

From: postmaster@muniweb.com
To: [Morris, Melissa](#); [Hanson, Cortney](#)
Subject: The Form "Boards and Commissions Application - V2" was submitted
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 4:18:01 PM

Name

Sophia Rusk

Nickname, if preferred

Address*

24366 Taft Rd

Preferred Phone Number*

7346083813

Email*

sophiarusk123@gmail.com

Are you a registered voter in the City of Novi?*

Yes

How long have you lived continuously in the City of Novi?*

8 years and 9 months

Employed by

Retired Mechanical Engineer (Project Management) from Ford Motor Company, 12/31/2024 after almost 32 years with Ford Motor Company.

Educational Background*

Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Michigan State University, 1994 Master of Science in Engineering from Wayne State University, 2002

Please describe your professional qualifications, skills and/or work experience, and how you would use these to benefit the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying.*

I have a lot of project planning experience that can assist the Beautification Commission assess the timing, financials, and probability of success of various projects. I'm a fast-learner, possess critical thinking skills, and have myself, been working diligently as a gardener to beautify my own home landscaping.

Please list any community groups with which you are currently or have previously been active and describe your role.*

I have not been involved in any community groups in the past or present.

What motivated you to apply to serve on a board or commission, and why did you select the boards/commissions that you did?*

As a recent retiree and an avid outdoor enthusiast, I have a lot more time now to enjoy our beautiful city and surrounding cities while bicycling, hiking and running. I use the ITC trail regularly and bike from Novi to various cities surrounding Novi: Northville, Plymouth, Livonia, Farmington, Walled Lake, Commerce Township, South Lyon, Brighton and Milford.

By traveling on foot and bicycle in my travels, I see a lot of beautiful landscaping, but I also see so many areas that need improvement, in and around Novi. This is why I chose the Beautification Commission as a starting point to get more involved in my local community now that I'm retired and have more time on my hands.

If appointed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term? What do you hope to learn?*

I hope to first learn the scope of Novi's Beautification Commission reach. I also hope to help the Beautification Commission make decisions that will provide a cleaner, brighter, and more lovely environment for everyone that visits or lives in our awesome city!

What do you think the City is doing well or could be doing differently when you think about the areas of responsibility for the boards and/or commissions for which you are applying?

I'm not 100% sure of what the City of Novi Beautification Commission has done in the past, but if I understand the mission correctly, I believe this commission must work with other entities - like HOAs and businesses to collaboratively give Novi a 'Look and Feel' of a well-cared for city. Going forward, I believe a higher social media presence of what the Novi Beautification Commission is doing would be super important to its citizens and its visitors. There is so much more room for improvement of the landscaping around a lot of our businesses. I've seen some deterioration in prominent locations like the Novi Rd / Grand River Ave. intersection and I hope to be able to spark interest in our businesses to improve their Look and Feel.

Is there anything else you would for Council to be aware of, or know about you?

Although I love working on my own landscaping, I am not an avid gardener or have what I believe are high level landscaping skills. I am though, willing to learn all about invasive species and hope to teach others about them. I also love wild animals and feel that so much of our wooded areas are rapidly being built up with houses and businesses and wonder about the impact to our natural habitat and its effects on our wildlife.

1st Choice

Beautification Commission

2nd Choice

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Commission

Beautification areas of expertise

Registered Voter (Required)

Gardening/Landscaping

Leadership

Fundraising

Board of Review areas of expertise

Building Authority areas of expertise

City Council Cultural Arts Committee

Construction Board of Appeals areas of expertise

Corridor Improvement Authority areas of expertise

Economic Development Corporation areas of expertise

Election Commission areas of expertise

Historical Commission Area of Expertise

Library Board areas of expertise

PRCS areas of expertise

Novi Resident (Required)

Recreation/Cultural Arts Programs & Services

Strategic Planning

Advertising/Marketing/PR

Planning Commission areas of expertise

Public Utilities and Technology Committee

Zoning Board areas of expertise

Signature/Date

Sophia Isabella Rusk / 10/29/2025