



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 14, 2021**

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Presentations for Boards and Commissions candidates were held Monday, February 28th. Attached are the Mayoral ballot and Council 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

**BALLOT**  
**APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR**  
**March 14, 2022**

**Economic Development Corporation**

1 full term- Term expires 03/01/2027

Chet Roaden

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**Library Board**

1 partial term- Term expires 03/01/2023

2 full terms- Terms expire 03/01/2025

Brian Bartlett *\*reappointment*

partial term  full term

Jay Dooley

partial term  full term

David Fitzpatrick

partial term  full term

Priya Gurumurthy

partial term  full term

Katheryn Maguire

partial term  full term

Mark Sturing

partial term  full term

Mary Angela Winter

partial term  full term

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partial term  full term

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partial term  full term

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partial term  full term

**BALLOT**  
**APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL**  
**March 14, 2022**

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

**Beautification Commission**

3 full terms – Terms expire 03/01/2025

- Christen Pietraz *\*reappointment*
- Laura William *\*reappointment*
- Torry Yu
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Authority**

1 full term – Term expires 03/01/2025

- Larry Czekaj *\*reappointment*
- Chet Roaden
- Mark Sturing
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing and Community Development  
Advisory Committee**

1 partial term- Term expires 01/01/2025

- Torry Yu
- \_\_\_\_\_

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**Council Member Signature**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Gatt, Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, Council Members Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**CM 22-02-018 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**To approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Roll call vote on CM 22-02-018**                      **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith,  
Thomas, Gatt**  
**Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Mayor Gatt reminded everyone before the presentations for Boards and Commissions that Council has their applications and resumes that were attached. He said they were familiar with who you are and why you are applying. He stated everyone would be given two minutes to be fair with everybody, and at the end of two minutes he would say thank you and we will move one. He pointed out that Mr. Brian Bartlett was not present that evening, he was applying for the Library Board. He explained that Council Rules say that because he applied and was interviewed within the last 12 months, he did not have to be present that evening, but he is on the list and will be considered along with the other people. He said there will be no decisions made that evening, the decision will be made and announced at our next City Council meeting which is two weeks from tonight.

1) Jay Dooley- Library Board

Jay Dooley said he was there that evening for consideration to be part of the Library Board. He said he would not talk about his background, but he did say that he was very passionate about what he believed the Library Board and a member of the trustees should stand for and this is common sense. That is diversity and inclusiveness. He said that was something that he was very passionate about. He does this quite often where he worked, he sat on a Diversity and Inclusiveness Task Force. He said it was something that resonates very powerfully in his organization. He said he was a pharmaceutical

representative, and it was something that they adhere to very strongly. Again, he said common sense on the Library Board, he thought that was something he could bring as far as a strength. He said he was on Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services as the chairperson. He stated that was something that they all stood by as well, diversity and inclusiveness, and they all represent each other very well. He said they all talk about areas of strength, areas of development, and he believed that was something that the Library Board will need with his presence there. He thanked Council for his considerations.

## 2) David Fitzpatrick- Library Board

David Fitzpatrick said in his background, as a historian, he was in his second career. His first was as an Army officer. He said he has visited and used libraries quite literally around the world. Archival libraries, manuscript libraries, small city libraries, big libraries, like at U of M. He said he knows what a good library looks like. He said we have a good library; we have a great library. He stated his goal as a member of the Library Board would be to keep that library great, to keep it at the edge of the envelope in terms of technology, and advancements in providing information, and providing access to resources that we now have because of the internet. He firmly believed this, libraries are on the front line of civilization, libraries or how civilizations remember themselves. He said libraries are how our citizens access that memory. He said if he were to be appointed to be a member of the Novi Library Board, one of his goals would be to make certain that continued to have access, meaning the members of the Novi Community continue to have access to the materials we need to be solid citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## 3) Priya Gurumurthy- Library Board

Priya Gurumurthy said she was the director at Yanfeng International Automotive Managing a global team. She said she was glad to be there. She believed that the Novi Library is a key resource hub for the community. She said you are aware that the motto of the Novi Library is Inform, Inspire, and Include. She said she has been able to support the library, not just being a patron, but she has taken above and beyond, and connecting with the Library team at all levels. She commented first on Inform, she thought it was a two-way street with Inform. She said she has taken the extra time to put together content in terms of ideas that could help with the library programs. She said she met with Julie Farkas and explained some of her ideas, she was amazing, open, and welcoming with her ideas. She said they exchanged a few emails, and at the end, she picked some of the ideas she had to implement in the program. She said the other part is how can she inform her network and community of all the programs and events, so she made every attempt to be responsible in taking that information, whether it is programs and events, and networking or sending it to other network and community, whether it is WhatsApp or being IT Tec savvy, is to do the social media use for making sure the information reaches everyone. Second, she talked about Inspire. She said you do not want to just inspire your own kids, but also others. She was very proud to say that her son, a ninth grader is part of the teen advisory board, as well as a volunteer at the Novi Library. She said, with inspiring other kids as part of the robotics team First Robotics. She was a coach of robotics. Fifth graders, and they came up with an activity called Be Active Bags. She said if you see a

yellow bag in the Novi Library, they were able to donate 10 bags to the library last year was about \$1,000. And that program was a big hit. She said they collaborated with the team, and they added to the collection or materials at the library as well.

