



CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

**Agenda Item 3
December 22, 2014**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk *m.c.*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: *ra*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

City Council held interviews for the Library Board vacancy and the Zoning Board of Appeals full term positions and alternate position on December 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. A copy of the draft minutes is included with the packet.

The Commission Interview Committee met on December 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. to interview for the Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Election Commission, Historical Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee and Public Access Promotion Committee. There were nine interviews and those minutes are attached.

Matthew Mosteiko recently interviewed with City Council November 13, 2014 and therefore did not need to re-interview. Kamran Qadeer was unable to attend the Council meeting to interview on December 8, 2014. Beverly Valente was out of State and was unable to attend the Commission Interview Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

	1	2	Y	N
Mayor Gatt				
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt				
Council Member Casey				
Council Member Markham				

	1	2	Y	N
Council Member Mutch				
Council Member Poupard				
Council Member Wrobel				

BALLOTS

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR
December 22, 2014

Library Board
1 partial term
Term expires 03/01/2017

Sandra Kearney

Carmela Langley

William Lawler

Datara Michener

Kamran Qadeer

Jason Richert

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
December 22, 2014

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission

2 full terms - Terms expire 03/01/2017
1 partial term - Term expires 03/01/2016

- Matthew Mosteiko _____
 Full Term Partial Term
- Andery Richert _____
 Full Term Partial Term
- Andrew Sarpolis _____
 Full Term Partial Term

Board of Review

1 partial term
Term expires 01/01/2016

- Matthew Mosteiko
- Jason Richert
- Beverly Valente
- _____

Election Commission

1 full term
Term expires 01/01/2018

- Bob Copes _____
- Jason Richert _____
- _____

Historical Commission

2 full terms
Terms expire 01/01/2018

- Tammy Lee Knopp _____
- John MacInnis _____
- _____

Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee

2 full terms
Terms expire 01/01/2018

- William Lawler _____
- John Roznowski _____
- Andrew Sarpolis _____
- Brandon Stewart _____
- _____

Public Access Promotion Committee

1 full term
Term expires 01/01/2018

- John Roznowski _____
- _____

Zoning Board of Appeals

3 full terms
Terms expire 01/01/2018

- Cynthia Gronachan _____
- Matthew Mosteiko _____
- Jason Richert _____
- _____

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate

1 partial term vacancy
Term expires 01/01/2017

- _____
- _____

Mayor/Council Member Signature

CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEW MINUTES

Mayor Gatt presented a street sign to be erected in recognition of the 2014 Cross Country Academic State Champions. Coach Robert Smith, Novi High School Cross Country Coach introduced the team members.

2. Recognition of the Novi High School State Championship Boys Tennis Team

Mayor Gatt presented a street sign to be erected in recognition of the 2014 State Championship Boys Tennis Team. Coaches Jim Hanson & Dan Lowes introduced the team members.

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Kamran Qadeer – Library Board – unable to attend

2. Datar Michener – Library Board

Ms. Michener said libraries have been important to her for a long time. She is an author. She is on the Executive Board of the Novi Youth Assistance. She has taken part in some anti-bullying initiatives with other groups. She wants to be on the Board because she wouldn't have been an author had the Library not been a big part of her life. She would like to serve the Library instead of expecting the Library serve her. She has expertise in a few areas that would be beneficial to the Board. Member Casey asked if she had any goals or objectives she would like to accomplish, if she were appointed. Ms. Michener answered the first mission statement of the Library is similar to her own mission statement. The Library mission statement is inspiring. Her background in diversity and other areas tie into being a good Board member. Member Mutch asked what she saw as the biggest challenge for a Library going forward in the next 3 – 5 years. Ms. Michener answered talking with Julie Farkas, Library Director; one of her goals is to make sure the Library is accessible. She thought the challenges are already being worked on. The reading boxes in the parks are important and maybe expand that system. A lot of people are not able to get to the Library so it is good to have something available to them. Member Poupard asked what opportunities she saw as being on the Board as opposed to being supportive of literacy as an individual. Ms. Michener said she doesn't think anyone does anything in a vacuum. She was looking forward to working with a team. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked what she learned as a member of Novi Youth Assistance that she could bring to the Library Board. She said Novi Youth Assistance is an amazing group. They give opportunities to those at risk for whatever reason. It seems like the Library and NYA have the same goals. Member Wrobel asked what programs are not offered by the Library. She thought they should have a consistent program that focuses on relational aggression. She is passionate about anti-bullying and thought sometimes when there is a major issue it can become a fad when it is popular, then goes away. She said as a professional there needs to be awareness of bullying. Member Markham said she is interested in her work with anti-bullying and thought it was something that needs to be continued. She had no questions. Mayor Gatt said she was a wonderful candidate and he had no questions.

