



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL  
MARCH 18, 2021**

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT:** City Clerk

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Presentations for Boards and Commissions were held Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Attached are the Council ballot for appointments to Boards and Commissions, Candidate Presentation memo, presentation draft minutes, candidates' applications, and current Booklet List.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

**BALLOT**  
**APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL**  
**March 22, 2021**

\* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

1 partial term- Term expires 01/01/2022

- Brian Bartlett
- Swamy Gopalakrishnan
- Vinit Gupta
- Neil Kane
- Jan Lach
- Mike Longo *\*currently serving as alternate*
- Travis Malott
- Elliott Milstein
- Alex O'Connor
- Shaun Page
- \_\_\_\_\_

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Council Member Signature

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** MAYOR GATT AND COUNCIL MEMBERS  
**CC:** CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK  
**FROM:** DAWN SPAULDING, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
**SUBJECT:** CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
**DATE:** MARCH 4, 2021

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

- **Melissa Agosta** (Library Board) resigned, creating a partial term vacancy.
- **Brent Ferrell** (Planning Commission) resigned, creating a partial term vacancy.
- **Ramesh Verma** (Zoning Board of Appeals) resigned due to being appointed to the Planning Commission, creating a partial term vacancy.

Please note that the following applicants presented to Council in February 2021 and wish to be considered for the available vacancies:

| Name                 | Interested in                                |
|----------------------|--|
| Priya Gorumurthy     | Library Board                                |
| Elliott Milstein     | Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals |
| Swamy Gopalakrishnan | Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals |
| Vinit Gupta          | Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals |
| Travis Malott        | Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals |
| Shaun Page           | Planning Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals |
| Jan Lach             | Zoning Board of Appeals                      |
| Mike Longo           | Zoning Board of Appeals (current Alternate)  |

Below is a list of current vacancies and expiring terms for Boards and Commissions:

| Board or Commission                                | Number of openings | Term expiration |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Library Board<br><i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>       | 1 partial term     | 03/01/2022      |
| Planning Commission<br><i>*Mayoral Appointment</i> | 1 partial term     | 06/30/2022      |
| Zoning Board of Appeals                            | 1 partial term     | 01/01/2022      |

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 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 Madison Heights, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Casey, present from the City of Novi, Oakland County, State of Michigan  
Member Crawford, present from the 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 stated that they were removing Consent Agenda Item B because there was no need to enter Executive Session that evening.

**CM 21-02-011 Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-011** Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt  
Nays: None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT:**

City Manager Auger announced that they had Mike McCready on the Zoom call that evening. He stated that today was his first day working for the City of Novi as our Economic Development Director. He said we are happy that he is on board. Mr. McCready thanked the Mayor and said it was good to be with him, he was excited about the opportunity. Mayor Gatt said we are excited to have him on board. We expect great things, we know you are going to deliver, so welcome aboard. He told Mr. McCready that Council was there for him if he needed anything.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

Mayor Gatt said there were several people interviewing for a few positions. He explained that they will listen to their presentations, you will each be given an opportunity to speak for up to two minutes. At the end of the two minutes, he said he will cut them off to be fair to everyone. He stated that they have their application and their resume with them. He said the Councilmembers have studied everything and are prepared to hear their presentations with that knowledge already intact. There will be n decisions made that evening, the decisions will be announced at our next City Council meeting, which is February 22, 2021. Please keep in mind that we only have a few openings and there are several people. If you are not chosen on February 22, 2021. Please do not get discouraged, keep coming back because it is you that makes Novi so great.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS**

1. Sreenivas Cherukuri- Library Board, Board of Review, Planning Commission

Mr. Cherukuri said he is a lifelong Michigander, he and his wife moved to Novi twelve years ago. They were starting both a family and he was starting his business. He said he really has come to appreciate the quality of life and the quality of services that Novi has to offer. He said he was blessed. He stated currently he was unemployed because his business got bought out. He felt it was a good opportunity for him to join the team and really help to contribute to what he can offer here. He had a background in engineering management, consulting IT, and as an entrepreneur. He believed that it gave him a good perspective on the different ways, or the different stages of life people are interacting with the City. He hoped that his well-rounded background will be an asset whenever you may need him. Thank you.

