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CITY of NOVI CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item 12
June 27, 2016

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk *od*

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: *[Signature]*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

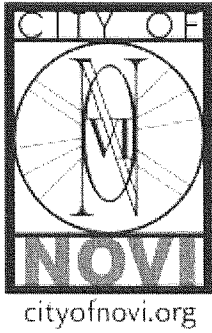
Attached is a copy of the ballot for appointments to Boards and Commissions. Also, attached please find a copy of the draft minutes pertaining to the interviews from the meeting of June 6, 2016 along with copies of the candidates' applications.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

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

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
CC: MARYANNE CORNELIUS CITY CLERK *mc*
FROM: CORTNEY HANSON, DEPUTY CITY CLERK *CH*
SUBJECT: INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
DATE: JUNE 1, 2016

Attached please find applications for the current openings on Boards and Commissions along with a rating sheet and a current boards and commissions booklet list.

- Jason Richert resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals in March, creating a vacancy.

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 & Cultural Services Commission	3 full terms	06/30/2019
Planning Commission (<i>Mayoral Appointment</i>)	3 full terms	06/30/2019
Zoning Board of Appeals	1 partial term	01/01/2018

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

David Baratta (Planning Commission) – attended 45 of 60 meetings since June 2013.

Douglas Bauss (PRCS) – attended 27 of 30 meetings since June 2013.

Robert Giacopetti (Planning Commission) – attended 50 of 60 meetings since June 2013.

David Greco (Planning Commission) – attended 46 of 60 meetings since June 2013.

Charles A. Staab (PRCS) – attended 27 of 30 meetings since June 2013.

Harold "Butch" Wingfield (PRCS) – attended 21 of 30 meetings since June 2013.

Commission Interview Committee

The Commission Interview Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m.,

Below is a list of current vacancies and expiring terms for Boards and Commissions that are interviewed by the **Commission Interview Committee**:

Board or Commission	Number of openings	Term expiration
Beautification Commission	1 partial term	03/01/2018
	3 partial terms	03/01/2019
Historical Commission	1 partial term	01/01/2017
Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee	1 partial term	01/01/2019

BALLOTS

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
June 27, 2016

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission
3 full terms - Terms expire 03/01/2019
1 partial term - Term expires 03/01/2018

- _____
 Full Term Partial Term
- _____
 Full Term Partial Term
- _____
 Full Term Partial Term

Historical Commission
1 partial term
Term expires 01/01/2017

- _____

**Housing & Community
Development Authority**
1 partial term
Term expires 01/01/2019

- _____

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Commission**
3 full terms - Terms expire 06/30/2019

- Douglas Bauss *(seeking reappointment)*
- Karen Katinas
- Charles A. Staab *(seeking reappointment)*
- Shelley Thomopoulos
- _____
- _____
- _____

Zoning Board of Appeals
1 partial term
Term expires 01/01/2018

- _____

Council Member Signature

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR
June 27, 2016

Planning Commission

3 full terms - Terms expire 06/30/2019

- David Baratta *(seeking reappointment)*
- Robert Giacometti *(seeking reappointment)*
- David Greco *(seeking reappointment)*
- _____
- _____
- _____

CITY COUNCIL INTERVIEW MINUTES

was willing to take on this responsibility. Member Mutch said he looked forward to providing the opportunity for her to do that.

Mayor Gatt commented that Ms. Hanson knows that City Council appoints three people and the City Clerk is one of those. He asked Ms. Hanson, assuming she was appointed, to describe her relationship with the City Manager. Ms. Hanson replied saying the City Clerk reports to City Council, but it would be vital to keep a good working relationship with the City Manager to keep that collaboration open. Mayor Gatt asked what the plans are for a Deputy Clerk and wondered if they would be hiring from within. Ms. Hanson said a Deputy Clerk is vital to the office with an upcoming Presidential Election cycle, the influx of passport applications, and processing permit applications, that we will be looking to fill that position from the outside.

CM 16-06-65 Moved by Burke, seconded by Markham; UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED:

To approve the hiring of Cortney Hanson as the City Clerk and to instruct the City Attorney and Mayor to negotiate an employment agreement with her. This appointment is conditioned upon approval of the contract by Council at the June 27th meeting.

Roll call vote on CM 16-06-65

**Yeas: Markham, Mutch, Wrobel, Gatt
Burke, Casey
Nays: None
Absent: Staudt**

INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. David Greco – Planning Commission

David Greco he is currently a member of the Planning Commission and has been a resident of Novi since 2003 and believes he has been on the Planning Commission a few terms. He said he would like to remain on the Planning Commission and felt they play a very important role in the City. He said his experience of both sitting on the Planning Commission, living in Novi for several years and being a lawyer that practices in the area of employment and municipal law and he believes he would be a good fit and would like to continue.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Greco for re-applying and he said he knows what he has done on the Planning Commission and his is familiar with his past and ethics. He said Mr. Greco has his support.

