



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Presentations for Boards and Commissions candidates were held Monday, February 6th. Attached is the 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: MELISSA MORRIS, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
DATE: JANUARY 31, 2023

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

- Courtney Opalko (Beautification) is not seeking reappointment.
- Michael Thompson (CBA) is not seeking reappointment.
- Rob Ledbetter (CIA) is not seeking reappointment.

In accordance with Council Rules amended in February 2021, all boards and commissions candidates will present to City Council. Please see below for current openings for which candidates are presenting.

Board or Commission	Number of openings	Term expiration
Beautification Commission	3 full terms	03/01/2026
Building Authority	1 full term	03/01/2026
Construction Board of Appeals	2 full terms	03/01/2026
Corridor Improvement Authority	2 full terms	03/01/2026
Library Board	2 full terms	03/01/2026

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Jan Lach (Beautification) – attended 11 of 11 (100%) meetings since March 2021.

Celia Todd (Beautification) – attended 11 of 19 (58%) meetings since March 2020.

William Bluford (Building Authority) – BA has not met since his appointment.

Patrick Torossian (CBA) – attended 4 of 6 (67%) meetings since March 2020.

Blair Bowman (CIA) – attended 6 of 6 (100%) meetings since March 2018.

Priya Gulumurthy (Library) – attended 13 of 14 (93%) meetings since March 2022.

if he heard her right. Senator Bayer said they are independent, she had a meeting with them today, we work with them. Mayor Gatt said last year, we had a representative out here, everybody in the communities are very aware of power outages in Novi, they seem to be more frequent here than in most other communities, and sometimes we are lacking in the response. He said, however, though, after the meeting we had right here at the table, the Attorney General's here and representatives from all over the state, he noticed we got a little bit better service. He hoped that she would stay on that and oversee that, and advocate for your community. Senator Bayer said yes, absolutely you can call her anytime, they are happy to intervene and help things get fixed fast. She said it is also one of their priorities to fix the system, right to build a better grid to build a better system. She said this is a great place to try things on. She said in fact, anytime you are doing a new project, if you have something that there is a lot of grant opportunities at the state, right. She said there is a lot of different kinds of water grants, we have this new set of legislation that just passed at the end of last year about landfills, and rules about solid waste management. She said every community is going to have not just trash pickup, but recycling and compost, so there is a lot of opportunity for help on things. She said if you come up with projects that you think the State might be able to help with just call. She said they will help in any way they can, and if you do apply for something, you can call their office and they will help push it through. Mayor Gatt said he will let each councilmember ask one question if they choose. He asked if there was anybody that had a question, it looked like all their questions were answered previously. He thanked her again for the comprehensive legislative update and said they looked forward to working with her. Thank you.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Gatt explained the Council Rules on Boards and Commissions Presentations. He said everybody who is going to present to understand that they have your application, and in most cases, we have your resume, we have studied that. He said that evening they were going to allow each presenter two minutes to come to the podium and tell them why they want to be named to a committee. He stated they will not make any decisions that evening. He said three weeks from tonight at the next City Council meeting they will make their decisions. Each presenter will have two minutes and at the end of the two minutes he said he will cut them off, so we are fair to everybody. He said he will say thank you and it will move on to the next person. Having said that, he called the first presenter to the podium, Jan Lach.

1. Jan Lach – Beautification

Jan Lach stated she has been with the Beautification Commission for two years now. She said she has attended every one of the meetings. Her claim to fame is that she rewrote the Neighborhood Grant packet. She said she lived for paperwork just to make it a little more streamlined. She said it was one of those documents that people just added things to it overtime and she thought it was confusing. She said she made it easier for them to make choices and also for the City so that the city side of it will be a little faster as well. She looked forward to doing more things with the group. She said they have a lot of plans

and ideas, but part of the issue is that they have is that they do not have enough members to do a quorum. She stated they are down two people now that have resigned and those seats have not been filled yet. She said they are trying to get more people involved and do more of the work that they are supposed to be doing.

2. William Bluford - Building Authority

William Bluford thanked Council for having him that evening. He said he has been a Novi Resident since 2008 and has been on the Building Authority since 2019. He said he was appointed to a partial term in 2019 and full term in 2020 during COVID. He said he would like to go over all of his accomplishments on the Building Authority, but, unfortunately, we haven't met. He said he wanted to continue his commitment and strengthen his commitment to Novi. He joined the CERT Team in 2021 and he has been asked to present on cybersecurity which is what he does in his professional life. He said he would like to continue to serve on the Building Authority or any way that the Council sees fit.