2. Kathy Crawford - Library Board

Ms. Crawford thanked City Council for the opportunity to interview for the Novi Public Library Board of Trustees. She was confident that you have all had the opportunity to closely review her application. She said she was not going to repeat anything that was in her application. She stated that since she has been term limited in the Michigan State House, she currently has more time to devote to the local programs and activities that she is passionate about, such as the Novi Public Library. She has been very fortunate in her life to have had leadership opportunities that most people never get a chance to experience. She believed that we should continue utilizing our experience in ways that she thought could enhance local programs and activities. She said that is what she hoped to bring to the Library Board. She thanked them again for the opportunity to come before Council.

3. Katherine Dooley - Library Board

Ms. Dooley said she was reapplying to be a trustee for the Novi Public Library. She has served one term and was happy that she was able to apply again. She said she has

been a resident of Novi since 2008. She loves Novi. Her son attends Parkview, and she has worked with the City for most of her career, which is in communications over 20 years now. She specialized in public relations. She understood multimedia, social media, and all aspects of communications. She stated that a lot of what she does in terms of her background is strategic planning and visualization for the future. She happy to be in the community and be a part of the team. She hoped that after reviewing her qualifications she will be able to continue serving the community in this capacity. She appreciated the opportunity, thank you.

4. Swaminathan Gopalakrishnan - Beautification Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Review, Historical Commission

Mr. Gopalakrishnan thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. He stated that he came from India a couple of decades ago. He finished his Master's program in West Michigan and spent nearly two decades in Holland, Michigan and then moved to Novi a couple years ago. He said his work, Yanfeng Automotive brought him here. When he was asked to transfer, he did not look anywhere else but Novi because he heard great things about Novi. He said he liked to travel a lot to Mexico, Europe, and other places. He also loved to cook in his spare time. He said his passion is to serve and volunteer in the local community that offers him so much like Novi. He wanted to give back to the community by serving in a local government. He said the main reason for that is his wife, Priyanka Murthy, she is one of the other people that will be talking that evening. She is a current Novi Board member as well. He said she motivates him every single day, she does so many things beyond her full-time work, and as a mom. He said he would like to be part of the community as well. He stated that he is a program manager and can use his program management skills. He said he works with big teams globally with China and Mexico, and he brought diversity to the team. He is well versed with working with diverse teams and he gets things done. He thought Novi was such an amazing place to live. The last two years we have been enjoying so much living in this community. He said Novi was beautiful. He stated his first preference was to work on the Beautification Commission. He said if offered an opportunity, we can make Novi even a better place and more beautiful.

5. Vinit Gupta - Beautification Commission, Building Authority, Historical Commission, Library Board, Planning Commission

Mr. Gupta thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for giving him a chance to hear him out. He said he worked for ITC Headquarters in Novi. He moved to Novi about eight years ago because he was happy in his job and was looking for a place where he could raise his family, have a good education, and safe place to live. He stated that Novi popped up top of the list when he searched so he picked a job here and moved to Novi and has been very happy. He has two children, one in High School, the other in Middle School and his wife. He said he has been an active volunteer with Novi High School in their track and field, cross country program, and has worked a lot with setting up the systems and all the result ranking. In essence, he loved this community, and he wanted to help. He set up his HOA in the neighborhood when the builder transferred it and helped save the community about \$10,000 a year to reduce costs. He stated he is an

electrical engineer, so he has dealt with a lot of Federal, State and City regulators convincing them on energy policies and the citizens as well, showing them, we are bringing you the best value for your money. He felt that some of these things are needed for the board member, the fiscal responsibility as well as the ability to convince the City Council and others for the priorities we want to implement and get the citizens to buy in. He said he would love to serve on this committee because he wanted somebody like him who is searching for a place to live, and when they search, they find Novi at the top of the list, the best place to live. That was his biggest motive, he would like to keep it as the best place to live. Thank you.