Member Casey said she also has had the opportunity to interview Mr. Greco a couple of times over the years. She said she wanted some insight on what he thought were some

of the City's challenges we face in the next 5 years or so. He replied saying he thought it would be density and that is being reviewed with the new Master Plan Review. He said the review for the Master Plan was critical to decide what the City should do.

Member Markham thanked Mr. Greco for wanting to commit to being on the Planning Commission another 3 years. She asked Mr. Greco about traffic and wondered if he has reviewed that latest proposal from the Regional Transit Authority and what solutions he supports to alleviate congestion along Novi Road, Grand River and Twelve Mile? Mr. Greco said he has not studied the Regional Transit Authority but acknowledged it is an issue out there. He said it was not just an issue that involves Novi, but the community as a whole. He said if we could have a system that provides a benefit to individuals that makes them more mobile, that maybe gets them out of cars it would be good. Novi is already doing Walkable Novi in order to get people out of cars, walking and on bikes. He said as far as mobility on Grand River we have to take into account what is there, what we are looking for the future and what is going to be available because the infrastructure which we don't have total control over on Grand River is a big issue as regard to that. He said he is from New York where they had a regional transit system so he is in favor of that, but we are in a different community. Member Markham said there will be talk about this in the next few months because it is on the ballot. She said we need to know how this will work for us because we will not be able necessary be able to determine our own, we are part of a bigger plan. It will either rise or fall with all of the local communities. Member Markham said she is grateful for his service.

Member Mutch thanked Mr. Greco for being able to serve again. He said he appreciated Mr. Greco taking the time out of his busy schedule to volunteer. He said he was at a recent Planning Commission meeting where they were getting public input on the Master Plan and one of the issues he raised was getting developments in with higher density. He wondered where in the City he thinks it should be appropriate for that type of development to be located. Mr. Greco said higher density with smaller lots seemed to be what the market is dictating. Mr. Greco said where we have retail near the mall or more to the west, we cannot ignore the fact that it looks like the market is dictating what people want. We have set aside certain areas such as the southwest quadrant, and on the western section of Novi where we have indicated we wanted a certain type of residential, and there are certain things that need to be done or are done with proposals. Some areas in Novi near the mall or Suburban Collection Showplace, they are commercial areas, and it wouldn't be attractive to homes on a one acre lot. He said maybe we need to rezone or accept the plans that are there, but carefully look at them because some may not make sense. Member Mutch said that part of the discussion is that if the Planning Commission felt there is an unmet need that it is incumbent on the Planning Commission to be proactive to decide where the appropriate places in the City for that to occur. He said he doesn't want it to seem like we are reacting to development proposals without having some guidance dictating where they should go.

Member Wrobel thanked Mr. Greco for stepping forward, and said he knows the work that is involved in the Planning Commission. He said he had no questions and that he has his full support.

Mayor Gatt mentioned that in the last year or so several issues have been raised at the table and some members are against it, but the majority have been for it. He said he would ask Mr. Greco and the Planning Commission to keep doing their job and that he gave him his full support.

2. David Baratta – Planning Commission

Mr. Baratta thanked the Mayor and Council and said he had been a resident since 2002. He said he has been on the Planning Commission for a least 2 ½ terms. He has been in the real estate business, his said he is also an attorney; he was a V.P. of real estate at a Builders Square, a home improvement chain. V.P. of real estate and construction of La-Z-Boy, and currently is V.P. of real estate construction design for Learning Care Group. He noted that Novi is a great city and he has enjoyed being on the Planning Commission.

Member Casey asked Mr. Baratta what were the biggest challenges that Novi will be facing in the next 5 years. Mr. Baratta said he thinks Novi is transitioning from a high growth market to a market that is growing, but it is starting to become more mature. He said we have areas that are in the growth stage and some that are a little older. The older areas will need to be remodeled to be successful places for people to live and to work.

Member Markham mentioned that we have had a couple of big developments that the Mayor alluded to that recently changed the face of parts of Novi, especially at Ten Mile and Beck. She said that had an effect on the wildlife habitat. She wondered if the Planning Commission considers the natural features uniqueness with natural beauty and good development. Mr. Baratta said he lives in Island Lake and abuts a wetland by a wooded area and he said they moved there for the trees. He said they have to look at the Master Plan which tells you what you can and cannot do. He said he personally thought we should maintain as much as that natural foliage that we possibly can. Member Markham said it is always a hard balance and she appreciated his thoughtfulness.

