



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 2, 2020**

SUBJECT: Appointments to boards and commissions.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Interviews for Boards and Commissions were held Monday, February 24th; interviews by the Commission Interview Committee were held Thursday, February 13th. 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.

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR
March 2, 2020

Library Board

2 full terms – Terms expire 03/01/2023

Priya Gurumurthy

Tara Michener **reappointment*

Arjun Tuteja

Geoffrey Wood **reappointment*

BALLOT
APPOINTMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL
March 2, 2020

* Minimum 4 votes required for appointment to Board or Commission

Beautification Commission
3 full terms – Terms expire 03/01/2023

- Celia Todd **reappointment*
- _____
- _____
- _____

Board of Review
1 vacancy – Term expires 01/01/2022

- _____

Construction Board of Appeals
1 vacancy - Term expires 03/01/2023
1 full term- Term expires 03/01/2024

- Lee Mamola **reappointment*
- Patrick Torossian
- _____
- _____

Historical Commission
1 vacancy - Term expires 01/01/2023

- Julie Argonis
- Priya Gurumurthy
- Eric Retzbach
- Arjun Tuteja
- _____

**Housing and Community Development
Advisory Committee**
1 vacancy - Term expires 01/01/2023

- Brenda Anderson
- Priya Gurumurthy
- Liz Larson
- Eric Retzbach
- _____

Zoning Board of Appeals
1 vacancy - Term Expires 01/01/2021

- Liz Larson
- Eric Retzbach
- Mike Thompson
- Arjun Tuteja
- Carolyn Upton
- _____

Council Member Signature

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: FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

- There is a partial term vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to member David Byrwa's passing.

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
Economic Development Corporation <i>*Mayoral Appointment by resolution</i>	5 full terms	03/01/2025
Library Board <i>*Mayoral Appointment</i>	2 full terms	03/01/2023
Zoning Board of Appeals	1 partial term	01/01/2021

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Tara Michener (Library Board) – attended 14 of 14 (100%) meetings since her appointment in February 2017.

Geoffrey Wood (Library Board) – attended 8 of 14 (57%) meetings since his appointment in December 2017.

Commission Interview Committee

The Commission Interview Committee met on Thursday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.

- Jennifer Ryan (Beautification Commission) is not seeking reappointment.
- Celia Todd (Beautification Commission) wishes to be reappointed, but is unable to attend interviews.
- Lindsay Wyskowski (Beautification Commission) is not seeking reappointment.
- Lynne Fuller (Board of Review) was appointed as a full member, creating a partial term vacancy for the alternate position.
- There is a full term vacancy on the Construction Board of Appeals due to member David Byrwa's passing.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Historical Commission; only one candidate received the four required votes to be appointed during the December appointment process, leaving one term vacant.
- There is a partial term vacancy on the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee; only one candidate received the four required votes to be appointed during the December appointment process, leaving one term vacant.

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	3 full terms	03/01/2023
Board of Review	1 partial term	01/01/2022
Construction Board of Appeals	2 full terms	03/01/2023
Historical Commission	1 partial term	01/01/2023
Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee	1 partial term	01/01/2023

Attendance records for those seeking reappointment:

Celia Todd (Beautification Commission) – attended 24 of 30 (80%) meetings since February 2017.

Lee Mamola (Construction Board of Appeals) – attended 4 of 4 (100%) meetings since March 2016.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

1. Priya Gurumurthy- Library Board, Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee, and Historical Commission

Ms. Gurumurthy thanked Council for the opportunity to express passion for giving back to the community. She said that she brings diverse perspective. She is a parent of two kids who are active or being a woman in technology. She was born and brought up in India and came bringing a different perspective. Every day she leads a project team and listens to businesses and offers software solutions. She said that she implemented on time delivery and great quality. She said she had experience in various boards at Holland. She has learned what to do or not do. She advocates for diversity and inclusion. She had an award from the West Coast Chamber. She also leads an initiative group at her work. She looked forward to submitting her time.

2. Liz Larson- Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals

Liz Larson – absent

3. Tara Michener- Library Board

Ms. Michener said that inform, inspire, include is the motto of Library. She has served for over 5 years and wants to continue to serve because the library serves her. She asked her son what he thought she should say tonight and why she should apply again. His response to why she should serve was because she was always at the library. She said it's the best place to be. She got his school involved with library. They got students set up with library cards. They started a night at the library coming soon. They were using it as a pilot program for the community. Thank you.

4. Michael Thompson- Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Thompson said he currently serves on the Construction Board of Appeals and wants to serve on ZBA. He is an auto recycler during the day. When a car is getting made, it's put together to be taken apart. They have to figure out how to put it back together. He said problem solving is a daily task for him. He has been a coach for his kids' sports for 15 years. He always went into a season with parents understanding the team has a goal, not just goals for individual kids. He said one motto for the year is "team before me" and that would be good to bring to the citizens.

