



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
JULY 6, 2020**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Interviews for Boards and Commissions were held Monday, June 15th; interviews by the Commission Interview Committee were held Monday, June 22nd. Attached are the Mayor and Council ballots for appointments to Boards and Commissions, Council interview memo, interview 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 INTRODUCTIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
DATE: JUNE 11, 2020

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

- Tony Anthony (Planning Commission) does not wish to be reappointed.
- Arjun Tuteja wishes to be considered for the Planning Commission and Historical Commission; he has previously interviewed with Council and does not wish to participate in further interviews.

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
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission	2 full terms	06/31/2023
Planning Commission	1 full term	06/31/2023

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Scott Pratt (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission) – attended 15 of 32 (47%) meetings since his appointment in February 2017.

Harry Torimoto (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission) – attended 19 of 32 (60%) meetings since his appointment in February 2017.

Commission Interview Committee

The Commission Interview Committee will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

- There are two partial term vacancies on the Beautification Commission due to two members not seeking reappointment when their terms expired in March.
- Lynne Fuller (Board of Review) was appointed as a full member on December 16th, 2019, creating a partial term vacancy for the alternate position which was not filled during March appointments.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Historical Commission; no candidate has received the four votes required to be appointed during either the December or March appointments.

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

Board or Commission	Number of openings	Term expiration
Beautification Commission	2 partial terms	03/01/2023
Board of Review	1 partial term	01/01/2022
Historical Commission	1 partial term	01/01/2023

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

N/A

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-129 this meeting was held remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ALSO PRESENT: Pete Auger, City Manager
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Breen wanted to add under Mayor and City Council: Racial inequity in our City.

CM 20-06-069 Moved by Casey, seconded by Gatt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 20-06-069 **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Gatt explained that a while back City Council changed the way they did conducted our interviews. They received the candidate's applications and resumes so that they all have pretty good idea of who you are and why you want to serve on one of the Boards and Commissions. He said they would have two minutes to introduce themselves. There will be no questions afterwards. They will not make any decisions that evening. They will make that decision at the next Council meeting.

1. David Dismondy – Planning Commission

Mr. Dismondy stated for the last 15 years he has been a commercial mortgage banker in the City of Detroit. He has lived in Novi for the last 17 years. He has underwritten and originated hundreds of millions of dollars of commercial real estate loans. They don't necessarily finance through banks and credit unions, they use life insurance companies around the country. They also use CMVS lenders, which are conduit lenders in New York City. He thought with his background he told Tony Anthony many years ago, he is a colleague in the

industry, if there is any way that you could see he could be a participant and add value to the group to let him know. He called a few weeks ago and encouraged him to throw his name in the hat. He said he lived on Walled Lake with his wife and three children.

2. Ryan Joseph – Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services

Mr. Joseph said he has been a resident of Novi since 1986. Novi has been his home for all but two years when he and his wife had a home in Kalamazoo. He has been back since 2014. He has been taking advantage of the parks. That is what drew his interest. Lately when he has been going around to the Parks website one thing stood out to him was that we are trying to create programming for the times around the new environment. One of the things that stood out to him was the online gaming. We have all of these great parks in the City why would we start focusing on that. Growing up in Novi obviously he had opportunities to play baseball at Bosco Field and see that revitalized, ITC Pathway getting developed and put into place has been great, and Improvements to Lakeshore Park has been incredible. He wanted to continue along that path so that we don't have the kids in the community focusing their attention mostly inside and doing virtual video games and actually get out and take advantage of the great parks that we have. He was looking to join basically around advocacy to get people to attend the parks and all of the activities that we have in the City.

3. Peter Lee – Planning Commission

Mr. Lee said he was an anesthesiologist and he worked at Providence Hospital, both Novi and Southfield. He said he was interested in the Planning Commission because he cared about what is going on in Novi. He has been living in Novi since 2008 from Ann Arbor. He was looking forward to working with the Planning Commission is to see how the City continues to grow. He cares about what happens to where he lives. He is also one of the Island Lake Board of Directors. He said he saw the information out that there were some openings so he wanted to take advantage of that opportunity. He cared about what happens locally and he has been part of Michigan since he has grown up here all but one year.

4. Courtney Opalko – Beautification and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Ms. Opalko said she has lived in Novi for the past 5 or 6 years now. She has two small children. She worked at Google for 8 years out of school and recently left to start her own small business as a modern etiquette consultant. She is trying to learn more about the City and network within the City to create a foundation for her family and the City of Novi which they have loved since they moved here. She said she now has more time to get involved with the City. She would like to know more about the City and have a say in where it goes in the future.