6. Priya Gurumurthy - Library Board, Historical Commission

Ms. Gurumurthy appreciated the opportunity to come and talk to City Council about her interest in the Library Board position and if not the Library Board, the Historical Commission. She stated that she was an IT leader focusing on application of technology to business functions to improve and increase their day-to-day efficiency. She loved in Michigan for about 18 plus years and she strongly believed that giving back to the community is what she wanted to do as a parent, volunteer, and board member. Currently she is part of the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee. She is also a diversity liaison in the PTO Board for Deerfield Elementary School. She stated that she graduated from the prestigious Novi Ambassador Academy Program in 2019. She currently is working closely with Julie Farkas, April Stevenson, and the Library team with a new Be Active Bag Program that we launched last week. She said she also participated in different events at the Library, including the MLK Day. She submitted a video and presented, so she was really involved with the Library as much as possible in a more volunteering capacity. She said she was passionate about giving her time, skills, and energy to support the team. She also brought rich experience from being part of other Boards like the head of the Holland District Library Board when she was in Holland, the Tulip Time Festival Board, International Festival Advisory Committee of the city of Holland, Committee of the Holland Museum and Ready for School. She stated she was a confident woman of color with a strong passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion. She said she also won the individual champion of Diversity Award in 2019. She stated she has been able to continue her journey as a diversity champion and affinity chair at her work, Yanfeng. She felt due to this trait, she believed that she could always bring diverse perspective to the table. Lastly, what she does day to day at work is going to be really an advantage. She focused on customer problems, evaluate solutions, understood what the business value for the request, determined the right solution, approach, and execute the project with quality and delivery. She said here, her customers will be the people in this community. She thanked City Council for this opportunity. She was truly looking forward to making a positive impact in the community.

7. Sharon Larson - Library Board – Withdrew application

8. Travis Malott - Planning Commission, Building Authority, Historical Commission, Beautification Commission - Absent

9. Kathleen Neighbors - Library Board - Absent

10. John O'Brien - Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. O'Brien thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council for listening and having him interviewed to be part of the Corridor Improvement Authority. He said for over 50 years, his family has been involved in some type of Grand River Corridor Committee and fortunately, he was appointed to the Corridor Improvement Authority. He said he was very honored and glad to be part of that from the very beginning as we develop plans to work with the businesses and the City to make Grand River a gateway for our community. On a personal level, he said he has been very involved in different activities in Novi. He stated he has been involved with Youth Assistance, and Parks and Recreation along with Youth Assistance. He said he believed in being involved in giving back to the community. He thanked City Council for considering his application and he looked forward to hopefully continuing to serve. Thank you.

11. Ratna Rao - Library Board

Ms. Rao thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. She stated that she and her husband have lived in Novi for over 22 years, their two children went through the Novi Schools. The Library has always been a part of their lives and that is why she wished to be on the Library Board. She said she took an early retirement from Ford Motor Company to pursue her passions and working in her community is one of them. She is currently the chair of the Silver Lining Mentors Program, which is a part of our Novi Youth Assistance. She has also served a term on our Beautification Commission a couple of years ago. She requested three things for Council to consider from her application. She stated she was a project manager, and organizer, volunteer at heart. She has exercised these skills in her professional as well as personal life. She said she has organized a 300-person townhall and countless volunteer-based initiatives. She cared deeply about the educational and emotional wellbeing of our community's children, which she is demonstrating by being a part of the Silver Lining Mentor Program for the past five years. She believed these qualities will relate well to the Library Board position. She asked that Council take those interests into consideration. Thank you.

12. Ramesh Verma - Planning Commission

Mr. Verma thanked Mayor Gatt and City Council. He said he has been living in this beautiful City of Novi for the last 42 years. He said he has seen this City grow from 5,000 to almost 60,000 plus and full of ethnic diversity in it. As a professional, he said he has spent most of his time in his life doing construction management, planning, and engineering, and has also served the City on different Boards and Commissions. He said at present, he was serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has always wished to be part of the City Planning Commission, but never got a chance. He said he was applying for the same and requested that Council would kindly consider his name for the Planning Commission. He thanked City Council very much for your time.