3. Sandra Kearney – Library Board

Ms. Kearney said she was interested in being on the Board because she has seen great value of being involved in the Community. She spoke about the achievements of her children because they were products of the Novi School System and Community. She is a registered Pharmacist. She would like to help others. She has spent hours in the Library. Member Mutch asked what she saw was the biggest challenge facing the Library in the next 3 – 5 years. Ms. Kearney thought its relevance and communication. There is a need to communicate use of the facility and the need for volunteers. Member Poupard asked her if she could give specific ideas of improving the relevance and the service. Ms. Kearney said she saw in the long term plan they did focus groups and to approach the High School by talking to specific teachers. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked what she saw the School and Library could do to collaborate. Ms. Kearney thought they need to use the Library during School hours and use the facilities. She suggested bringing in speakers to explain to students future goals. Member Wrobel asked what programs she believed should be offered. Ms. Kearney answered that education about bullying is important. Just because someone is different or learns different doesn't mean they are less capable or that they don't have as much to offer. She would like to see the Library to take an initiative to train children at an early age to be role models. Member Markham asked what features of the Library could be used to foster multi-generational learning and interaction. Ms. Kearney said there needs to be a plan to use seniors to mentor students. Member Casey asked if she had any specific goals, objectives, or programs she would like to see accomplished if chosen for the Library Board. Ms. Kearney thought they have a wonderful plan already and she would only add on to what is there. She mentioned a plan of communication. There are wonderful programs and there needs to be an outreach program. Mayor Gatt didn't have any questions.

4. William Lawler – Library Board

Mr. Lawler said he was a longtime resident. He feels he would be an excellent candidate for the Board for several reasons. He loves the Library and a unique opportunity to mentor as a Big Brother. They read together. He would bring a great background of work experience. He has worked in budgets, staffing and business areas. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service and has knowledge of government funding. Member Poupard asked what experience best prepares him to be on a board. He said the budget experience was challenging. He also noted all the boards he had been on would help him. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked if he would be interested in the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Lawler said he could be even though he hadn't studied its background. Member Wrobel and Member Markham had talked with him earlier and had no questions. Member Casey asked if he had a specific goal, objective or program he would like to see accomplished. Mr. Lawler noted the Library is outstanding and thought there was a couple of things. He spoke with the Director who is interested in reaching residents North of I-96. He could assist with any committees that worked on the outreach. Another one would be a liaison with the Big Sisters and Big Brothers of Detroit. Member Mutch asked what he saw would be the

biggest challenge facing the Novi Public Library in the next 3 - 5 years. Mr. Lawler thought reviewing the strategic plan gave him several of the key initiatives that need continued work. The funding is first, recruitment and retention of employees, and the outreach to utilize the Library to its fullest potential. Mayor Gatt had no questions.