Member Mutch thanked Mr. Baratta for stepping forward again. He said he had an opportunity to serve on the Walkable Novi Committee and he has always appreciated his insights that he had provided in that forum. Member Mutch said he comes to the Planning Commission with an interesting background. He wondered what Mr. Baratta's perspective was on the changing of the commercial and retail development that will impact what Novi will look like in 10 to 20 years down the road. Mr. Baratta said he thinks they will see a concentration of retail and other development, and he felt they will have to do that in order to maintain the health of that retail. He said retail historically has been spread out and you don't get that concentration. He felt with having more

concentration it would create a healthier retail environment. Member Mutch said he looked forward to seeing some of those ideas being reflected in the Master Plan update.

Member Wrobel also thanked Mr. Baratta for stepping forward again and said he had the skill set that was needed to be on the Planning Commission and said he has his full support.

Member Burke said he applauded Mr. Baratta's service up to this point and he mentioned with the previous applicant that he follows the meeting minutes and read his input to hear what he had to say when those projects came through and appreciated his dedication to making sure that the developers follow through on certain demands. He appreciated that. Member Burke said he supports Mr. Baratta in his reappointment.

Mayor Gatt said he had no questions and gave his full support for Mr. Baratta.

3. Charles A. Staab – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Mr. Staab said he has lived in Novi since the 1980's and raised three children here. He said he has been on the Parks and Recreation & Cultural Services Commission for many years. He mentioned he didn't think his work was completed yet and that Novi continues to need more adequate parkland and identify properties in that arena. He also mentioned we need to keep our parks clean and the best in class. He believed our parks are a major attraction for development, and for those that are residing here with our many facilities and services.

Member Markham said she met Mr. Staab right after she moved here and she appreciates all the service he has brought to the community over the years. She said that Mr. Staab talked about how he is interested in acquiring the parkland and doing more with the parkland and wondered what he would do with the David Barr property. He said that property is a jewel that we have been able to acquire as we proceed down the road he said he thinks we need to find funds to continually upgrade it. He said we need to look at the vision of having that available for an artist in training or resident. Member Markham thanked him very much.

Member Mutch thanked Mr. Staab and said he is well acquainted with his service to the City, not only on the Commission, but with all of the other activities that he is involved with and that was much appreciated. Member Mutch wondered what the City's most pressing need is currently that we need to address. Mr. Staab said we need to be continually vigilant for opportunities for land acquisition at reasonable pricing and take advantage of it through grants and different means of financing. Member Mutch said that Mr. Staab had a lot of history on the Commission and that it is important to have that knowledge and to also have a vision of the future and he appreciated that.

Member Wrobel also thanked Mr. Staab for coming forward again and mentioned that Mr. Staab has seen a lot of changes with all of the years he has served on the Commission. Member Wrobel wondered what City Council could do to help assist the

Commission to help them provide the best services to the residents. Mr. Staab said to continually allocate proper funding for capital improvements which they have done in the past so we allow ourselves to maintain our pristine parks and make world class facilities to attract businesses and residents to our community.

Member Burke said that he has sat together on the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission and recently they sat on the Park Foundation together. He said he was familiar with his work and the term artist and residents relative to the David Barr property. Member Burke wondered what the number one project that he would like to accomplish before he was done with the Parks would be. Mr. Staab said his number one is ITC Community Sports Park. He said there is still opportunity out there to make it better. Member Burke thanked Mr. Staab for all his good work.

Member Casey thanked Mr. Staab for coming forward again and said he has her full support.

Mayor Gatt said that Mr. Staab has been here for a long time and he has done wonders. He agreed with Mr. Staab that his job is not done yet and he had his full support.

4. Karen Katinas – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Ms. Katinas said she has been a sixteen year resident of Novi, originally from the East Coast, and she has 3 daughters ranging from elementary school to high school age. She said they have been involved with many areas of the parks and recreation, whether it is going to cultural events, Spring Into Novi, and involved in coaching through Parks and Recreation. They enjoy all of the Parks, especially Power Park because they live close by. She said she spent the last few years overseas in China because of her husband's job. There were not a lot of sports available in that part of China. She said they really appreciate coming back to the open spaces and she would like to get back into Novi.

