



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 7, 2021**

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Presentations for Boards and Commissions candidates were held Monday, May 10th. Attached are the Mayoral and Council ballots 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
MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS
June 7, 2021

Planning Commission

3 full terms – Terms expire 06/30/2024

- Michael Lynch **reappointment*
- Mark Pehrson **reappointment*
- Ramesh Verma **reappointment*
- Alexander Weyer
- _____
- _____
- _____

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
June 7, 2021

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Commission**

2 full terms – Terms expire 06/30/2024

- Kelsey Dillon
- Jay Dooley **reappointment*
- Priya Gurumurthy
- Supriya Joshi **reappointment*
- Alexander Weyer
- _____
- _____

Council Member Signature

MEMORANDUM



TO: MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
CC: CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK
FROM: DAWN SPAULDING, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: INTERVIEWS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
DATE: MAY 20, 2021

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

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
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission	2 full terms	06/30/2024
Planning Commission <i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>	3 full terms	06/30/2024

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Jay Dooley (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services) – attended 22 of 25 (88%) meetings since July 2018.

Supriya Joshi (Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services) – attended 22 of 25 (88%) meetings since July 2018.

Michael Lynch (Planning Commission) – attended 36 of 44 (82%) meetings since July 2018.

Mark Pehrson (Planning Commission) – attended 39 of 44 (89%) meetings since July 2018.

Ramesh Verma (Planning Commission) – attended 2 of 2 (100%) meetings since February 2021.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021 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 Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch

Mayor Gatt, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Mayor Pro Tem Staudt, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Crawford, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Fischer, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Maday, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan
Member Mutch, present from City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Auger, City Manager
Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
Tom Schultz, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Gatt added to Mayor and Council Issues, "Long Grass/Weed Ordinance".

CM 21-05-073 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Maday; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll call vote on CM 21-05-073 **Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer,
Maday, Mutch, Gatt**
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1. Request to Establish a Commercial Rehabilitation District for Sakura Novi, LLC and Sakura Novi, LLC, and Robertson Sakura Novi, LLC. Sakura Novi, LLC under the "Commercial Rehabilitation Act P.A. 210 of 2005."**

Opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:03 p.m. with no public input.

PRESENTATIONS: None

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS

1. Kelsey Dillon- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

Kelsey Dillion said she is seeking appointment to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission. She stated she is a newer citizen of Novi and she wanted to get more involved with her local community. She believed she would be an asset to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Commission due to her current and former professional positions with local and state government parks departments. She noted that she was a park naturalist for Meridian Township for five years for the Parks and Recreation Department. In that role, she wore a lot of hats, her focus was on engaging the community in the Townships beautiful and valuable natural resources. She said she led play space education opportunities for elementary students, presented to homeowners on an invasive species solution for their properties, and organized park beautification and natural area restoration projects. She noted that she managed the two Meridian Township dog parks, organized the entire volunteer program, pitched in to help at the farmers market and large community events such as 5k races, ran the youth fishing derbies and she was the staff person to the Land Preservation Advisory Board and regularly reported to the Meridian Township Board, so she was very familiar with structure and function of local government. Her current position is as a natural resource steward with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division. She stated her job is focused on improving high quality habitat through volunteer stewardship program. She said she regularly engage with people of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels. She stated she is knowledgeable in natural resource management, including invasive species removal and native ecosystem restoration projects. She said she is skilled in the areas of grant writing, land acquisition and installation of native species landscaping. She said she was very passionate about the vital role the Parks Departments play in the success of the community. She has seen it firsthand and chosen it as her career. She said if appointed to the Commission, she will be engaged, well informed, and a passionate advocate of the City of Novi. She thanked everyone for their kind consideration.

2. Jay Dooley- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

Jay Dooley said he is currently the chairperson of the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission and has held the position since June of 2013. He stated he has also been a prior chairperson of the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission from time starting in 2007 through his first tenure with the Parks Department which was through 2012. He said he currently sits on the Grants Committee with various members of City Council and PRCS Director Muck. He said he was instrumental in putting together what he heard it called tonight as the Dooley Dog Day with a past member of the Park's Department. He explained that it is an event that we o every spring and every fall, stands the pandemic where we serve 1000, free hotdogs to every single member of the Novi Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball, their families, and friends. He said it is a great way for us as commissioners on the Parks Department to connect with the City of Novi to connect with various folks that support their children that are part of soccer and baseball. He said it was a fantastic venue. He said they answer questions and take those questions back to the Commission and to City Council, he said it betters all of us. He said that we have a lot of great resources in the City of Novi, he was proud of the fact that in 2009 we were

very instrumental in putting together a review of the various parks in the City of Novi, and it is an event that we continue to do today. He said we are proud of that, as commissioners with the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission.

