



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Interviews for Boards and Commissions were held Monday, December 7th; interviews by the Commission Interview Committee were held Thursday, December 10th. 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: DECEMBER 17, 2020

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

- Michael Thompson (Zoning Board of Appeals) – wishes to seek reappointment but is not required to interview per Council Rules due to being appointed less than one year ago.

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
Zoning Board of Appeals	3 full terms	01/01/2024

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

W. Clift Montague (Zoning Board of Appeals) – attended 10 of 11 (90%) meetings since his appointment in September 2019.

Joe Peddiboyina (Zoning Board of Appeals) – attended 26 of 31 (84%) meetings since his appointment in December 2017.

Michael Thompson (Zoning Board of Appeals) – attended 4 of 6 (67%) meetings since his appointment in March 2020.

Commission Interview Committee

The Commission Interview Committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

- There is a partial term vacancy on the Beautification Commission; no candidate has received the four required votes to be appointed.
- Mark Evenson (Board of Review) is not eligible for reappointment due to moving outside of Novi.
- Margaret Beller (Board of Review) is currently serving as alternate; she wishes to seek appointment as full member. She was not required to interview per Council Rules due to being appointed less than one year ago.
- Tammy-Lee Knopp (Historical Commission) wishes to seek reappointment but did not attend interviews due to a clerical error.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Historical Commission; no candidate has received the four required votes to be appointed.

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	1 partial term	03/01/2023
Board of Review	1 full term	01/01/2024
Election Commission	1 full term	01/01/2024
Historical Commission	1 partial term 2 full terms	01/01/2023 01/01/2024
Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee	2 full terms	01/01/2024

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Bob Copes (Election Commission) – attended 7 of 10 (70%) meetings since December 2017.

Tammy-Lee Knopp (Historical Commission) – attended 35 of 36 (97%) meetings since December 2017.

Kelly Kasper (Historical Commission) – attended 31 of 36 (86%) meetings since April 2018.

Esther Kerr (Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee) – attended 3 of 3 (100%) meetings since February 2018.

Dan Magee (Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee) – attended 2 of 3 (67%) meetings since December 2017.

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

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

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act 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: Peter Auger, City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Fischer added to Mayor and Council Issues: Pull ahead budget Items.

CM 20-12-129 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 20-12-129 **Yeas: Staudt, Breen, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Gatt stated that there were two candidates that will be allowed to speak for two minutes regarding their interests in being reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. We have a total of three openings, and we have three candidates all seeking reappointment. He explained that one of the candidates, because of Council Rules, did not have to appear that evening because he has come before Council within the last year. He reminded them that we have their resume, we have studied it thoroughly, and we know what you have done with the Zoning Board of Appeals in the past. We will not have any questions afterwards. There will be no appointments made that evening, they will be made at our next meeting scheduled in December.

1. W. Cliff Montague- Zoning Board of Appeals

Cliff Montague said he is a 25-year Novi resident. He is an architect with Albert Kahn Associates and has been an architect with the firm for some 40 years. He stated he has been on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a little over a year. He thought that his skills being in the architectural world would bode well for doing this position. He said he really enjoyed it. He has had a good time and he thought he brought a steady decision

process and information to the meetings. He was very happy to be serving the community. He liked serving both the people who need special attention because of their problems with their sites, and then protecting the community and the people around. He would love to continue service on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Gatt thanked him for his service on behalf of all his colleagues. He said he would have full support when it comes time to voting next week.

2. Joe Peddiboyina- Zoning Board of Appeals

Joe Peddiboyina thanked City Council. He said he has been in Novi for more than 23 years. He stated that he has an IT Consulting Firm, and that he was a software engineer. He is interested in community service. He has engaged in this community, not only in the Indian community. He is very interested in community service. He enjoyed being on the Zoning Board of Appeals. There are a lot of issues and he is enjoying that. He would like to go further into detail on what was going on. He was interested in gaining more knowledge. Everyone has helped him with a smooth transition to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He is currently the Chair on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He would like to enhance the reputation of the Zoning Board of Appeals as an applicant friendly and helpful branch of the city government. He stated that he was interested in learning more about the ordinances, updates, and view the growth of the City. He will be happy to the continue in this task. He really appreciated their time and thanked City Council and staff. He told everyone to stay safe and have a Happy Holiday. Mayor Gatt thanked him on behalf our City Council. They appreciated his service and his great service to our community. He will support him when we take this up in our next meeting in two weeks.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

