



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 20, 2021**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Presentations for Boards and Commissions candidates were held Monday, December 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

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
December 20, 2021

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission

1 partial term – Term expires 03/01/2022

Board of Review

1 full term – Term expires 01/01/2025

1 full term, alternate – Term expires 01/01/2025

Bob Copes
 full member alternate

Swamy Gopalakrishnan
**reappointment, alternate*
 full member alternate

Jay McLeod
 full member alternate

Peter Winter **reappointment*
 full member alternate

 full member alternate

 full member alternate

Historical Commission

3 full terms- Terms expire 01/01/2025

Kathy Crawford **reappointment*

Sharon Larson

Rachel Manela **reappointment*

**Housing and Community Development
Advisory Committee**

1 full term- Term expires 01/01/2025

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Commission**

1 partial term- Term expires 06/30/2022

Joe Tolkacz

Zoning Board of Appeals

2 full terms- Term Expires 01/01/2025

Mike Longo

Jay McLeod

Council Member Signature

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
CC: CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK
FROM: DAWN SPAULDING, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2021

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

- Isaly Szetela (Beautification Commission) – resigned, creating a partial term vacancy on the Beautification Commission.
- Swamy Gopalakrishnan (Board of Review, alternate) is seeking reappointment; however, he is not required to re-interview according to Council Rules.
- Dhara Sanghavi (Historical Commission) – is not seeking reappointment due to moving out of Novi.
- Kat Dooley (Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee) – is not seeking reappointment.
- Brian Smith (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission) – resigned due to position on City Council, creating a partial term vacancy.
- Mike Longo (Zoning Board of Appeals) – is currently serving as alternate member and wishes to be considered for full membership.
- Travis Malott (Zoning Board of Appeals) – is not seeking reappointment.
- Kevin Sanker (Zoning Board of Appeals) – 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	1 partial term	03/01/2022
Board of Review	1 full term 1 full term, alternate	01/01/2025
Historical Commission	3 full terms	01/01/2025
Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee	1 full term	01/01/2025
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission	1 partial term	06/30/2022
Zoning Board of Appeals	2 full terms	01/01/2025

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Swamy Gopalakrishnan (Board of Review) – attended 1 of 1 (100%) meetings since March 2021.

Peter Winter (Board of Review) – attended 11 of 12 (92%) meetings since January 2019.

Kathy Crawford (Historical Commission) – attended 24 of 28 (86%) meetings since January 2019.

Rachel Manela (Historical Commission) – attended 26 of 28 (93%) meetings since January 2019.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Gatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 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:

Mayor Gatt added "Novi Robotics Presentation" to the Agenda.

Member Fischer added "Traffic Lights at 13 Mile" to the Mayor and Council Issues.

CM 21-12-152 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 21-12-152 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Smith, Thomas, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Program Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application.

Opened at 7:01p.m. and closed at 7:02 p.m.

Anand Pappuri, 42210 Park Ridge Road, Novi commented on the Community Development Block Grant. He said there are dollars available, he wondered how this is calculated. He wanted to know if this application is regarding the application or the allocation of funds to the community. He said it was not clear when he saw it on the website. He did not know if it was the correct time to comment or if it is available later that evening, he wanted to know.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Novi Robo Titans #11129

A student representative said they were there on behalf of the Novi Robo Titans, a FIRST FTC team. She explained that FTC stands for the FIRST Tech Challenge, where middle school students design, build and program robots to compete in competitions. This is a team sixth year as an FTC team. She said they qualified for the World Championship the past two seasons, but due to COVID it was canceled. She mentioned that this season, we

again have qualified for the State Championship, which is on the 17th and 18th of December. She said their team is made up of seven girls and four boys. She said the team members are three 6th Graders, three 7th Graders, and five 8th Graders. She stated they wanted to reignite the passion for STEM in the Novi area because people were hesitant and were demotivated due to COVID. She said they organized and hosted an event called Robots in the Park. She stated that over 300 people attended, and they were very proud of the fact that this event has had on our community. She said they also talked about STEM and robotics at Novi Woods in hopes that these kids may be interested in joining.

