

Interviews for Boards and Commissions

1. Blair Bowman - Corridor Improvement Authority

Mr. Bowman could not be present at this meeting.

2. Toby Brazwell - Cultural Arts Commission, Beautification Commission

Mr. Brazwell greeted the Council and thanked them for hearing his presentation. He said he was there to apply for one of two boards—the Culture and Arts Committee and the Beautification Committee. When he thinks about culture, he thinks it can be created, shared and lost in one generation. That's why it's so important. It's more than just where you were formed, where you were born or your ethnic ties to the community. It has a lot more to do with music and the art and food. Those all work together as threads in what we call community. It creates a tapestry. The more engaged the community is in that culture, the tighter the community is and the better the community can be when it comes to beautification. He feels that this city is wonderful and he feels like the aesthetics and the optics that the city have should reflect the beauty we see in our neighbors and in the community at large. He would like to be part of either of those teams. He believes he can be an asset—especially with his experience as an insurance professional and motivational speaker.

3. Lori Burke - Library Board

Ms. Burke greeted everyone. She stated her name and said she has been a resident in Novi for over 32 years. She has raised five children in Novi and is currently on the Novi Public Library Board. She would like to be reappointed. She said the current board has great chemistry and they all work together to support the fantastic gem that the library is. She's retired and she has plenty of time to devote. She has found the library to be a good fit. She has a finance background and she currently serves on the Library Finance Committee, the Events, Marketing and Fundraising Committee and she is the chair of the Policy Committee. She was recently involved in requesting a reserve study for the library to identify future expenses. She said the building bond is coming up and the building is getting older. As with any building, as they age, things start to break. They've identified future expenses and they feel like they can anticipate anything that comes down. They have a 20-year timeline and she'd like to continue that work. During her current appointment, they have successfully implemented two open houses and they've celebrated the 65th anniversary of the library. Each of these events were attended by well over 250-300 people. These events showcased our library and all it has to offer. She said she's proud to report that they are at 90% of their fundraising goal of \$65,000. She thanked Council for their time and for considering her reappointment.

4. Cheryl Champion - Election Commission, Library Board

Cheryl Champion was not in the audience.

5. Jonathan Gold - Public Utilities and Technology Committee

Mr. Gold thanked the Mayor and Council for hearing his presentation. He said we recently ran an election and even those of us who are not serving at the table would like to continue to serve our community in some way, shape or form. He has been involved in telecommunications and public utilities for three decades as his career. He was wearing his IT tag on his jacket. He thinks that his dedication to community and to his craft would be a great asset to the City. He'd like to continue to serve in any way he can. He thanked Council before he returned to his seat.

6. Marc Jappaya - Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Jappaya greeted the Mayor and Council. He said he is applying for the Zoning Board of Appeals. He has been a resident of the city for the past four years. He is a small business owner and he does his best to be involved in the community as much as possible. His wife, Felicia, and he have three children who are in the school district. They have a vested interest in the growth, health and stability of our community. Professionally, he is the founder and principal of Lincoln Capital Funding, a local mortgage brokerage that he operates in Novi. In his work, he regularly reviews site plans, zoning class classifications, land use restrictions, variances, and property requirements as they relate to residential properties. He feels like this gives him firsthand experience with how zoning decisions directly affect residents, neighborhoods and quality of life. Outside of his work, he is actively involved with the Novi Chamber of Commerce and he regularly supports and sponsors local events, schools and nonprofit organizations. He said community involvement is extremely important to him and he enjoys giving back to the city his family calls home. If he were to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, he said he will bring a fair, detail-oriented, objective approach, listening carefully to all parties and considering the broader impact of each decision on the community as a whole. He said it would be an honor to serve the City of Novi. He thanked Council for their consideration.

7. Linda Krieger - Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Krieger greeted Council. She said she has been a resident of Novi since 1981. She has seen a lot of change in the city. It has been a good year for the Zoning Board. She is back to reapply for a position on the Zoning Board again. In terms of experience, she has been able to lead as the chair twice in the last 20 years. She said she got it going smoothly and conducted it. She said you leave the bike on and talk your way through. Regarding motions, the other big thing, she has gone to class yearly with the city's attorney. She said that helps a ton. She said to give back again would be great. She thanked Council.

8. Yogesh Kumar - Election Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Kumar greeted everyone. He said he has been a proud resident of Novi for the last 11 years. He has been a commissioner on the Beautification Commission in Novi since July 2024. His wife, Ranna, serves in the community with her small business as an art teacher. She is also a guest teacher in Novi schools. They have two daughters, Yashi

and Ria who are both graduates of Novi High School. Beyond that, he has 26 years of global experience in engineering leadership, program management and community focus work, alongside his role as a licensed realtor. He presented himself for Election Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Regarding the Election Commission, he offered his skills for structured planning, compliance, accuracy and timely decision-making processes--skills that are quite essential for organized and trustworthy election processes. For the Zoning Board of Appeals, his background as both an engineer and a realtor, give him a balanced perspective on land usage, housing needs and community growth. He is motivated to serve Novi because it has been the home for him and his family since they came to the United States. He is deeply attached to Novi and its development and he'd like to care more for it. He thanked Council for considering him for the position.