5. Arjun Tuteja- Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Library Board

Arjun Tuteja said he was a retired engineering manager from General Motors and has lived here since 1974. He has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. He has skills in planning, executing and directing new

technology. He represented General Motors on committees and is a life member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He said he didn't have specific experience in any of the boards or commissions. He believed based on his education and his experience that after studying the rules and regulations and the logic behind those rules, he could analyze any issue and contribute towards the resolution of the issue.

6. Carolyn Upton- Zoning Board of Appeals

Carolyn Upton – absent

7. Geoffrey Wood- Library Board

Geoffrey Wood said that he has been a resident for 16 years and raised three sons here. He has been a member of Library Board for four years. He could proudly say they've maintained a balanced budget, even a surplus. It has been a big challenge even though it's a beautiful facility, it is aging. He believed they need to look ahead in terms of financially maintaining the facility. He wants to take responsibility for it. He thought they could forecast those expenses so they can maintain the facility and financial responsibility.

MANAGER/STAFF REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENT:

Joseph Samona, 41542 Burroughs Ave., Novi said he is a realtor and practices real estate all over Michigan. He said that his mission is to advocate speaking for those who can't speak themselves. He wanted to speak for those who don't feel love, care, compassion, or faith. He felt he was blessed to be part of a huge family that reaches out and loves. However, many people are fortunate they may not feel it. He said that many have been affected by suicide. In December 2009 he realized how painful this was when he lost a friend of his. He decided to speak in every community to let them know there is a need for help. He said this is the second meeting he has come to for this purpose.

Deborah Ross, 1191 E. Lake Dr., resident of Novi was there speaking as member of League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political. They work to increase understanding of major public policy issues that influence public policy through education and advocacy. She wanted to speak about the Census that is coming up and the importance it has for the country and people of Novi. The Census takes place every 10 years. This is the 24th Census. Every Census since 1970 Michigan has lost one seat in the House of Representatives. She explained that the Census data is kept private. The Census just provides statistics, demographics. They are very important for emergency services. They need to know how many senior citizens and children are



COMMISSION INTERVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

CITY OF NOVI
Commission Interview Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020 | 7:00 P.M.
Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0456

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Council Members Casey, Breen, Fischer

CICM 20-02-01 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.

Member Casey suggested an addition to the agenda. She explained that the Committee received notification from the Clerk's Office regarding a partial term vacancy for student representative to the Library Board. Member Casey stated that the Clerk's Office had reached out to prior Youth Council applicants to see if they were still interested and there were a handful that were, so she'd like to add this topic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CICM 20-02-03 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. She said that our committee, when it was formed, the intent was to do some of the interviews for some of the boards, and some of them would be interviewed by Council. Member Casey continued, saying 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. She said that our Committee had not adopted that practice officially, so she wanted to put it on the record. Member Casey Will call in alphabetic

1. Brenda Anderson- Ms. Anderson began by stating she's lived in Novi for the last 15 years, and that she'd be retiring in December, so she'll have extra time to devote. She said that she's been involved in community things before, in the mid-90's she was a part of program called Leadership Canton, a nine month

program to learn about different facets of the township government, and she learned a lot. Ms. Anderson stated that she's also a precinct delegate. Ms. Anderson continued, saying that she also has experience training mentors for youth assistance programs as well as helping people file for Social Security Disability benefits, and that she'd be glad to go wherever needed to contribute to our community.

2. Lee Mamola- Mr. Mamola began by saying he's been active in the community since 1982, beginning with the Planning Board, now the Planning Commission. He stated that he's opened his architecture practice and is very familiar with approval processes and has built more than 60 buildings just in Novi. Mr. Mamola continued, saying that he's currently involved in a very prominent project, Midtown Detroit. He stated that he's here for the Construction Board of Appeals which he's been on for a long time. Mr. Mamola wanted to share two points- the first being that the person appointed has to come from the construction industry, engineering, architect, BLANK because the Construction Board is very complicated and has potential life or death consequences that it's not like variances with ZBA. His second point was that the board hasn't been meeting a lot recently because the Building Department has been doing its job so well.
3. Patrick Torossian- Mr. Torossian began by stating that he was interested in two boards, the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board and the Construction Board of Appeals. He said that he's lived in Novi for 30 years and he loves it. Mr. Torossian stated that he has an MBA in finance, and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He said he's worked for a Fortune 15 company for 32 years and has been responsible for large and small scale engineering projects. Mr. Torossian said that he's built three homes in Novi, and dealt with many departments as he's dealt with the City because of his custom home builds. He said that he's been a member of two homeowners associations and created one. He's been an HOA president for a few years, managing the bylaws, which is similar in many ways to interpreting building code. Mr. Torossian said that as Novi becomes more landlocked, he'd like to manage growth and construction which is crucial for sustainability. He'd like to bring a new perspective to the board, and would like to see Novi be more of an attraction beyond the mall and expo center, and would like to be involved in Asian Village.

After a brief discussion, the Committee made the decision to recommend Sarah Chang as Student Representative to the Library Board.

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

Transcribed by Dawn Spaulding