Another student representative on the team said when the COVID restrictions were lifted, our team researched a safe workplace for everyone and came up with a plan. He said they worked at Minnesota Professor, Mr. Jiarong Hong, and Ford engineers to implement an air filtration system that helped to reduce the airborne transmission of COVID-19. He said they installed and donated two box fan filtration systems in our workshop. He said they donated it and shared this idea with other teams in Novi, as well as donated two box fans to the Novi Public Library. He explained the effects of the box fan filtration system, and how it improves air circulation and COVID safety. He said tests such as those by Tech's air filters, show that 50% to 70% of one-micron sized air particles and 70% to 80% of five-micron sized air particles were removed during the tests using the box fan filtration systems. He said since COVID particles are around five-micron size, this shows that the box fan filtration system is a useful tool to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and makes the COVID environment safer for everyone. He thanked everyone for their time and letting their team showcase about ourselves and about our box fan filtration system.

Mayor Gatt said on behalf of all the City Councilmembers and all our City staff and probably 60,000 people that live in Novi, we are very proud of your young men and young ladies on that team. He said anyone who thinks that our future is not bright, he would invite them all to look at these young people here and the great work that they are doing.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Gatt explained that the applicants sent in an application and attached to the application is a resume with a lot of information. He said City Council allows the candidates two minutes at the podium to tell us why you want to be placed on the committee that you are applying for. He stated two minutes is the time limit, and he will cut you off at two minutes because he wanted it to be fair to everybody. He said it is not a question-and-answer session. He said you will give us two minutes; we will say thank you. He stated at the next meeting, not this evening, but at our next scheduled meeting we will announce the appointments.

Bob Copes- Board of Review

Bob Copes thanked the Mayor and City Council for this opportunity. He said it was not the first time that he has been at this podium in front of this group. He acknowledged some of the Councilmembers are new and they did not know him yet, but he has had

the great fortune of having been chosen for several terms now to serve on the Election Commission her for the City of Novi. He said he has pretty much enjoyed his involvement with the City Clerk and with elections. He said that several years ago he was given the opportunity, courtesy of Mayor Pro Tem to join the Oakland County Board of Canvassers. He jumped at that opportunity, and he was not sure that if he had not had a very positive experience here on the Election Commission that he would have been as excited about that opportunity at the County level. He was there that evening to asked for their consideration for appointment to the Board of Review. He said it was his understanding that there are two openings on the Board of Review and that both of those incumbent members are seeking to be reappointed to those positions. He said he could not stand in front of you that evening with any reason to give you that they should not be reappointed. He said when he applied, he did not know that there were two members seeking reappointment. He said he was there that evening to say that if for some reason that you are aware of one of those candidates would not be suitable, then, he would ask for their consideration to select him. He said looking down the road is something unexpected, hopefully not unfortunate were to happen with the member of the Board of Review, he would ask for your future consideration should an opening occur. Thank you for your time.

Kathy Crawford- Historical Commission

Kathy Crawford said she was there that evening to ask for reappointment to the Novi Historical Commission. She said she has served on the Commission for nine years now, and most of that time she has been chair of the Commission. She said that Novi's past will be lost to use forever unless dedicated volunteers bring our history to life. She said through research, oral histories and photographs, programs that artifacts, how would we ever know how Novi got its name? She said the story of how it gathered name if we did not research a little and it was from an actual record of Oakland County books history over 50 years ago, that told us how we got our name and if she had time, she would explain it to you. She stated that recently we did an oral interview with a woman who was in her 80s named Marilyn Combs. She came to us because her father's picture was on the new Lakeshore Park building when it was called Ship Ahoy, her family owned that property and she had a lot of things to donate, but her father was the Justice of the Peace, he was the owner of the park. She said he was also the first police officer, we imagined he was the first one the Lee Begole ever swore in. She said if people do not come to us, all our history is gone. She said Novi has a rich history. She said we have never had a quaint downtown like our neighbors in Farmington and Northville, Novi Road and Grand River was established early in Michigan's history is one of the most important intersections in the state of Michigan. She said people in businesses who move here want to know the history and feel a connection to our past. She said she wanted to continue telling our stories. Thank you.