City Manger Auger stated he had one thing to report that evening. He said he hoped he was not stepping on the committee reports later. The Consultant Review Committee has met a few times on a couple of contracts, one being Waste Management, our solid waste contract. We met before the meeting tonight and the Committee gave a recommendation to the City Administration to prepare documentation to go out for bids for our solid wasted contract. We met before the Council meeting tonight and the committee gave a recommendation to the administration to prepare documentation to go out for bids for our solid waste contract. We hope to have something back before you as far as timing and a red line document for the entire Council to see and get input on come time in January. He wanted to bring everyone up to speed. Mayor Gatt thanked him and said that was interesting news and will be something that we will be taking up in the new year.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 20-12-130

Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



COMMISSION INTERVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

CITY OF NOVI
Commission Interview Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 7:00 P.M.
Remote Meeting | (248) 347-0456

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Act this meeting was held remotely.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Council Members Casey, Breen, Fischer

CICM 20-12-06 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CICM 20-12-07 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Breen; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the agenda as amended.

APPLICANTS FOR BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

Member Casey stated that she wanted to explain the motion that was just made. Member Casey said that Council changed the interview process so that when appointments go before Council, applicants have two minutes to do an introduction. Member Casey stated that because the application got so much longer, Council no longer asks questions, which may be different from the last time they were appointed. She said that our Committee had not adopted that practice officially, so she wanted to put it on the record. Member Casey continued, explaining that she would call candidates in alphabetical order by last name, and they would have two minutes to introduce themselves and explain why they wanted to serve, and asked the candidates to unmute themselves when their name was called.

1. Bob Copes, Election Commission- Mr. Copes began by stating he was seeking reappointment having served since 2014, my relationship to elections in the City of Novi goes well beyond being a member of the Commission. Mr. Copes began by working under Maryanne Cornelius in 2002 as a volunteer. He said he believes he brings something unique in that he's in his second term as a member of the Oakland County Board of Canvassers. Mr. Copes said that his involvement in

Board of Canvassers brings tools to the table with the Election Commission in Novi which gives insight to Cortney and Dawn with things that are going on, although they are very in tune with the election side of their responsibilities. Mr. Copes continued, saying that he has a passion, and carries that passion into Board of Canvassers, and that he's committed and driven to do his part to ensure free, open, and fair elections, and has every expectation that he will continue to do so if reappointed.

2. Vinit Gupta, Election Commission and Housing, Community Development Advisory Committee- Mr. Gupta began by saying that by profession he's an electrical engineer at a company called ITC Holdings as Director of Engineering, which is headquartered in Novi. Mr. Gupta moved to Novi about seven years ago; he made a conscience decision to move here after his visa because he found that this is a small community-feeling town with good schools and facilities. Mr. Gupta said that in his past 20-some years in the energy industry, he's worked with a lot of federal, state, and local regulators to influence them to make changes that benefited the national power grid. He continued, saying that after the 2003 blackout which affected Michigan, he worked in a committee to make recommendations that the federal government turned into standards to avoid such events in the future. Mr. Gupta said that at the moment he's chairing a committee that has professionals from all over North America that analyzes catastrophic events on power grids and make recommendations. He said that he manages large projects and large budgets in his day-to-day work. Mr. Gupta said that he is citing some of these examples from his career because he sees a direct parallel between being a City Council board member and these experiences. For example, as a board member I see myself working with and convincing City Council members what our boards' objectives are, and he's been doing that on a federal and state level. Mr. Gupta said he's also going to be making sure that budget allocation is spent wisely. He manages large budgets for corporations and projects. Mr. Gupta said that above all else, he wants to make sure citizens of Novi buy into the actions we take. Mr. Gupta said that in the community, he was president of his homeowner's association which he helped establish, he volunteers and coaches track at Novi High School, and he loves this community, and wants to make it the best he can.
3. Priya Gurumurthy, Historical Commission- very grateful for opportunity to express why she feels she would add value to the Historical Commission. Ms. Gurumurthy said that she wanted to highlight four of her strengths. She said starting with, and especially, was the perspective she would bring as a woman of color and an Asian woman. Ms. Gurumurthy was born in and grew up in India, then studied in Texas where she did her master's. She moved to west Michigan for a number of years, then east Michigan so she brings a perspective from all sorts of cultures and traditions. The second is D&I- she is very passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and she is workplace champion of diversity at her organization, which is Yanfeng. She is also affinity chair at Women's Resource Network which is building a lot of momentum. Ms. Gurumurthy is about to launch Women's Resource Network across North America very shortly. She said she is always going to wear this lens of DI in terms of discussions. Ms. Gurumurthy stated that in terms of

profession, she is a global IT manager, who works with global teams whose main thing is customer service and customer focus which will be extremely handy during discussions. Ms. Gurumurthy said last but not least was her prior experience with boards. She said that no matter where she is, she's giving back to the community. She was on the board of Tulip Time festival, the head of district library representing Holland Township, Holland Museum Events committee, where she did fundraising, which attracted her to the Historical Commission. Ms. Gurumurthy won the Champion of Diversity award in 2019 by the West Coast Chamber. She said she also works MCWT organization helping lead mentoring programs, and is diversity liaison of the PTO at Deerfield Elementary. Ms. Gurumurthy stated the experience will be extremely beneficial when she represents the community or profession. Her passion is giving back to the community; she wants her kids to see it, and her community to see it. Ms. Gurumurthy said that even if she's not appointed, she'd still like to know about volunteer opportunities.