Mayor Gat thanked everyone for their presentations. He said they were all welcome to stay and watch the rest of the meeting. He stated that City Council will make their



decision at the end or during our next meeting, which is February 22, 2021. We have a lot of candidates for a very few openings. If you are not chosen, please keep trying to volunteer for any other open Boards and Commissions. Novi needs you, so please do not give up on us.

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Staudt removed Consent Agenda Item C: Approval of updated deficit elimination plan for the Capital Improvement Fund as of June 30, 2020.

**CM 21-02-012            Moved by Staudt, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Consent Agenda as amended.**

- A. Approve Minutes of:
  - 1. January 25, 2021 - Regular Meeting
- B. Enter executive session immediately following the regular meeting of February 8, 2021 for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations. **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**
- C. Approval of updated deficit elimination plan for the Capital Improvement Fund as of June 30, 2020. **REMOVED/LATER APPROVED**
- D. Approval of a Temporary Access Easement by the City of Novi granted to Bond at Novi, LLC located within Parcel No. 50-22-15-477-006 and 50-22-15-477-005 for the purpose of general use ingress and egress.
- E. Approval of the final payment to L.J. Construction, Inc. for the 2018 (2019 and 2020) Boardwalk Repair Program in the amount of \$50,584.38, plus interest earned on retainage.
- F. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 60 feet of half-width right-of-way along the west side of Haggerty Road as part of the Berkshire eSupply commercial development (parcel 50-22-01-200-047).
- G. Acceptance of a Warranty Deed to dedicate 60 feet of half-width right-of-way along the west side of Wixom Road as part of Detroit Catholic Central High School frontage improvements (parcel 50-22-18-200-027), and approval of a cost share with Catholic Central High School of Detroit, Inc for sidewalk construction in the amount of \$23,510.
- H. Approval of a Storm Drainage Facility Maintenance Easement Agreement from Hogan Holdings 71, LLC for PetSuites located south of Grand River Avenue and east of Beck Road (parcel 50-22-16-151-013).
- I. Reappointment of student representatives to library board.
- J. Approval to apply for the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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 Orlando, Orange County, State of Florida  
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 Pro Tem Staudt added Municipal Broadband to Mayor and Council Issues.

**CM 21-02-019 Moved by Crawford, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-019** Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer,  
Maday, Mutch, Gatt  
Nays: None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: None**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Gatt explained that everybody will be given two-minutes to present to the City Council on why you want to be on the various Board or Commission that you are applying for. He asked that they keep in mind that they have their resume and their application. He stated that they will not be making any decisions that evening. They will announce their decisions at the next Council meeting. He said everybody will be given two minutes to present.

1. William Bluford – Building Authority

Mr. Bluford said he has been a proud Novi resident since 2008 and Novi had provided his family a great quality of life. He wanted to give back to his community. He became involved with the community back in 2015 and he graduated from the Novi Ambassador Academy. He said two years ago he was appointed to a partial term on the Building Authority in March of 2019. He stated that the the Building Authority meets as needed, and as such, he has not been involved in any meetings because there have not been any meetings of the Building Authority. He wished to be reappointed. He thought Novi was a top-notch community and he wanted it to remain that way. He said he wanted to volunteer and give back in some way. He tries to stay involved in the community. He stated he graduated from the Lakes Area Citizen Police Academy and the Michigan State Police Citizens Police Academy as well, and he is Vice President of the Broad of Directors for Meadowbrook Townhome's which is a Condo Association. He said in his professional life, he is Vice President of Huntington Technology which is a Managed Service Provider and IP Company. He said he was named as a next generation solution provider leader in 2020, which is a great professional honor. He hoped to be reappointed to the Building Authority or however the Council sees fit. He said if there is somewhere else, he could be a good fit; he was open to that was well. He was just looking forward to continuing to serve. Thank you.