Member Mutch thanked Ms. Katinas for stepping forward and being willing to volunteer and serve the City. He mentioned it sounded like she had quite of bit of knowledge about our park system. He wondered what she would like to accomplish if she were on a three-year term. Ms. Katinas said she has seen the parks change over time. She said that ITC is a great park, but there is room to develop there. She also mentioned Wild Life Woods is a great area and that the middle school uses it for softball and cross country. It is a great piece of land, but there really isn't anything in that park and said she would like to see that park developed. Mrs. Katinas said she has heard there has been a drop in some of the activities for the younger children. She said having children in different age groups she hears from others parents what the children are interested in and can bring that to information to see if we can make the program better. Member Mutch said she had some great ideas.

Member Wrobel thanked Ms. Katinas for coming forward and it was nice to see new people that are interested. He said she mentioned that had been involved as a coach and programs with her family, and he wondered what would be the one thing that the department needs to provide its residents that we don't provide now. She said she thinks the marketing is very good and she knows they have a survey at the end which she said she didn't know how many we receive back. She said she thought we needed a little bit more outreach and more development of the parks. The playscapes are great, although she thought the fields could use a little work.

Member Burke thanked Ms. Katinas for submitting her application, based on what they see so far they would certainly like to see her involved in the City in some capacity if it wasn't Parks and Recreation, he wanted to know if there was anything else she would consider. She said she would have to think on that. Member Burke wondered what she thought would be the best thing that she could bring to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Commission. She responded by saying some of her experience she has working in the community, such as planning events when she was working as a financial planner, drawing people in with the marketing. She said she was on the parent's organization while they were in China which was at an international school and they had children from all over the world. She said they were able to bring all of the cultures together under one parent organization. She mentioned that Novi is very diverse and she felt she could make sure we were meeting the needs of all of the residents.

Member Casey thanked Ms. Katinas for stepping forward. Member Casey asked Ms. Katinas if she had been hearing from other parents or children that we were not offering certain programs. She replied that it wasn't about programs that we didn't offer, but more so about the programs that were not as robust as they were 5 years ago, such as girl's softball which has dropped considerably. She said she is interested in building the programs back up that had dropped off in enrollment. Member Casey thanked Ms. Katinas again for stepping forward.

Member Markham thanked Ms. Katinas for coming forward and volunteering. She wondered about the cultural arts and how important she thought they were to the community and what she thought the Parks and Recreation role was in that. Ms. Katinas said she thought it was very important and said that the Parks and Cultural Services go hand and hand. She said a lot of events can be held at the parks and she commented that the City does display art from various artists or hold we could hold classes for any age group.

Mayor Gatt thanked Ms. Katinas for coming out.

5. Douglas Bauss – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Mr. Bauss was not present.

6. Shelley Thomopoulos – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Ms. Thomopoulos said she is a Novi resident for fifteen years on South Lake Drive between Lakeshore and Pavilion Park. She said she is interested in giving back to the community, and mentioned she is very active walking her dogs and hiking the parks. She said she likes to visit all of the parks in the City. She said she thought the parks were a huge asset of the City and she would like to give back and support the parks for the community.

Member Wrobel thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for stepping forward. He wondered what program the City did not offer currently that she would like to see instituted. Ms. Thomopoulos said that she talked about this last year when she interviewed and she thought she read something in the Master Plan. She said there was input from the residents if they like to see regarding an off-weather indoor recreation facility. She read in the Master Plan that the City would investigate with the adjacent communities for a regional indoor facility which she said would be a great way to approach it.

Member Burke thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for applying for the commission. He asked her what she would bring to the commission that might not be there right now. She said her concerns right now are the maintenance of the parks and she is not someone who is participating in the sports, she is a passive user of the parks. She said what she is seeing is that some of the trails and trees are not being maintained which is an area she is interested in. She said she is very concerned about the phragmites invasion in the protected wetlands and she thought they were not protected anymore because of the phragmites species. She believe it has resulted in coyotes going into residents yards that because there is not a protected environment anymore to supply the wildlife. She said she would bring an emphasis to the parks on that issue.

Member Casey thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for stepping forward again this year and she remembered their conversation well. Member Casey said she believed last year that Ms. Thomopoulos said she was not interested in serving on any other Board or Commission last year and asked if that was the same this year. Member Casey asked that if she were open to others, if there were another opportunity for the City to give her a place to serve the community differently. Ms. Thomopoulos thanked Member Casey for thinking of her that way and said it could possibly be a discussion. Her interaction was primarily through the parks so she said she feels that passion. She said she is not as familiar as to what the other Boards and Commissions do so she said she would leave that open.

