding the opportunities for coaching, opportunities to have space to work. It is critical to get people into the high school. They found out that a lot of kids were falling through the cracks in middle school. Getting that program involved in the middle school helped fill up the high school team. He said from high school one of the things that the founder of FIRST said is that anyone can go pro. He said he had three children that went through the program, three engineers that are very successful. People can get scholarships. When they get into college they ask what FRC Team were you on. He wanted to support anything that City Council and the School Board can do to give support to the elementary and middle school teams.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. July 17, 2019 – Workshop meeting