5. Jason Richert – Zoning Board of Appeals, Library Board

Mr. Richert moved to Novi with his family about 3 years ago and they are now starting to use the Library. He came from the Flint area where Libraries are closing down. He is glad he is here. The Library offers his family so much and he would like to give back. He wouldn't mind serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals, he understood how important that Board is also. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt asked him to give an example of when he had to say no at his job. Mr. Richert works with Treasurers throughout the US. They contact him about funds that he has to say no because Federal Law prohibits them. Member Wrobel spoke with him earlier. He asked how he would tell someone that they cannot have a variance. Mr. Richert said he would tell them the no with an explanation. Both sides have to be heard. Member Markham asked him if there was a Board he really wants or would he be flexible. He said he would be flexible. Member Casey said they had a good conversation prior and had no questions. Member Mutch thanked him for coming forward to serve. Member Poupard was curious why he was willing to come forward to volunteer. Mr. Richert said his children have made him willing to make the City a little better place to live. Mayor Gatt had no questions.

6. Cynthia Gronachan – Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Gronachan said she is currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals and was interested in serving on the Board again. The Chair is doing a great job. Member Wrobel had no questions. Member Markham asked if she noticed a common problem that needs to be addressed long term. Ms. Gronachan thought the ordinances need to be looked at. Garages are always an issue. Signs are a problem that should be addressed. She didn't think anything else needs to be addressed because Novi has done a good job. Members Casey, Mutch, Poupard, Staudt, and Mayor Gatt didn't have questions and appreciated her willingness to serve.

7. Carmela Langley – Library Board

Ms. Langley said she decided to serve because she loves Novi. She uses the Library a lot and is impressed with the Library. Her background is corporate and private. She questioned the Library Director about the marketing aspect. She wants to be a part of that and help perpetuate that. Member Markham asked what she thought the Library can do foster the multi-generation interaction. Ms. Langley said her passion is with youth. She is an at risk counselor. She sees a lot of tutoring and activities in the Library on weekends. She thought the mentoring was a good idea. She would like to see some counseling. Topics could be bullying and self-esteem. The Library is a good opportunity while the children are there to allow a venue to discuss any issue they do have. Member Casey asked if she was appointed to the Library Board was there a program, goals, or objective that she would like to see accomplished. Ms. Langley said

she addressed part of the question already and also would like to see some kind of transportation to get to other parts of the Community. Member Mutch asked what she thought was the biggest challenge for the Novi Library in the next 3 – 5 years. Ms. Langley said keeping current with technology is always a challenge, funding is a challenge, and the types of activities that will be kept funded. Member Poupard didn't have a question but thanked her for her service and for the great thoughts of what the Library needs. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt and Mayor Gatt had no questions for her. Member Wrobel thanked her for her CERT involvement. She thanked them for their service.

8. John Roznowski – Zoning Board of Appeals – withdrew his application for ZBA.

REPORTS:

1. MANAGER/STAFF –City Manager Pete Auger stated since he was new, he suggested a changeup for the Council Goals session scheduled January 10th to a casual workshop where he can share some observations and get Council's feedback on larger policy issues. Mayor Gatt was in favor of changing the format. City Manager Auger said there is no need for a consultant. They have differences on issues but there are similarities in their goals. Member Wrobel had no issue with changing it this year and there could be another meeting if it doesn't work out. Member Poupard said as a teacher she said with an input of ideas they may get more done than a formal structure. Member Casey said it was a unique opportunity having a new City Manager. Member Mutch said the past goal setting has served them well but he is open to new ways of approaching this topic. Mayor Pro Tem Staudt said he was in complete support. After a brief discussion, Council members agreed to the change for the January 10, 2015 session.

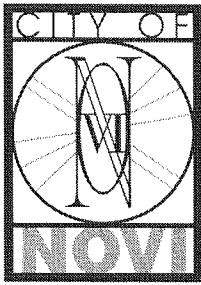
2. ATTORNEY – None

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Kelly Hough-Breen, 242 Linhart, spoke against the request of Foresta Architects, LLC to amend the Sandstone Consent Judgment to allow construction of the two single-family homes. She recapped that the environmental impact will be affected, they have not met with agencies that regulate the woodlands and wetlands, and she noted the City has information on the website. There was a lot of input from the citizens at meetings discussing Pavilion Shore Park and believed it should be done regarding this property to find a solution for everyone involved. The property acts as a buffer to divide subdivisions. It sets a bad precedence if Council opens up the consent judgment. They do not want their homes to devalue that they have worked so hard to preserve.