3. Patrick Torossian – CBA

Patrick Torossian said he has been a Novi resident since 1987 and he was seeking reappointment on the Construction Board of Appeals. He said for the past two years he has enjoyed supporting Novi on this Board and going through multiple situations with the homeowners and builders for variances or how to deal with variances. He stated he was an engineer by trade for more than 35 years. He said he has lived in Novi for 35 of those years and his wife and I have built three homes in Novi, so they have dealt with builders, developers, as well as the city before. He said they have participated in multiple homeowner's associations. He said he could appreciate the value and consistency, as well as the value of participation from homeowners like himself for homeowners and builders looking for support. So, with that, he said he would like to give back a little to the community and he looked forward to continuing to make Novi the best City there is.

4. Adrienne Breznau – Library – (absent)

Mayor Gatt said Adrienne was not there that evening, he said they have her application and resume, and she will be given full consideration for that spot.

5. Priya Gurumurthy - Library

Priya Gurumurthy said she was Global Director of Yanfeng International in Novi. She believed in giving back to the community and through this one-year term on the Board, she was able to contribute to the betterment of the library which she felt is the central place where all community members come there. She said even though they were able to accomplish a lot during the term as a board member she though she had a lot of things to do yet. She said especially as they just kicked off the strategic planning activity. She said in the short term, she was not only able to understand in detail all the policies and procedures of the library, but also was able to contribute to the library in three basic core committees. Firstly, she said as a Strategic Planning Committee member, she was

proud that they were able to kick off the strategic planning diversity. Secondly, she said as a DEI Committee member, she was able to provide review and approval of the collection's development policy and doing a presentation of Indian culture and tradition to the staff of the library. She mentioned as an Events and Marketing Committee member, she was hoping to continue her work helping the library reach the marketing and fundraising goals for financial sustainability. She said she would like to continue to be that advocate for the library and the mission. She wanted to be there as an individual to support Julie and her team to execute everything they wanted to do without any issues. She established a great relationship with the other trustees, and she was ready to execute to soon to be determined five-year plan to being on Board for one years was great, but very short. She stated with this experience and understanding she was energized to do more, along with the other esteemed leaders on the board. She said she was so proud to be part of the Novi Library Board and requested all of you to consider her to not put a period to what she is serving to the library but put a comma by the reappointment. She thanked Council again for giving her the opportunity that evening.

Mayor Gatt thanked everyone for coming out that evening. He said there was one more applicant, Latasha Keller who afford the Library as she could not be there that evening. He explained she was traveling on business, but her application will also be given full consideration. He asked is Adrienne Bridgestone was there that evening. He said no. He thanked everyone for their presentations and said there will be no decision made that evening. He said three weeks from tonight at our next meeting people will be notified whether they were chosen or not.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

Interim City Manager Cardenas noted that the time clock on the wall was not working properly. He said the Clerk will be keeping the time with her phone for any public speakers they have that evening. Mayor Gatt thanked him for that information.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 23-02-017 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approve Minutes of:
January 23, 2023 - Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of a resolution consolidating Precincts 16 & 17 and 24 & 25 for the May 2, 2023 election.

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR
February 27, 2023

Corridor Improvement Authority

2 full terms- Terms expires 12/31/2025

Blair Bowman **reappointment*

Hugh Crawford

Library Board

2 full terms - Terms Expire 03/01/2026

Adrienne Breznau

Priya Gurumurthy **reappointment*

Latasha Keller

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
February 27, 2023

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission

3 full terms – Term expires 03/01/2026

- Jan Lach **reappointment*
- Celia Todd **reappointment*
- _____
- _____
- _____

Building Authority

1 full term – Term expires 03/01/2026

- William Bluford **reappointment*
- _____

Construction Board of Review

2 full terms- Terms expire 03/01/2026

- Kamran Qadeer
**current alternate seeking full position*
- Patrick Torossian **reappointment*
- _____
- _____

Zoning Board of Appeals

1 full term – Term expires 01/01/2026

- Mav Sanghvi **reappointment*
- _____

Council Member Signature