2. Jeffrey Bowdell – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Bowdell said he has been a resident Novi for about 25 years. He said he has been on the Board of Appeals just about that long. He said he has been a building official for 33 years in different municipalities. He said they do not have to meet anywhere near as often as they used to many ears ago, but he served proudly. He said it was a technical committee, as he was sure Council knew. He said he was on his 17th Code Book, which is there every three years. He stated that he has quite a large background in building codes. He hoped to be reappointed, he enjoyed serving on the committee. He thought they have done a great job for the City because there are occasionally some big challenges that they deal with.

3. John Enkemann – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Enkemann said it took him more than two minutes to fill out the form to be reappointed. He has been on the Board for 28 years, 25 of them he has been the chairman and served with Mr. Bowdell and Mr. Qadeer. We do not meet very often, the questionnaire put us into a position or put him into a position of what he wanted to achieve over the future. With a board that does not meet very often it is hard to have a future to be able to predict. He mentioned that he would love to have all the Board Members get a raise. It has been offered, and 100% of zero is zero, but it would be great to be able to authorize us all being able to have active Code Books that you know would allow them to be able to make this committee consistent. He felt that consistency was important for a committee like this because there is a certain value to understanding how our board has performed on certain cases. He thought being able to have a certain

amount of consistency in those actions. He said he would love to serve more. He said he has been an architect for over 40 years.

#### 4. Jan Lach – Beautification Commission

Ms. Lach said she has lived in Dunbarton Pines Subdivision for over 20 years. She said she was applying for the Beautification Commission. She said she was also in the first Citizen Novi Ambassador Academy as well, and she has also been through the Citizens Police Academy, and several of the other City supported programs over the years. She recently retired after 17 years with Michigan Medicine. She thought it was time to become engaged with the community, so she thought she would start with the Beautification Commission. She stated she has been a gardener her whole life since she was three, pretty much what she grew and planted, she got hooked on growing things. So, she has lived in a garden in several states. She has traveled throughout the United States and several overseas countries. She always observed how the proximity of the outdoor environment to the living spaces in the cities as the overall vitality of the area and the engagement of the citizens, and the quality of life to that. She believed that having access to the natural environment is restorative and energizing for people especially in times of stress like this. A model of this is Michigan Medicine, where our priority in landscape at facilities was giving patients and families quick access to a pleasant outdoor environment where they can sit under and relax under a beautiful tree or look at bugs and butterflies along the walking path. There was also meant it was mostly beneficial for the staff just to have access when they are struggling with their stressful and busy situations at work. She said it was important for people, especially now. She said Novi has engaged citizens, we have the Beautification Commission and they have done a great job in creating this kind of atmosphere here in Novi. The subdivisions are inviting, and the parks look nice. The butterfly gardens are doing well, and they are independent. She said during the lockdown last spring she saw quite often how people enjoy their outdoor spaces. She said she would like to be part of that.

#### 5. Cynthia Lang – Beautification Commission

Ms. Lang said she has been a resident of Novi for 15 years now. She has been on the Beautification Commission for about three and a half years. She stated that during that time she has been chair pretty much the entire time. She said she would like to continue to serve on the Beautification Commission because she thought they have some great projects ahead of us. She stated that during the last three and a half years they were able to get Novi certified by the National Wildlife Federation, and not many cities have that. She said that was exciting. They also have some other exciting projects in the future. They were a little bit stymied by the COVID, of course, but lost a little bit of momentum last years, but there are finally getting it back and trying to wrap up some of the existing projects that they have. She said they want to get some park signs at the entrances for the parks, we would like to get companies, individuals, whatever to design and implement some cool native plants around the areas. She said they would like to get into the schools more and do some educational presentations for the kids. She said she would like to see some of those projects through. She mentioned the butterfly gardens and said they would like to get some labels out there to identify the plants so that our

residents can really enjoy those plants and maybe see what they are so they can take those back to their homes and bring more pollinators into the City.