5. Scott Pratt – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Mr. Pratt stated that he has been on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board for several years and it is time to renew. He has been with the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the past 6 years. He thoroughly enjoyed working with the Parks and Recreation department. He said a lot of great things have happened during the time he was on the Board with Tim Pope and ITC Trail and all the other great programming. He currently has been in the Parks and Recreation profession for over 26 years, from municipal to county to state with the DNR. He couldn't think of anything else that he would rather do. He lives in Novi right now. He said he has a daughter in high school right now. He has another daughter that will be entering middle school. He hoped he could continue on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board. He felt that especially with the times that he can bring a state perspective that can assist the department with a lot of local grants and other types of programming ideas.

6. Eric Retzbach – Planning Commission (absent)

7. Harry Torimoto – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Mr. Torimoto said this is his tenth year being on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission. He thanked Council for giving him the opportunity again. There are two things that really drive him to serve. He said it is pride and having been involved in the direction or providing input in the direction of the services that the City provides. He said also he is learning the lifestyles and what people expect from the services. He tries to keep engaged with everyone ahead of time. He stated whether it is the audits of the facilities or attending the strategic sessions, or representing the Commission on various other forms of the Novi Parks Foundation or Walkable Novi in the past. He believed that educating himself and knowing the needs of others as well as his own experiences in providing that as an input. He said looking forward with the COVID-19 and it is a new world. How do we position ourselves as Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services? He thought that some of the facilities being available during this time, that there are essential services that need to be provided. He said from his professional background they just reopened their business. He looked forward to providing that input and shaping the City of Novi's services. Thank you.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 20-06-070 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda presented.



COMMISSION INTERVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

CITY OF NOVI
Commission Interview Committee Meeting
Monday, June 22, 2020 | 7:00 P.M.
Remote Meeting | (248) 347-0456

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M.

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-75, this meeting was held remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Council Members Casey, Breen, Fischer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Casey added the topic of meeting organization to the agenda before the audience comments section.

CICM 20-06-04 Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
Approval of the agenda as amended.

MEETING ORGANIZATION:

Member Casey stated that she wanted to explain the motion that was just made. She said that City Council had changed how they do candidate interviews, but the rules for the Committees hadn't caught up yet. She wanted to follow the same process that Council does, so everything is aligned with what happens at the Council table, which is a two-minute introduction with no questions from the table.

CICM 20-06-05 Moved by Casey, seconded by Fischer; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:
For the committee to adopt the same practice as Council follows with two-minute introductions by each applicant, with no questions from the table.

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

APPLICANTS FOR BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

1. Megs Beller- Ms. Beller began by saying she's lived in Novi for 45 years. She has her Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University and taught for 40 years. She was married for 52 years before her husband passed away last summer. They raised their kids here, and now have grandkids. Ms. Beller explained that

what's unique about her is that she lived in the North Hills sub before moving to the north end of the city. Her unique perspective is from two sides of the same coin, since both ends of the town are completely different. Ms. Beller described herself as having good listening skills. She said she's also highly intelligent, sympathetic, empathetic, but most importantly, pragmatic. Ms. Beller continued, saying some things just are the way they are. She served as president of the HOA in North Hills. Ms. Beller stated that she isn't pretentious. She belongs to LAHA, is active, and likes to keep her ear to the ground and know what's going on. She said that she has time to do this, that she is retired and interested.

Member Casey thanked Ms. Beller for her introduction, for meeting with the Committee, and for bearing with the technological challenges at the beginning of the meeting. Member Casey explained that City Council will get a transcript of this interview as well as her original application. She stated that Council would make appointments during the July 6th meeting, and that Dawn in the Clerk's Office would contact her after that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Transcribed by Dawn Spaulding

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR
July 6, 2020

Planning Commission
1 full term – Terms expire 06/30/2023

David Dismondy

Peter Lee

Eric Retzbach

Arjun Tuteja

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
July 6, 2020

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission

2 partial terms – Terms expire 03/01/2023

- Courtney Opalko
- _____
- _____

Board of Review

1 partial, alternate term – Term expires
01/01/2022

- Margaret Beller
- _____

Historical Commission

1 partial term - Term expires 01/01/2023

- Arjun Tuteja
- _____

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

2 full terms - Terms expire 06/30/2023

- Ryan Joseph
- Courtney Opalko
- Scott Pratt **reappointment*
- Harry Torimoto **reappointment*
- _____
- _____

Council Member Signature