9. Kim Nice - Historical Commission

Ms. Nice greeted the Mayor and Council members. She thanked them for the honor of reapplying for the Historical Commission. This year concludes her 10th year with the Commission. She started as a volunteer and then worked for three terms as treasurer. She has been the chair for the last three years. She'd like to continue the work she has done. They have many projects going on with the Commission like honoring our veterans at our local, historic cemeteries, continuing the develop more programs and traveling. They just did a big presentation at Fox Run last week on their miniature project on the Four Corners a hundred years ago. They've been looking at some other opportunities to continue with some of the city events and educating our youth on Novi history. They're looking into expanding that into other programs. She said working with the library has been wonderful as they've been their liaison for the Commission. They're very honored to have a beautiful history room at the library and she would like to continue that work and those projects if she were to be reappointed again. She thanked Council for their time.

10. Sophia Rusk - Beautification Commission

She greeted Council. She said she doesn't have any history of doing any work with the City of Novi. She moved here with her husband nine years ago. They retired a year ago, so now they have more time to volunteer. They both retired from engineering jobs. She worked at Ford Motor Company for 32 years as a project manager, so she has a lot of budgeting deadline experience in her history there. She did a lot of volunteer work with Ford. She did Habitat for Humanity, food drives, and their version of Toys for Tots. Now, she'd like to give back to her community here. She started by volunteering at Hospitality House in Commerce Township. She's really enjoying her time there. She would like to volunteer for the Beautification Commission. Part of that comes from her interest in looking around Novi. They're relatively new here, but she and her husband are both pretty active. They walk a lot. She is an avid runner and a biker. They bike and walk all around Novi and surrounding communities. She gets to see beautiful areas of Novi and areas that really could use some improvement. That's what brought her to thinking she'd like to be a part of the Beautification Commission. She asked that Council consider her for this Commission. She thanked Council for their time.

11. Tracy Wick - Beautification Commission, Cultural Arts Commission

Ms. Wick greeted everyone. She said she has lived in Barclay Estates in Novi for the last 14 years. She is retired now. She is an art instructor at Assarian Cancer Center at the hospital in healing arts. She is volunteering to be on the Beautification Commission because it's a way she can give back to the community using her education, interest and skills. She completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Her Master's degree is in Urban Planning and Community Development. She has experience working on a capstone project in southeastern Detroit to make use of community development block grants for home repairs. Current residents could continue to live in their homes, but receive grants so their roofs or siding could be repaired and it would be a habitable and warm residence for them. She worked with a big team and community stakeholders to bring a plan together there. That was when she was in school. When she graduated, she put her skills to use in working on new developments where they surveyed community residents to find out what things were missing in the community and how a new development could enhance their lives. Through that, they added things like tot lots to new developments that she would call "beige subdivisions." They also added soft amenities to mixed-use projects like loft buildings. For example, they would work with a local dry cleaner. She hopes her skills can be put to good use for Novi. She thanked Council for hearing her presentation.

12. Peter Winter - Board of Review

Mr. Winter greeted Council and introduced himself. He said he has rented a room from his wife in the City of Novi for about 49 years. He has been a member of the Board of Review for which he is applying to be reappointed for about 20 years. This means he has been through three or four assessors. He believes they have done a reasonable job during that time. He believes his background as a practicing attorney for about 50 years warrants his continuation on the Board. He has also been licensed as a real estate broker since 1998. He thinks the work at the Board of Review is one of the more important roles played in the city because they deal face-to-face with residents who are sometimes dissatisfied. He said, obviously they appeal from their assessment. Through the years, he has dealt with, or been a part of, a number of Boards of Review with differing individuals. He has been able to work with different individuals and staff. He thinks staff does an excellent job. He requested that Council consider his reappointment. He thanked Council for hearing his presentation.

13. Ezra Zimblar - Economic Development Corporation

Mr. Zimblar greeted Council and introduced himself. He believes he is the newest resident of Novi. He is really eager and excited to contribute and get involved locally. He has applied to be part of the Ambassador Academy for 2026 and he's looking for different ways to give back to the community and get involved. He moved to Novi in June. Over the last 10 years, he has been working for LinkedIn, bringing economic opportunity to people around the globe working from New York and Dublin, Ireland. He is most interested in the Economic Development Corporation. The first thing he'd like to do is learn about what has been done so far. His career has been within consulting and customer success where it's all about discovery, understanding complex systems,

identifying opportunities and helping organizations move from data to action. He believes that is where he can add real value—by bringing a data-informed lens to Novi's economic story. He looked a bit at some of what the LinkedIn data says about Novi. There are roughly 50,000 adults with 40,000 of them being on LinkedIn. This is a strong indicator of professional engagement in the community. The average compensation for Novi professionals is around \$85,000. Most are white collar workers with about 5,000 in the automotive industry. As expected, Ford and GM are two of Novi's largest employers, each with around 600 local employees. 8/10 of our top employers fall within automotive or healthcare which means we have some strength, but we also have some concentrated risk. His goal with this committee would be to help Novi maintain its strong relationships with these anchor employers while diversifying some of our local economy such as Miracle Software Systems. It is a Novi-based IT solutions firm and Novi's fourth-largest employer. It shows how technology-driven companies can thrive here. He'd love to learn from their story and see how Novi can use that to attract other similar firms to the area. Finally, he thinks there's a great opportunity to continue building strong bridges with our local universities—Michigan State, University of Michigan, Wayne State and Eastern Michigan all have strong alumni and student ties here in Novi. They can continue to play in great ways and continue to keep people in Novi as kids go to these colleges. In short, he is approaching this role with curiosity, data and a collaborative mindset. He thanked Council for considering him.