6. Kathleen Neighbors – Historical Commission (Withdrew application)

7. Shaun Page – Beautification Commission

Mr. Page said he was interested in the Beautification Committee. He said his background is a wine expert. He said he studies viticulture extensively, he has been to many vineyards around the world, around the country, he has brought in harvest many times over again. He said for the last 15 years she has worked for Celebrity Chefs which was very interesting, a lot of fun, but now he is a stay-at-home dad, and he does consulting work here and there. This is kind of my wheelhouse, he said he developed concepts for MGM Grand Resorts, restaurants, this is his passion, his livelihood, and just everything that he knows. He said he had a lot of ideas that he would like to present and hoped he would have the opportunity to do that. He stated this is everything that he does as part of the seed saving savers exchange, he does mushroom hunting, he is an avid fisherman, he does a lot of heirloom tomatoes which he is very passionate about. He said tomatoes are very similar to vines in the fact that they are open pollinated. He said there are a lot of cool things that you can do with plants and viticulture in general. He hoped he would have the opportunity to join the team. He said he has two children, and that is the reason why he took a step back from the corporate world. His family is his life and he truly loved Novi. He felt he would have a lot of things to bring to the table. He thanked everyone for giving him a chance and listening to him.

8. Dan Pierce – Historical Commission

Mr. Pierce said he has lived in Novi for almost 11 years. He would like to serve on the Novi Historical Commission because he believed preserving history is done through education. He said education is done and achieved through storytelling, and for the last 20 years he has been a storyteller. He served as the communications director for Ford Motor Company in their autonomous vehicle unit. His love for history started when he as a young child. He grew up just in the shadows of President James A. Garfield house in Cleveland, Ohio. He thought while President Garfield was not the most well-known president, living in his shadows of his long field of estate, he captivated him, and he wanted to learn more about history. He stated his family moved to Farmington Hills years later, and where his passion was further fueled by an incredible teacher at North Farmington High School. He stated that Mr. Maxwell, his favorite professor of all time, told him that it is not enough to know the basics when it comes to history. He would say anyone can know the date of the Gettysburg battle. It is up to us to remember the humidity and how it impacted that battle. That is the type of history you need to know. He said he attended the University of Missouri, received a journalism degree, but his passion for history forced him and compelled him to get a bachelor's degree in history as well. He has been using public relations to tell stories for big brands. He concluded that he would take this same knowledge that he has in storytelling and help preserve and protect the history of the City of Novi and tell our great stories. He thanked Council for their time.

#### 9. Kamran Qadeer – Construction Board of Appeals

Mr. Kadir said he has been a resident of Novi since the year 2000. He said he was a licensed civil engineer, and he works for an engineering company in Novi. He has served on the Construction Board of Appeals for over two terms and was seeking reappointment to that same Board. He stated why he was interested in serving his community that he lived in. First, during his career, he has had a passion for serving on committees and engaged in professional organizations throughout his career. He said he would like to continue to do that and give back to the community that he lived in. Second, he felt his educational background and the experience over the years whether it is in site drainage, site development, transportation, roads, traffic, would be a good asset for this board. He said he could help the Construction Board of Appeals in understanding the contractor issues and the challenges that we face in the construction. He stated that past two terms are some of the lessons that we have learned, we have not had a whole lot of meetings. He explained that most of the cases that have been presented to the board have been mostly grading issues related to steeper driveway slopes, sidewalk slopes, drainage issues, and sometimes interpretation of the building codes and engineering standards. He said some of these are related to site constraints and we evaluate those individually and see what impacts it has on the neighboring owners and provide guidance to the applicants. He said he would like to continue to do that in the future. He thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Gatt said that was their last presenter and he thanked everyone on behalf of the entire City Council and all the staff, we appreciate your willingness to serve and we will make our decision as to who will be appointed to the Boards and Commissions at our next meeting.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Gatt mentioned they had a presentation from the Roads Committee. The Roads Committee was formed before the world ever heard of COVID and it has been well over a year now. He explained that it consists of several different members of the community, and of the staff, and two of our City Council people which is committee chaired by Councilmember Casey. He said we will hear from them that evening although he believed they would not get any concrete recommendations that evening. There would not be any action item taken that evening. He was positive that during our upcoming budget hearing, this is going to be a very important part of their discussion. He turned over the presentation to Member Casey.

