

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVI
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.

Presentations from applicants for Boards and Commissions

1. John Avdoulos - Planning Commission

John Avdoulos said he is currently on the Planning Commission and serves as the Vice Chair. He said he was on the Planning Commission from 2002-2008, took a break, and came back in 2017 and served 14 years total. He said he has been a Novi resident for 33 years. One of the reasons he got involved with the Planning Commission is that he is an architect professionally, and he understands what is involved as far as working with communities and what is involved and how they develop. He said there was an issue in the area he lived in, and he participated in a couple of meetings and then received a phone call asking him to look at participating on a regular level and possibly join the Planning Commission. He said he did, and over the years he enjoyed what he's seen. He said the staff is top notch. He said he deals with projects all across the county and just the way that everything is run, and the processes are very good. He said he one of the things he likes to look at, with a lot of sensitivity, is to educate the residents. He said a lot of the time the residents feel that City Council is the one bringing up these projects. He said the Planning Commission is bringing up these projects, and residents don't understand the developers, applicants, or the processes, site plan approval process, and he would like to continue to be productive and continue to do what he has been doing with the rest of the Planning Commission.

2. Ebony Bagley - PR&CS Commission, Beautification Commission

Ebony Bagley said she is currently serving as Chair of the Oakland County Parks. She said for the past 6 years she has worked hard and diligently on the Oakland County Parks Commission creating avenues for access to green spaces, programming that is very community driven and that they really listen to the needs of the community members and bring their parks to the next level. She said that she is continuing to do that but would love to bring her expertise not only in parks, but also in communications and planning overall as it relates to the Parks Commission. She said her role or experience in Parks is over 30 years now. She said she started as a camp counselor for the City of South Florida Parks and Recreation, working her way up to becoming a director. She said as her career went on to go into education and communications, she continued to advocate and work very closely with parks, not just in Southfield, but in Oakland County as well. She said she served as a commissioner before being appointed to chair recently. She said her passion is to protect our communities, keeping them safe, and keeping them beautiful. She said she loves being a resident of Novi and raising her family here. She said it would be an honor to continue to shape and work alongside the Council as well as the Parks Commission to shape the future of Novi, because she sees it going in the right direction.

3. Gary Becker - Planning Commission

Gary Becker said his family has called Novi their home for almost 49 years. He said it has been a great honor and privilege for him to serve on the Planning Commission For the last five years. He said from his first meeting in 2020 he developed a much fuller appreciation for the importance of the work that the Planning Commission does for the

present and future of our city. He said that being on the Planning Commission has personally been an intellectual enjoyment and even fun but more than fun it is important work that they do for each project that comes before the Commission. He said he invested his time and effort to dig into all the aspects of the project to see how or if it will help further the cities master plan, future land use plan, and be in sync with our ordinances each year. He said he has also served on 2 standing committees which has further helped him develop a better perspective and knowledge about how the city works period since his very first meeting he has done his best to hold to a guiding principle. He said as a Planning Commission member his comments and vote will always be about what's best for the most people in Novi residents and their families, property owners, and business owners and their employees. He said he truly appreciates the consideration of his request to serve one more and one last term on the Planning Commission and would too like to express his deepest appreciation and admiration for the planning department staff. He said they do such incredible work preparing an in-depth analysis on every project that we have to consider and their knowledge and expertise and perspective about complex issues makes the duties on the Planning Commission that much easier to fulfill.

4. Per Ekevag - Public Utilities & Technology Committee, Economic Development Corporation, Planning Commission

Not in attendance.

5. Caren Fifer - Beautification Commission

Not in attendance.

6. Hilliard Hampton - Planning Commission, PR&CS Commission, Economic Development Corporation

Not in attendance.

7. Salene Riggins - PR&CS Commission

Salene Riggins said she is honored to have served on the Parks and Recreation Commission. She said she is here tonight to express continued and strong interest in serving. She said she is passionate about Novi's parks because she believes they are the heartbeat of the community. She said the parks bring people together, encourage wellness, and provide a space where everyone, regardless of age or background, can feel connected and welcomed. She said one of the things she is most proud of during her term was helping to shape Northwest Park. She said being involved in the planning process and seeing it come to life as a nature focus space with trails and one of Michigan's few nature-based playgrounds was truly an honor to be a part of. She said that park is a great example of how thoughtful input and collaboration can result in something meaningful to our community. She said one thing she is excited about and is currently working on is introducing a QR code for donation signs in the park. She said it is

a simple modern way that residents can directly support the parks that they love. She said serving on this Commission means more to her than just attending meetings. She said it is about giving back, listening to the community, showing up with heart, dedication, and doing the work to make sure Novi remains a place people are proud to live, work, and play. She said she will be honored to continue her work in another term.