Pam Sordyl, a Clarkston resident, reported that her organization, Puppy Mill Awareness of SE Michigan, had logged 109 complaints against pet stores in Novi since 2001. She hoped that some kind of regulation, as found in other counties, would be instituted in Oakland County.

COMMISSION INTERVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES



cityofnovi.org

COMMISSION INTERVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

CITY OF NOVI

Commission Interview Committee Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2014 | 5:30 P.M.

Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0456

Member Wrobel called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Council Members Casey, Markham, Wrobel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Unanimously approved

Member Wrobel explained the reason for the meeting is to interview applicants for various Boards and Commissions in the City of Novi. They will then make recommendations to the entire City Council and vote on the selections.

APPLICANTS FOR BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

1) William Lawler – Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee

Mr. Lawler said he has been a resident for 29 years. He wanted to get into City activities after he retired. He served one term on the Committee and enjoyed it and is glad to be considered again. He thought he added value to the Committee. He is interviewing for the Library Board, also. Member Casey asked him what it was specifically about the Committee that he enjoyed. He answered where the money goes and also working with the people. He enjoys being a part of the City that he has lived in for so long. Member Markham asked if there was anything from his experience with HCD that he thought Novi should be looking toward, or for, or granting opportunities that the City may not be taking advantage of moving forward. He said one thing they have talked about on the Committee was getting more applications for the fund. The funding is not very large. The monies go towards worthwhile causes. There are not a lot of organizations that apply for it. Member Wrobel asked what he thought the committee is not doing now that they should be doing. Mr. Lawler didn't think there was anything that they aren't doing.

2) Andrew Sarpolis – Beautification Commission, Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee

Mr. Sarpolis said he is a new resident to Novi. He thinks Novi is a great Community. His work experience helps him. He has worked on environmental issues in Michigan. He has worked with Farmington Hills in the past. He has done work in the past to showcase municipal leadership on sustainable design. Member Markham thought he had a terrific background for some needs the City has. She was happy to see younger residents getting involved. She asked, if placed on the Beautification Committee, what he would like to see in Novi going forward with. Mr. Sarpolis has noticed gardens on the City website. He would like to see projects that would reduce our impact on the

environment. He has done a lot of that. Member Casey noted that he was correct in noting the City is missing the middle demographic of 25-30 years old volunteers. She asked what he could do, if chosen, to help get the interest of his age demographic of 25-30 years old. Mr. Sarpolis said it is a complicated question. He would like to look at specifics available. He would be interested in transit access in this area and expanding use of public transportation. Member Wrobel asked why he moved to Novi. He liked this area a lot. Novi seems to have more community engagement. Novi has a lot more amenities than surrounding communities.

3) Jason Richert – Board of Review, Election Commission

Mr. Richert said he moved to Novi with his family about 3 years ago. He likes what Novi has to offer. He wanted to help in the Community and wants to be a part of the City. Member Casey asked him what was BMWED. He said was an abbreviation for the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division. She asked, based on his background, what skills he brings to the Board of Review or Election Commission. He is the BMWED State Legislative Director for the State of Michigan. He is interested in politics. Member Markham asked how his skills from his job would help him on the Board or Commission. Mr. Richert said he feels comfortable with people in politics and wants to be fair. He wants to make sure elections are held fair. He feels it is interesting. Member Wrobel asked if he had a priority of the Board of Review or Election Commission. He said Election Commission.