Member Casey said Brian Bartlett was going to do most of the presentation, but she wanted to say thank you to all the individuals who served on the Roads Committee. She said they have two Citizen Representatives, Brian Bartlett, and Alex Dinser. We had a lot of people from the City, some of the experts from the City were City Manager, Pete Auger, DPW Director, Jeff Herczeg, Assistant Chief of Police, Erick Zinser, City Planner, Barb McBeth, CFO/Finance Director, Carl Johnson, Community Relations Specialist, Nathan Mueller, Consulting Engineer, OHM Advisors, Tim Juidici, and Consulting Engineer,

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI  
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 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 Franklin, Williamson County, State of Tennessee  
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  
Carl Johnson, Finance Director/Treasurer/CFO

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Gatt added "Outdoor Gatherings" to Mayor and Council Issues. Member Fischer added "Monthly Attorney Report" to Mayor and Council Issues.

**CM 21-03-030 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**To approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Roll call vote on CM 21-02-019 Yeas: Staudt, Casey, Crawford, Fischer, Maday, Mutch, Gatt  
Nays: None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**1. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application for "Northwest Park Improvements"**

Opened at 7:02 p.m. and closed at 7:03 p.m. without public comment.

**2. Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application**

Opened at 7:03 p.m. and closed at 7:04 p.m. without public comment.

**3. Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2018 Funds - Reprogramming**

Opened at 7:04 p.m. and closed at 7:05 p.m. without public comment.

**PRESENTATIONS: None**

Mayor Gatt announced they had six people that evening for the Boards and Commissions Candidate Presentations. He stated they will be given two minutes each to speak, they are presenting for openings on the Library Board, the Planning Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He explained that normally the presenters were at one meeting, and nothing would be decided until the next meeting. He said that would be the case for the Zoning Board of Appeals opening. He explained that our Zoning Board of Appeals happens to have an alternate, and therefore that body is whole waiting for us to fill the vacancy. The Library Board, and the Planning Commission both have vacancies due to members on those Boards that are leaving, so they would appoint those openings that evening. He stated that they have their resumes and your history of service to the City of Novi. He said to keep it fair, everybody will only have two minutes.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS:**

**1. Brian Bartlett**

Mr. Bartlett thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing him to address Council two meetings in a row. He said he has been a resident of Novi for 36 years. His first home was in Meadowbrook Glens. He stated that he has served in various committees, both within the City and within the Novi School District, with the Athletic Boosters and the Band Boosters for several years. He said he was with the Parks Foundation for eight years, and Walkable Novi. He said he has served on various Boards and Committees with many of the folks on City Council today and they are familiar with what he can contribute. He said he was coming off a 40-year career in information technology with marketing technology to various customers around the metro area, and living with the involvement of information technology, which he thought does move towards the Library Board and their needs to keep up with that technology as we deliver to our clients. He looked forward to everyone's support.

**2. Jennifer Hoerz**

Ms. Hoerz said this is the first time that she was applying for a Board position. She has lived in Novi for six-years and she grew up down river. She has over 17-years of experience in automotive so she could bring a sales, marketing, and operational background from Ford Motor Company, and her current employer Bosch. She said she would like to give something back to the community and get involved in the community. She thought serving on a Board or Commission would be a great place to start. She thought it worked well with her skill set managing cross functional teams, partner management, business plan development, market intelligence and trends. She stated she just wanted to do something that she thought could be valuable and could also use her time. She has a degree from the University of Michigan Dearborn and an MBA from the University of Minnesota. She thanked them for their time.