8. Nicole Rumao - PR&CS Commission, Planning Commission,
Beautification Commission

Nicole Rumao said she has been a proud resident for the last eight years. She said she is still discovering how much the city has to offer. She said she was in the ambassador program three years ago and that is when she really started making connections and getting to know the great people who live within this community, and helped to make this an even better place to live day by day. She said that is what helped plant the seed for her to be more inspired, especially with some of the reunions that she has been going to lately. She said getting to talk to some of the current council members made her realize she had a desire to step up and that she does have the time to do so. She said now at this point in her life she has volunteered in other capacities in terms of serving the public. She said she is a pharmacist by profession and in addition to that she works in Wayne County, but lives in Novi and loves living here. She said she has also helped with other organizations such as the Wayne County pharmacist association. She said she was the historian and helped manage social media for them, especially Facebook, and taking pictures during some of the meetings and events. She said she's also been involved with Holy Family Catholic Church, with their young adult group and just helping to plan events when able to do so. She said she has had a role within the community but it's only as of lately she's inspired to do more. She said she would really like to thank the council for making her realize this. She said she lives on the north end of Novi which she feels is sometimes forgotten about, but anytime a visitor from out of town comes she shows them the lovely Lakeshore Park, and they are amazed and astonished, especially that you can check a library book out from there. She said she loves taking friends and family to the parks. She said she would just like to be able to give back even though she doesn't have any formal experience per se, within the city, but has done things in other ways. She said she would like to be able to contribute to the great city of Novi and help bring people together, foster inclusivity, and embrace the diversity of the community and the great people who live here. She said she is always willing to listen to others and collaborate with them and that is why she is here.

9. Faisal Sayeed - Public Utilities & Technology Committee, PR&CS Commission,
Election Commission, Planning Commission

Faisal Sayeed said he has been living in Novi for 13 years and has loved every bit of it. He said professionally he is an engineering manager for General Motors but when he is not doing engineering he has worked in the southeast side of Detroit in many capacities. He said he is a part of a lot of 501(c)(3)'s. He said a lot of what he has been doing is helping to organize workshopping with law enforcement agencies to bridge a cultural gap, because of different cultural aspects. He said sometimes cultures have gaps, so they

have worked on that with civil rights groups for discrimination in the Hamtramck region. He said he worked with GMC during COVID. He said he has also worked with the governor's office to declare the Bangla Town Business District in the Hamtramck Detroit area. He said he worked with Laura to conduct entrepreneurs' classes for local business owners and also works with the API's to organize meet and greets for political leaders. He said he was there to start his journey with the city of Novi if he gets the opportunity. He said besides his professional life he believes it is the right time to get involved in the public life and to help better the life of other people.

10. Wendy Scarozza - Election Commission, Beautification Commission, Cultural Arts Advisory Committee

Wendy Scarozza said she is originally from Buffalo NY and has lived in Novi for the past 11 years period she said there is nothing more rewarding than volunteer work, and she has done her share, but mostly in support of children and their activities. She said she would love to serve on the Election Commission. She said her mother instilled in her the importance of voting period. She said she has the unique perspective of having lived and voted in five different States and while the procedures may vary the outcomes it is the same as Americans are participating in their civic duty and casting a vote for the candidate of their choice here in Novi. She said we have an election coming up in August with an important bond proposal on the ballot. She said it's an exciting time to be voting in Novi with the chance to vote for some much-needed upgrades to the community. She said that brings her to the second Commission she is applying for and would love to serve on the beautification Commission. She said she must admit that she did not know Novi had one period she thinks it is fantastic, and every city and town should want to make and keep their places beautiful. She said one of her favorite hobbies is gardening and when they bought their home and Novi the outside was just dirt. She said after they had the lawn installed, she put in all of her gardens and landscaping, with her husband serving as the chief hole digger. She said since then she loved maintaining her Evergreens and Pines, and planting summer flowers, and autumn mums. She said she knows a perennial from an annual, knows the plants that attract bugs and those that repel them. She said she works well with others and knows what it's like to fundraise. She said she served as the cookie mom for her daughters Girl Scout troop for years and that is a lot of fundraising. She said she is very well organized and a good leader as well as a good listener. She said now that her four children are out of the house and extremely self-sufficient, she finds that she has extra service hours to give and would love to use them to serve the City of Novi.

11. David Sherman - Public Utilities & Technology Committee, Planning Commission

Not in attendance.

12. Suhanya Subramanian - Election Commission, PR&CS Commission

Not in attendance.

13. Sumin Thomas - PR&CS Commission, Public Utilities & Technology Committee

Not in attendance.

14. Marla Wise - Election Commission

Marla Wise said she has lived in Novi for 30 years and retired four years ago after 40 or more years in advertising sales management in metro Detroit. She said she was in cable TV advertising for 20 years and ran the state of Michigan network for Comcast. She said she worked for 13 years at Cranes Detroit business and was promoted to associate

publisher there. She said she is a 2024 graduate of the Nova ambassador program and is currently serving the two-year term as the treasurer of her HOA and currently is the executive director for the Novi parks foundation. She said they are working very diligently on the upcoming poor on the shore and are still looking for donations and ticket sales and possibly even volunteers. She said in 2016 she started working as an election inspector in the precincts and has pretty much worked in every local state and national election since then. She said she was promoted to Co-Chair several years ago and that the City of Novi is very fortunate to have Cortney Hanson as the City Clerk. She said in 2023 she was selected to work in Oakland County's pilot program for early voting period. She said in the last presidential election she served as the chair of the early voting precinct. She said the early voting program is where she met Charlie Staab and how she ended up joining the Novi parks foundation. She said, based on her years of experience working the elections, her strong leadership skills, and a commitment to ensuring a safe and accurate first-rate experience for every voter she thinks she would be a very great choice.