Sharon Larson- Historical Commission

Sharon Larson said she has been a longtime resident of Novi, 50 years this year. I live in Meadowbrook Glens. She said she has been involved in several community events. She said she was a Girl Scout leader for six years and she was on the committee to form the

Novi Food Co-Op in the 1990's and served as the treasurer for that group for about 10 years. She stated she has been retired about two and a half years, where she had office management positions. She said she is also a licensed customs broker. She said she did not have any special qualifications to be on the Historical Commission other than she loved to find facts, she loved history, and she liked to investigate things. She said one of her passions is to travel and the main reason for her traveling is to find the history of that area that she is going to and that is one of the main reasons she loved to travel. She said she would love to be on the Historical Commission because she loved history and she would be more than happy to help. Thank you.

Mike Longo- Zoning Board of Appeals

Mike Longo said this was his third time up here for the Zoning Board. He stated he has been on the Zoning Board for nearly three years as the alternate, and he was ready to go full time. He said he has been to about every meeting, by being there, he said participating, because there is usually an absence in the Zoning Board. He said he took the job very seriously, and he believed that our ordinances are important. He said we do have a ton of them, by the way, but they are important. He said what is also important is our neighbors, and what their situation is and what they are trying to accomplish and what they are trying to do. He said he reviews the appeals before the Tuesday night meeting, and the ones that look complex, confusing, or questionable, he said he will visit them to see what it looks like, what is the neighborhood? He said are we going to change the neighborhood by enforcing the ordinance or are we going to change the neighborhood by giving a variance or several variances in some cases, but he thought it is a very serious job. He stated he was retired, but he does have a part time job driving Model T's, which would be his favorite job, this would be his second favorite. He said he has not done that too much for the last two years because of COVID. He said he is driving his wife crazy and would look forward to staying on this Zoning Board of Appeals as a full-time. Thank you very much.

Rachel Manela- Historical Commission

Rachel Manela said she has served on the Historical Commission for six years and prior to that she served when she was a high school student in Novi. She said her passion for history started here in Novi, and it continues. She said she not only is a trained historian, but she is a librarian and archivist. She said she is finishing up her Master's in public history, which is what we do on the Historical Commission daily. She said she is on the Historical Commission and has been the secretary for all six years taking notes, sending them to the clerk, getting them out on the website, and she also took over the social media as well. She stated she has taken over planning the events that we have at the Library and she took that program from almost non existent to just before COVID our events were taking, bringing in about 100 people. She said we have had reenactors come in and have had local historians, authors, local businesses such as Guernsey came in as they were revamping and celebrating their long time in our community. She said that was popular because of course, we gave out ice cream to everybody. She said she had a strong passion for history, and she has lived in Novi her entire life. She said she wanted to continue serving the City by staying on the Historical Commission. Thank you.

Jay McLeod- Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeals

Jay McLeod said he was pretty sure that no one in the room knew him, he just moved to Novi six months ago. He gave a quick background about himself and said he did work in the auto industry today in our big data compliance. He said that means is your vehicles today, many of them come with various modems to send information to the auto companies. He said that they know where you drive, which restaurants you go to, who your friends are, and those types of things. He said he was the guy standing in the way between his company and selling that data to Starbucks. He said that is where he is today. Previously, he had a strong finance background, with an MBA in finance. He said he has only been in Novi for six months because he has lived in four different states, and in two countries for the last 14 or 15 years. He said he is now settled in Novi, purchased a house, and is looking to give back to the community, have new experiences, challenges that are not in a professional work environment. He hoped that City Council would consider his application. He realized he was up against some stiff competition who have been there before, and he was happy to be there that evening to try, and to meet some people. Thank you.