4) Katheryn Maguire- Library Board

Dr. Katheryn Maguire thanked Mayor Gatt and City Councilmembers for the opportunity. She stated she was Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at Wayne State University, as 14-year resident of Novi, and a proud parent of an eighth grader. She shared with Council on why she believed she was a good fit for the Library Board. First, she has been borrowing books her whole life despite being dyslexic. She said as a child, she grew to love reading and countering the mirrors and windows that they offer. She stated the first thing she did when they moved to Novi was to get a Library card so they could introduce their child to those same books. She stated having lived in various cities throughout the country, she could say without a doubt, this is one the the best libraries she has encountered, which is why she wanted to serve. Second, she is a longtime educator and researcher who has depended on libraries for her entire career. She is a published author; she appreciated the care that libraries take as they carefully curate the materials for patrons. As an educator, she understood how important it was for students to have access to a wide variety of resources as they answer questions that they are then their burning passion. She said it is this background that helped her prepare to help the library, to help customer service with the patrons, as well as to provide using her communication skills as a scholar on the outreach efforts. Finally, she stated she is the chair of a very large and complex unit comprised of 84 full time and part time employees with over serving 800 students in a budget of \$3.6 million. She said her goals were to build and repair relationships among the stakeholders, create policies and procedures that foster fiscal responsibility and transparency and provide servant leadership to her faculty and staff. She stated with this background, she came very equipped to help the library and support the policymaking and budget functions. She stated in addition, she was currently going through a seven-year review process for her department to prepare them for strategic planning, and she was prime then to help the library go through the strategic planning process in the future. Thank you.

5) Christen Pietraz- Beautification Commission

Christen Pietraz thanked everyone for letting her speak that evening. She stated she was a current member of the Beautification Commission, and while there, she has supported several projects and partnerships, including the Entry Rate Grant Program, which has been great. While she felt like her time has been impactful, she did not want it to end. She said there is a lot of things she set out to do that unfortunately, the pandemic's hindered a little bit, one of those being a review and signage at Fuerst Park butterfly habitat. She said it is a little bit of a passion project of hers, and she thought it was important to inform the community what is there and how they can support that garden. She said she would also like to work with Laura and some educational programming for the schools. She said as a member of her PTO Board, she knew that supplemental education is not only welcome, but very much wanted in the schools. She said that was

something that she was hoping will be able to allow us an opportunity to do next year. Finally, she said she would like to help raise the awareness of the Beautification Commission and our projects to the community. She said she has talked to some Commission members about opportunities and digital media that she would like to head, so she hoped that Council will allow her that opportunity. Thank you.

6) Mark Sturing- Library Board, Building Authority

Mark Sturing thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for the opportunity. He said he has been a resident of Novi for about 32 years now. He said he and his wife lived here for that long, and they have two adult children. He said he has quite a bit of experience regarding real estate, finance, human resources. He used to be a member of the Library Board and the Building Authority. He said he decided to get off those Boards five, six years ago to do other things and let other members participate. He said he had a real passion for the library. He explained the reason for his passion as he thought it was so diversified, it serves on many different classes of people, the kids, the teens, the high schoolers, the adults, it is wonderful to see what the director can do and what the staff can do. He wanted to continue to support that in any way he could, because he thought it was a real treasure for the City of Novi to have the library that we have. He said he had the opportunity to go to a lot of different communities as a developer, whether it was West Bloomfield, Grosse Pointe, Rochester Hills, and in conversations with people we constantly hear about what a great library we have in Novi. He said he would like to be a part of that. He stated that as the library continues to grow, he was amazed at its efficiency, that when the new library was built several years ago in the budget that they operated under then and what the budget that they are operating under now is an example of how efficient they are how productive they are, even though their space has been multiplied several times. He said if given the opportunity, he would like to serve on either of these Boards, but primarily the Library Board at this time. He thanked Council for their consideration.