4. Kelly Kasper, Historical Commission- Ms. Kasper began by saying she's been a resident of Novi since 1997 and works full time at Novi High School. She has a daughter born and raised in Novi, and she's been a member of the Historical Commission for two years. She's asking to be considered for reappointment. Ms. Kasper said that she's thoroughly enjoyed being on the Historical Commission, and that the people she works with are a great team. Had the opportunity to learn about Novi's history and participate in projects such as Villa Barr Art Park and they also do historical talks about features of Novi, for instance the Walled Lake Amusement Park. Ms. Kasper said she was honored to be the chair of new project, Wreaths Across Novi, which is held every November. They go to Novi cemeteries and have boy scouts or girl scout troops lay wreaths on Veterans' graves. Ms. Kasper said that through that, they built relationships with community members, and fundraise for this project so they get local businesses involved. She said she was hoping to expand her project into an education program, aside from inviting the troops, she would like to go to scout meetings in the future and give them some historical background of some of the honorable veterans that we have buried there. She continued, saying we have three Revolutionary War veterans in our Novi Road cemetery, so the scouts were able to lay wreaths on Revolutionary War soldiers' graves. Ms. Kasper said the educational would be great, and she'd like to stick around to finish that project up. She said that if not, she wanted to thank the Committee for the opportunity over the past two years, she's really enjoyed it and will find other ways to give back to the community.
5. Esther Kerr, Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee- Ms. Kerr said that she's lived in the community since 1976, she's been her homeowner's association president, and has been active in Novi Chorales and has been lunch noon aide at Orchard Hills for many years. She stated that Justin (Member Fischer) went to school with her oldest son. Ms. Kerr explained that she took the Novi Ambassador class a few years ago which was fabulous. She said she's a big supporter of Novi and Novi schools, and likes the way Novi has developed over the years. She'd like to be reappointed to the Housing, Community and Development Advisory Committee because she'd like some input to the

community programs and funding that's available and would like to continue to serve her community.

6. Dan Magee, Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee- Mr. Magee began by saying he moved to Novi in 2011, he's currently in Vista Hills, and is president of his Homeowners Association. He's applying to be reappointed because he's grateful to the Council for the opportunity to join the Committee. Mr. Magee said he's enjoyed serving, and the team has worked well together to maximize the most pressing needs they can identify in the applications that are submitted and do their best to maximize the disbursements. Mr. Magee said that as indicated on his application, one of the questions was what can Council do to help the committee? Mr. Magee said Council could get the word out more to get more organizations to submit applications in the future. Mr. Magee said again that he's enjoyed serving on the Board and hopes to continue to do so. Lastly, Mr. Magee said that as indicated on his application, he worked for the federal government and wanted to address two short ethics issues since he works for the federal government. He asked the Committee to consider his application and service independent of his employment; he didn't want to use, or appear to use, his employment for any gain. He said the second issue is that he doesn't think that his position or duties have anything to do with the funds this Committee addresses. He thanked the Committee for their time and consideration.
7. Debbie Wrobel, Historical Commission- Ms. Wrobel stated that she's lived in city for 19 years and retired at end of 2018. She worked for 34 years at a Lincoln dealership, and now wants to help the City and get involved. She volunteers at the Parade Company in Detroit and Holy Family Church Christmas program, the MI State Fair, and the Senior Day committee. Ms. Wrobel said that she's excited to learn more about the history of Novi and sharing that history with our residents. She is passionate to learn and help the Historical Commission with projects that the Commission might pursue in the future like the restoration of the old cemeteries to honor our Novi veterans, which her husband was very passionate about. She thanked the Committee for their time, and said she's seeking appointment because she would like to give back.

Member Casey thanked the candidates for holding closely to the time. Member Casey continued, explaining that no decisions would be made this evening, that full Council would have their applications in addition to the minutes of their introductions from this meeting in their Council packets, and that balloting is on December 21st. Member Breen inquired about Historical Commission member Tammy-Lee Knopp's reappointment; Ms. Spaulding said that she would look into it. Member Casey thanked all of the candidates and wished them and their families a happy holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

Transcribed by Dawn Spaulding