3. Priya Gurumurthy- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

Priya Gurumurthy thanked everyone for giving her a chance to talk about her passion towards the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission. She stated she is a Senior Manager IT working at Yanfeng. She is also part of the Housing and Community Advisory Board as well. She said she was there because of her passion and interest in giving back to the community as well. Number one, she said she is passionate about the parks. She stated that through the Ambassador Program, she learned about the different parks, and her goal has been in the past several years to educate the community on how we can leverage it. She said part of the coaching the robotics team and the Virtual Park Program as well, that was launched in 2020. She said they walk the different trail challenges. Her goal is to bring that back to the community, not just the Indian community, but to all the community that we have beautiful parks around, and then how we can help keep it beautiful around us. She said the second thing is diversity. She is a diversity champion at Yanfeng and affinity chair for a Women's Resource Network. She said when we talk about the cultural activities, she has helped the Library by suggesting a few programs as well. She stated she would like to bring back the cultural portion of the Novi Parks and Recreation. She would like to bring it back here so that she can educate the community, especially friends and family, and the rest of the community on how beautiful the cultural programs that they do already. She said through the Engage Programs as well make sure everyone knows about it. The last item is that being a senior manager she has a lot of program management skills; it is all about the execution. She said she can leverage all the skills to make it happen and then also look at the business value. She said if someone brings a request, then she would make sure to prioritize and make sure we get the best value.

4. Supriya Joshi- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

Supriya Joshi said she is currently serving on the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission and she is seeking reappointment. She thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity three years ago to be on this Commission. She said she was looking forward to her reappointment for the next three years. She said she learned how amazing the relationship is between this Commission and the amazing Parks, Recreation and Cultural Service Department is, we just saw the amazing work that they have put in for the recent Capra Reaccreditation recommendation. She is hoping that with her next appointment that she could continue to provide her input and here honest and sincere attitude that she has put in for the last three years, the same attitude going forward. She said she is a physical therapist, she looks at a lot of the programs that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department must offered through a disability access. She said her input is hardly ever needed sometimes because the staff and the department are doing such an amazing job. She is hoping to continue this for the cultural diversity and the disability

population of Novi. She would be honored if she would be considered for the reappointment. Thank you for your time.

5. Lynch, Mike- Planning Commission

Mike Lynch said he has been on the Planning Commission since 2005 and he was willing to commit another three years. He said he has been very pleased with the performance of the Commission. He said he could not take credit for all that, obviously, but he was very happy to see the thoroughness of the Planning staff. He said he thought the group has done a pretty good job and he was willing to commit another three years, if you so choose.

6. Mark Pehrson- Planning Commission

Mark Pehrson thanked everyone for the opportunity to reapply for the Planning Commission. He thought we had a good team, and he was honored to be part of this particular group for a number of years, sitting alongside a lot of people to learn from and he gave recognition to the current Planning staff, Barb, Lindsay and Christian, for the amazing work that they do on behalf of the City to make us look good and present us with the information that we can see to make a balanced decision between harmony of that is needed for the City and what is best for our environment. He said if he was so honored to be reappointed again, he looked forward to the opportunity to work alongside City Council and the members of the staff going forward. Thank you for your time.

7. Ramesh Verma- Planning Commission

Ramesh Verma said he has lived in the beautiful City of Novi for the last 42 years. He said he has come in front of the Council many times for different Boards and Commissions. He said the last was on February 8, 2021. He said he requested to join the Planning Commission. He has been there only three months and attended only three meetings. He said with his experience with that is he found that he is dealing with the very able administrators of the City of Novi, as well as he enjoyed working with members already there. He said he has not seen them personally, but virtually and he enjoyed working with them. He said he does not have much experience yet in the Planning Commission, but he would like to continue to do more for the City. He wished to continue to serve as a member of the Planning Commission and to serve the City. He kindly requested that Council consider him again for the Planning Commission. Thank you.

8. Alexander Weyer- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission, Planning Commission

Alexander Weyer said he lived in Dumbarton Pines, and has lived in Novi 30 of the 33 years of his life. He was applying for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission. He said he would like to serve on this commission because he was passionate and driven towards supporting the well-being of our community through

engagement with an empowerment from a connection to our local green spaces. He believed he would be an excellent fit for this commission because he was passionate not only about protecting, but also sharing what he found valuable about them with others. He stated the actions he was most proud of in our community over the last year has been the founding of the Novi Growing Together group on Next Door, which is currently at 290 members. He said through the creation of this group, he has gotten a lot of experience being a community leader by initiating as well as supporting resident led cultural gatherings and events. He has establishing relationships with others over the last year through this group, and he felt he currently help a unique perspective on the needs of our community. He shared some pictures of some neighborhood garden visits that the group hosted last year. He said he led personal and group nature walks within our local parks helping people identify and build relationships with our local flora, something that he would like to do more. In those walks he brought forth his background in an educational experience with native herbal medicine and wild food foraging practices.

Mayor Gatt concluded the presentations for the Boards and Commissions. He said on behalf of his colleagues, he thanked everyone. He said it is a very difficult decision to make. He said everyone was very professional and they all have much to give to our city. He thanked them all very much and asked them to tune in at our next meeting for the ballot results.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:

City Manager Auger said he sent out an email this morning about the SOS Program and the success we are having with that program that the Council and Mayor requested staff to take on. He stated that we have made over 1015 calls to people 70 years old and above in our community. He said we have also reached out with 78 home visits to people that we were able to contact for a wellness check. He said it was amazing the amount of contacts we have made and the services we have now introduced to some of our residents who did not know we were available to them. We are having some early success in the first month of getting into this and he hoped to continue this trend and report back to you later more successes.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

CM 21-05-074 Moved by Casey, seconded by Crawford; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Approve Minutes of:

1. May 10, 2021 - Regular Meeting