7) Laura Williams- Beautification Commission

Laura Williams thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for the opportunity to meet, and the opportunity to serve on the Novi Beautification Committee. She stated this was her second application, she finished out one partial- term, and served for three years on a full-term. She said in that time, she introduced a project called National Wildlife Federation to get our city certified through the National Wildlife through National Wildlife and we accomplished that. She said one of the things that was important during that time was to go out to our Novi schools and help educate children on National Wildlife and to be good stewards of our environment. She said she did that in one of our schools and was slated to do the remainder of our elementary schools and possibly the middle and high school, and then COVID hit. She said she would very much like to continue that and work with Christen, she showed interest in that, and she thought we would be a great team to do that. She stated there were several things that they accomplished for National Wildlife, besides that, we worked with Tollgate, we helped Oakland County receive their Wildlife Certification, and they worked with the library to help educate

about our environment. Through that program, it was her understanding that Novi is interested in a Bee City, and that is also helping with our environment, she said she would very much like to be a part of that. She said she is already doing research to find out how we can best provide that service.

8) Mary Angela Winter- Library Board

Mary Angela Winter thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for the opportunity. She said she has been a resident of Novi for 46 years and she was quite familiar with the community. She thought we have the best library in the whole area, and she would like to help keep it that way. She said she became interested in libraries when she was a little girl growing up in a small town in New York State, and we have a Carnegie library there. She remembered as a child when it was safe to walk for four blocks by herself, that her mother would send her off to the library with her library card and she would look at this building, this big stone building and these wonderful double wooden doors, and she would climb the steps and go through those doors and think this is a wonderful place. She said she would go look at the books and take some, read them and take them home., She became fascinated with libraries then. She said she stated on her application that she has been a teacher administrator for 34 years, retired now. She said she has been on several state and local committees for gifted educations, county committees, and she has worked very successfully with parents, teachers, administrators, board members and having to work on boards will all sorts of different kinds of people who have different ideas. She said that is what makes a board or commission successful. She said she has been a CERT member and an Election Inspector for Novi for several years, at least 15 years now. She said she would like to serve on the Novi Library Board and help them continue to make it the most wonderful library in the area. Thank you.

9) Torry Yu- Housing, Community Development Advisory Committee, Beautification Commission

Torry Yu said he has been a lifelong resident of the City of Novi, so just a little over 27 years. He currently worked full time at Walled Lake Schools as a middle school teacher. He said at our school, he is known as Mr. Novi, because if anyone has any questions about what is happening in the City, programs, resources, or what is that building coming up, they typically come to see him first and ask him and he can direct them to the person that can answer that question. He said the reason he was there was that he was applying for two additional boards that he has personally been involved with yet. He said he has a passion for being involved with the City. He has been a resident his entire life, so he has always had an interest to serve and be involved. He said starting off in high school he was a teen volunteer at the library, then leading on to being on the Teen Advisory Board and being appointed to the Library Board of the high school rep, and then now, as a trustee, he was wrapping up his term in the next four hours of so, he will be wrapping up his term as a trustee there. He thought that we have done a lot of great things for our residents, it has not been easy, especially with the pandemic, but he was proud of the work that we accomplished. He mentioned other things that he has been involved with here in Novi including being a poll worker for the past 10 years as an Election Inspector



as well, he works with Parks and Recreation, he will be celebrating 10 years this spring. He said this past two years ago he picked up another job with Public Safety as a crossing guard. He said he was trying to be involved in any way that he could with Novi. He went to the Ambassador's Academy; it was the first graduating class of that. He said it was his passion just giving back to Novi in any way that he could and learning about all the things that we offer for our residents. Thank you for the opportunity.

Mayor Gatt said that concludes our presentations or interviews for this evening. He said will not decide this evening, it will be at our next meeting two weeks from now. He said everybody should know that there are certainly more applicants than there are openings. He would love to be able to put everybody on the Boards and Commissions that they want, but that is not going to be possible. He said if you are not chosen, please do not give up, please keep coming and applying for other Boards and Commissions. This is what makes Novi so great, it is the people of Novi. Thank you very much.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Sharon Trumpy, 23851 Harvest Drive, Novi said she was a member of Novi Racial Awareness, Accountability and Action, as well as the Novi Library Alliance for Justice. She was disappointed so many of our nominees walked out because the first thing she wanted to say is how grateful she was to all our community members who have stepped up to express an interest in serving on our Boards and Commissions. She was especially interested to see so many people were stepping forward for Library Board, she too shared a huge passion for the library. She said she moved here from Cincinnati, and within 12 hours, we were at the library, getting their library cards. She loved the Novi Library, she thought it is a fantastic resource and she has been concerned over the past year about the functioning of the Library Board. She hoped to see that City Councils choices are for individuals who really move the Library Board forward. She also hoped to see that we have trustees who demonstrate respect for each other and for their community members who have a passion and depth of knowledge about libraries, including HLA and MLA, and all of the guiding resources that are available, and community members who really reflect the library's motto, including the desire for inclusion. Diversity is a wonderful part of our community, but diversity is just a fact, inclusion as an action. She said she would like to see that the Library Board serves to make sure that the library is accessible and serving all of its community members. She thought it looked like you have some great choices in front of you and she was looking forward to hearing your decision. Thank you so much.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

**CM 22-02-019            Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANOMOUSLY**

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