Joe Tolkacz- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services - Absent

Peter Winter- Board of Review

Pete Winter said he has been a resident of Novi for about 45 years. He is also a licensed attorney for about 45 years, and he is also a licensed real estate broker for an independent broker for 20 years. He stated he has served on Board of Review for somewhere around 6 or 9 years, it has been a while and he was proud of the service that we provide to the city. He said he was happy to do it, he has a good relationship with the staff, and with other members of the Board of Review, we have a very smooth operating system. He said Mike does an excellent job, the assessor, he does a wonderful job. He thought they have done a good job. He said one of the reasons he was reapplying is because he thought that they become the face of the city, much more so than a lot of the other Boards and Commissions for the people that come in and apply to have their taxes reduced. He said they treat everyone with respect and care. He said they understood that they are representing the City, much more so than a lot of the other Boards and Commissions so he would like to continue that. He stated there is also an education component, he has been to class every year, and this is the first year where a class will be required for the Board of Review. He said that might be a component that he will be able to do, because he is primarily retired. He said he has time to do this, and he enjoyed doing it. He appreciated City Councils consideration for reappointment. He thanked them for their time.

Mayor Gatt said that concluded the Boards and Commissions presentations and interviews that evening. He reiterated there will be no decisions made that evening, announcements will be made at our next regular scheduled City Council meeting later this month. He thanked everybody on behalf of his colleagues on City Council for coming out and applying. He did not think they could put everybody in various Boards and Commissions, it depends on the openings. He said it is important that you keep coming

and trying, and we will find a way somehow, someday to get you on if we cannot do it this next meeting. He thanked everyone very much He said that is what makes Novi so great, it is the participation by so many of our many residents.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Anand Pappuri, 42210 Park Ridge Road, Novi thanked everyone for the opportunity to present here that evening. He said he would go to the presentations and a few slides as well. He stated he came last month, and he was passionate about solar energy efficiency, he has a business in the area. He wondered why the City of Novi is not happening, so he wanted to contribute to that effort. He said he would quickly go through his slides that he had available. He explained that it was regarding solar and energy efficiency, he stated he is a builder, a contractor, and a Certified Energy Manager. He said he is also an authorized contractor for Michigan sales and PACE financing. He said he would explain what PACE represented later. He said he was also a member of different organizations for energy efficiency and solar. He said he participates in the energy programs at DTE Energy. He said they do energy audits, technical consultation, and solar installations in different cities in Michigan. He said it is important that he was there that evening. He said they city needs sustainable plan, and it boils down to saving energy, money, and building a resilient Novi, it is a clean energy efficiency that you know is a milestone. He stated there are a lot of funds are in the State, Federal, with the Clean Energy Act and that there are infrastructure bills that is rolling out state and very important that we are prepared for this to take advantage of this in the city. He said we can cut carbon grid scale. He said there is a 2050 state as an ambitious goal of carbon neutrality. He said he wanted to create an awareness in the State and withing the City of Novi. He explained there are other benefits, climate and energy efficiency, and green infrastructure and healthy school environments. He said when there is less carbon, people are safer in the rooms, less carbon accent, their productivity increases, so it will help a lot. He stated it is tied to grid when excess energy is produced, it goes back to grid. He said battery backup, when energy is there, it stores energy 100% is charged to the battery. He said when an outage happens it provides to the house. He mentioned 2008 Public Act of 295, that is when we started all this energy efficiency. He said different cities having energy goals and associations that can help. He stated there is a lot of action going on, and we want to use the State and Federal funds, we must be prepared for this.

Two seniors from Novi High School said about a year ago they and another friend started their campaign, Carefree Campaign and they work towards menstrual equity. They said they came today with the idea of seeing how a City Council meeting works and how it functions, they did not come with the idea of speaking, but decided they wanted to take this opportunity to address something that they are passionate about. They wanted to get more information out to everyone and the City Council. They said they as young girls,