Member Markham thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for coming out and volunteering and said she had a very interesting background. She said it was interesting to her that Ms. Thomopoulos lived on the north end of the City and she wondered if there was anything specific to that part of the City that she and her neighbors talk about saying they would like to see in the north end. Ms. Thomopoulos said the Pavilion Shore Park has become a community gathering place where as in the past you didn't see people spending a lot of time there because the shoreline was not safe. She said she felt Pavilion Shore Park was a huge asset to the north end of the City.

Member Mutch thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for coming out and volunteering to serve in this position. He asked if she were appointed to serve on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission what would she like to see accomplished during her 3-year term on the Commission. She said first she would be concerned about maintenance of the environmental aspects of the parks, the wildlife and wetlands, trees and the trails. The services the City already provides need to be maintained. She said we need to consider what input we have from the residents, so if that indoor recreation facility is something they are telling us they would like to see, then that would be something to pursue. She said she has another idea about the young children's mountain bike trail, she mentioned that people don't usually bring their bikes. She said maybe we could have bikes for adults and children at the park so they could experience that. Member Mutch said that was interesting and said she appreciated her willingness to volunteer and giving thought to the needs of our parks system.

Mayor Gatt also thanked Ms. Thomopoulos for coming out and volunteering. He said it is people like her that make Novi a great City.

7. Harold "Butch" Wingfield - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Commission

Mr. Wingfield thanked everyone for having him there that evening and said he has lived in Novi for twenty-three years, and spent eighteen years on the Commission. He said while driving back from Lansing this afternoon he decided to withdrawal his application. He said it has been a pleasure to serve on the Commission for eighteen years, but he decided to pass the torch to some new people that may be interested. Mayor Gatt thanked him for all his service to Novi.

8. Robert J. Giacometti – Planning Commission

Mr. Giacometti said he has had the privilege to work with all of Council on sub-committees or in the last 3 years as a Planning Commissioner. He said he chose to make Novi his home in 2008 and has been happy ever since. He said he currently works at the Wayne County Airport Authority in Financial Planning and Analysis. He said he thought the value that he has added to the Planning Commission would be his experience in government and capital planning.

Member Burke thanked Mr. Giacometti for submitting an application for re-appointment and he mentioned to the other Planning Commission applicants he has seen his work and he has read the notes and follow him. He appreciated his service and gave him his support.

Member Casey asked Mr. Giacometti what he thought the biggest challenges would be in the next 5 years or so. Mr. Giacometti said infrastructure and redevelopment; we are running out of space to develop. He noted Novi is a great community and developers want to develop here and the next step is redeveloping property that is currently that is underutilized, but still attractive. Member Casey thanked him for stepping forward again.

Member Markham asked Mr. Giacometti what he thought the Regional Transport Authority Proposal and what did he think could be done to alleviate the congestion in the Mall area. He said he is familiar with it and he said the Commission is also working on a thoroughfare plan for Grand River. He said he thought between what the City will do and what the region will do for transportation should be matched. He believed there is definitely a need for transportation and he thinks the nuance is that the need is primarily from local businesses to get members of the community areas such as the Showplace or the mall or as an employee to an area hotel. He felt transportation was not generally needed by most citizens, but he thinks we need to accommodate the businesses along the thoroughfare and give it some serious consideration. Member Markham said it will be interesting how this will transpire this fall and thanked Mr. Giacometti.

Member Mutch thanked Mr. Giacometti for being willing to serve again. Member Mutch said he reads the minutes and catches some of the Planning Commission meetings. He appreciates the input that he provides to the process and he thinks it is very helpful. He also mentioned sometimes he brings up points that haven't necessarily been part of the discussion and he said he thinks it helps guide the conversation. Member Mutch said that going through some of the projects he thought Mr. Giacometti felt a little frustrated that as a Planning Commissioner he didn't always have the right set of tools to get the outcome that they would like to see from a project and wondered if he could address that aspect of it. Member Mutch wondered if there were areas in some of our ordinances or the planning process that he felt could do a better job or have a better outcome to create a more win-win situations. Mr. Giacometti replied saying that was what he learned in his first term being a Planning Commissioner that he would always seek the win-win scenario. He said the City has various tools to shape the way the community looks and he thinks those tools are satisfactory. Member Mutch said he looked forward to Mr. Giacometti serve another term.

Member Wrobel said he thanked Mr. Giacometti for coming forward again and he had no questions for him at this time.

Mayor Gatt thanked Mr. Giacometti for his job on the Planning Commission and stepping forward to serve another term. Mayor Gatt said he had his full support.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation in recognition of Maryanne Cornelius for years of service

Mayor Gatt presented the Proclamation to City Clerk, Maryanne Cornelius for her sixteen years of service.