**3. Neil Kane**

Mr. Kane thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak. He said he has lived in Novi for just under 5-years, he moved here from Chicago. He has a background as a businessperson, and he self-identified as an entrepreneur, he has started eight companies. He is currently a faculty member at Michigan State University where he teaches entrepreneurship to undergraduates and he also teaches in the Executive MBA program. He stated he has a background in engineering, and he has an MBA in finance. He stated that he apparently like some of the other applicants, he is more of a generalist than anything else. He did not have a degree in architecture or city planning, or anything that is directly relevant to the Commissions, but like the other people who have already spoken, he was there that evening to give back and get more involved in the community and would like to contribute. He was happy to be considered either for the Planning Commission or the Library Board, wherever you think he could make the most profound contribution. He mentioned that he had two teenage daughters at home, it so happens that neither is in public school. One is a student at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Having teenagers at home, he also has a perspective of some of the other opportunities for the City. He commented in his application, as it relates to the Planning Commission, that he certainly did not want to go on the record and say that he was opposed to development. He said there has been a lot of chatter, on Facebook, over the last couple of years about new developments that get a green lighted in the City, and how a lot of people are either angry about it or scratching their heads because they do not understand the justification for it. He felt that regardless of whether those developments were appropriate or not, he thought there was an obligation that the City Council has a job of explaining the rationale behind some of those decisions. Thank you.

**4. Mike Longo**

Mr. Longo thanked the Mayor and City Council. He appreciated all of them and he said he knew that they did a lot of stuff behind the scenes, and they were keeping our city beautiful, thank you for what you do. He said he served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for two-years as the alternate. He was ready to be a full-time member of the Board. His main desire was to serve the City and give back to the community. He has done a lot of visiting the various sites where the people appealing our ordinances are to get a good feeling for where they are at and what difficulties the ordinance may be causing them. He felt it was important to have that empathy of what is going on and knowledge. He said they tried to as a Board embody an empathetic posture with the people that are appealing which he thought was helpful. He said we are all Novi, so we are all in the same boat, we just want to keep the boat beautiful. He enjoyed helping the appellant understand the ordinances. He said they spend some time occasionally trying to help them how they would make a different proposal that would keep them within the ordinances or maybe the ordinances with just a slight variant. Thank you for your time.

**5. Alexander O'Connor**

Mr. O'Connor thanked Mayor Gatt and the City Council Members. He said he has been a resident of Novi for the past 3-years. He worked in project management side of supply

chain logistics and customs compliance. He echoed some of the others giving their presentations and said this was his first time applying for Boards and Commissions. He said he was referred by a friend and he thought his would be a good way to involve himself in the decision-making process in the City by helping things move more smoothly and efficiently. He thought he could bring his project management skill set specifically to the Planning Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals which is what he applied for, or whatever area that the City could use his skill set to benefit the people of Novi whatever way is possible. He said he has had an interest in local government and just up until this point, he was settling in, but did not know how to get involved. He thanked them for this opportunity and appreciated their time.

**6. Edward Roney**

Mr. Roney thanked Mayor Gatt and the City Council. He stated that he is a 36-year resident along with his wife, Marianne. They moved here from the east side and back in 1985. He said they raised two kids who went to the Novi School District. They have moved out now, but they remain in the area. Her daughter has a house here in Novi, and his son lives right on the border in Northville. He said professionally, he was a 42-year veteran of the automation industry, and most of it has been spent with machine vision. He said the last 24-years was in vision guidance with robotics. He said he was often mistaken to be an engineer, but he got his bachelor's in economics and his graduate with an MBA. He said volunteer wise, he has done the classic family things, scouting with both his kids, Little League, youth sports as they went through middle school and high school. He said he recently joined the Novi Rotary Club to get more involved in the community. He said he has served a lot of time at St. James in activities and leadership there. He planned on retiring soon and was hopeful that maybe something with the City might be a good move for him. He hoped that the business experience that he has done domestically, and internationally would be of good value. He thanked them for the opportunity and appreciated their consideration.

Mayor Gatt said that concluded their candidate presentations for the evening. He stated that we only have one opening on each Board, and there are several applicants, plus there are several other applicants who are being considered because they have interviewed in the last few weeks. He said not everybody can be appointed, but please stay involved no matter what. If you are not chosen that evening, or two weeks from now, when we choose the Zoning Board of Review, please keep coming out and please keep applying. He said it takes people like you that make Novi such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. He reminded everyone that they will be appointing the Library Board, and the Planning Commission that evening. It will be based upon the presentations that evening, your resume, your application, and frankly based on your years of living in and service to the community of Novi.

**MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None**

**ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:**