4) Brandon Stewart – Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee

Mr. Stewart has lived in Novi for 9 years with his family. He has been on the Committee for the last 3 years. He has 10 years' experience in the lumber and housing industry. He has had 15 years in operational management and a degree in Finance. Member Markham asked if there were areas where the Committee can improve on serving the Community further. Mr. Stewart thought there was work that hasn't been done. He feels it is important to enhance what the program offers. In the past 3 years, they have helped close to 40 families with the Minor Home Improvement Program but there are still 30 families that are on a waiting list. It is a challenge to get the information out. Member Casey asked what specifically, serving on the Committee, that he enjoys the most. Mr. Stewart likes to make sure every dollar they get goes directly to assist families. Member Wrobel didn't have any questions.

5) Andery Richert – Beautification Commission

Ms. Richert moved here 3 years ago. She became involved with activities such as sports, CERT, and schools. She loves the Community and wants to give something back. Member Casey asked if she were appointed, did she have a particular goal, objective, or program that she would like to accomplish in the first 3 years. Ms. Richert said she would like working with curb appeals as focal points. Member Markham asked if she had any thoughts of projects within the City. Ms. Richert noted the City is improving on the walkability. She thought having places to enjoy would be good. She would like the walkability around Twelve Oaks to be safer. Member Wrobel noted her CERT involvement. He was impressed by her educational background. He asked if she

had ideas of improving the beautification of local subdivisions. Ms. Richert thought that could be done through neighborhood organizations because they are the ones that would be affected by it. It would be possible to get volunteers to help.

6) Tammy Lee Knopp – Historical Commission

Ms. Knopp said she has been in Novi for 5 years. She has served a year on the Historical Commission. Member Casey asked if she would share any ideas she had going forward implemented with Youth Council. Ms. Knopp said she investigated about Youth Council and found there needed to be a contact person. They have had meetings. Going forward, two students are working on projects and they will do presentations. Their research is on the City of Novi web site. One is the history of Novi High School and the other is doing a project on the early settlers in Novi. They are bringing the Historical Commission into the technical age. Member Markham asked her how to inform the whole Community about how interesting our history is. Ms. Knopp thought they were doing it now with the Motor City Markers. The Library is sponsoring bus tours of the Markers. Member Wrobel asked her what City Council can help the Commission with. Ms. Knopp answered that she has found that they have been very supportive of the Commission. People have noted that the City has a supportive Community also.

7) Bob Copes – Election Commission

Mr. Copes enjoyed serving as an election inspector and feels he has a good relationship with the Clerk's office and staff. He noted he can bring his managerial and business leadership experience to the position. Member Markham asked if he has served the same precinct. Mr. Copes said he has done primarily precinct 6. Member Markham asked if he had any thoughts of how to improve voter turnout. Mr. Copes said they had a respectable turnout the last election. He thought it is instilled in someone to vote. Member Casey didn't have any questions. Member Wrobel asked him what he thought the primary goal of the Election Commission was. Mr. Copes said he would support the election team and to make sure all processes are observed to make sure the outcomes of the elections are not questioned.

8) John Roznowski – Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee,
Public Access Promotion Committee

Mr. Roznowski said the main reason they came to Novi was the school system. He was a participant and graduate of Novi's first Ambassador Academy (Fall 2014). He has coached youth sports teams. He wants to do his civic duty and to give back to the Community. Member Casey asked if he had a committee preference. He was leaning more towards the Public Access Committee. Member Casey asked what skills and background made him a good candidate for the position. He said his work experience will help because he does a lot of market research, work on-line, media work, and is very responsible. Member Markham didn't have any questions. She appreciated that he went to the Academy and it was helpful to encourage him to participate. Member Wrobel thanked him and didn't have any questions.

9) John MacInnis – Historical Commission

Mr. MacInnis said he has been a resident of Novi for 37 years. He has seen the City grow into the City it is today. He has been on the Commission for 2 appointments. Member Markham thanked him for his service and his continued desire to be on the Commission. She asked if there was anything that there should be done. Mr. MacInnis said they have been in the process of trying to collect the history of the City in the form of pictures. He noted they get great support from the Library. Member Casey and Member Wrobel didn't have any questions and thanked him.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 P.M.

Transcribed by Jane Keller