

PRESENTATIONS - Applicants for Boards and Commissions

1. Meenakshi Annamalai - Economic Development Corporation, Beautification Commission

She has been a Novi resident since 2010. She has two children; one is a senior in high school and the other graduated from UFM. She is currently working at GM as a senior strategic initiative manager and works with different vendors across the globe. Outside of work she is involved with NSNA, which is community specific within India. She is the educational director and oversees the application for underprivileged kids and how to support them in their educational journey. They recently had a retreat in July 2024 which was attended by 1,500 folks and she was part of that stage management. Since her kids are old enough right now and almost out of the house, she has some time and wants to give back to Novi.

2. Larry Butler - Zoning Board of Appeals

Not present.

3. Gareth Crawford - Beautification Commission

He has lived in Novi off and on since 2011. While living in Detroit, his local church would adopt alleyways, interstate pledges, boulevards, parks and the like and attempt to alleviate some of the blight. It was an endless task, but the communities appreciated it when their neighborhood looked a lot better. For the past two years, he's been an active member on the Grounds Committee of his church in Livonia where they attempt to keep the property looking beautiful and attractive. Although thirdhand experience, his parents run the beautification team for their town in Wales and have won the National Gold Medal for the past five years, so he has clearly seen from their experience the amount of work needed to make something like that a success. On a personal level, he and his family have attempted to create a native garden with varying degrees of success and did see their first hummingbird this year. He loves living in Novi and wants to protect and nurture the native beauty of the community. He has seen Novi change in many ways since 2011 and thinks it's important we don't lose the blessing we have.

4. Kathy Crawford - Historical Commission

Not present.

5. Marcia Goffney - Corridor Improvement Authority, Economic Development Corporation

She has been a resident of Novi for 20 years, living in the same subdivision where she has served as president & secretary and is still on the board. She is a Novi ambassador and a supporter & Friend of the Novi Library. She retired from Yazaki Corporation after serving 10 years as their vice president, secretary and general counsel. Prior to that, she was managing counsel for intellectual property and products liability at Dow Chemical Company in Midland. She was engaged in many community activities there, including being elected to the Bridgeport Spaulding Board of Education and the Delta College Board of Trustees. She also served as a board member of Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. Since retiring from corporate American, she has served as counsel for Lawyers of the Arts

and taught ethics in a Michigan State graduate program. She has set up her own company coaching and counseling younger people in their professions. She has always been an art lover and artist.

6. Colleen Kolis - Board of Review, Economic Development Corporation

She has lived in Novi for 27 years since the age of four. She went through the Novi Community School District education system starting at preschool and graduating from Novi High School in 2011, understanding and appreciating what it means to be a Wildcat for life. She is a JV softball coach for the Novi High School team and is looking forward to the new turf field that will open this springs. While not coaching softball, she is legal counsel for Bollinger Motors which is an electric vehicle startup company in Oak Park. She gets to work with a lot of different departments including the financial department, sales team and HR. She has a good background working within different departments and being a team player while trying to obtain a goal with her company. She has also worked for the Novi Athletic Club for the past five years and has got to experience knowing a lot of Novi residents as they have over 7,000 members. She takes pride in the relationships she has built within that environment. She has negotiated contract and worked with many different areas and is deeply committed to Novi. She is a proud resident, graduate, coach and member to one day work within the Novi community as a professional and hopefully making an impact with the community.

7. Sharon Larson - Historical Commission

She is a 53 year resident of Novi. She joined the Historical Commission in 2022 and is currently the treasurer. Like all members of the Commission, she attends regular meetings and lots of community activities & programs. She is currently on a few committees and one of them is a Kathy Crawford project. It's a miniature project developing a 1/12th size Moran store. The Moran store was on Grand River and Novi Road about 100 years ago. The Commission hosts about six presentations a year on various Novi topics. She's on the committee to find and interview people that will put on presentations for the Commission. She's been to several Michigan Historic seminars as well as Schoolcraft College for some good leads. She loves history and hopes to be appointed to the Commission.

8. Michael Longo - Zoning Board of Appeals

He's been on the Zoning Board for some time. He used to service on the Cincinnati Zoning Board of Appeals. Novi has a lot of ordinances. He likes working with the residents and businesses that are coming here. We're attracting a lot of business, so we want to work with them. We have ordinances and he thinks that's part of the reason he moved here because it's a beautiful place. He's also on the Older Adults Committee. He started here as an election worker in precinct one. He's a Vietnam vet and also works with the groups here that do the vet things like the parade and luncheon. He enjoys giving back to the City.

9. John O'Brien - Corridor Improvement Authority

The O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home has been located on Grand River for almost 50 years and during that time, he has seen a lot of development and growth along the corridor. At

one point he served on the Grand River Corridor Committee and is looking forward to being reappointed to the Corridor Appovement Committee so that he can continue to be involved and see some of the plans that were being put together come to fruition.

10. Joseph Samona - Board of Review

He is applying for reappointment to the full term of the Board of Reviews. Additionally, he would like to be a contributing member as a part of the Zoning Board of Appeals. My perfect attendance record stands as a testament to his dedication and commitment to this role for nearly 15 years as a licensed real estate agent. He brings a deep practice understanding of property valuation, local market dynamics and the intricate nuances of property assessment that are critical in this community's fiscal integrity. He was so eager to serve that he didn't realize there was compensation for this. He was simply excited to give back to Novi, a city that has given him so much that he invested in a personal and professional career in understanding. The most critical aspect of this role is maintaining absolute objectivity. He has consistently applied the law and established rules, setting aside personal beliefs. The impartiality is the cornerstone of fair administrative review. His colleagues have been instrumental in helping him understand the nuances of their work. If reappointed, he's prepared to work together to implement whatever streamline processes will enhance the board's effectiveness. Serving on this board is more than a responsibility, it's a privilege.

11. Randy Van Wagnen - Historical Commission

Serving in the one year slot on the Historical Commission has been an honor. A couple of projects he's had the chance to contribute on was the store model, spoken about earlier, the Pumpkin Fest, Superhero Showcase and a number of education outreach efforts that they do to help inspire curiosity and a connection with the community's history. It's been an opportunity and honor to service the local citizens throughout the year. He's been fortunate to work with an extraordinary team. He wants to express his gratitude for their dedication and friendliness and made it easy for a relative newcomer to integrate and contribute.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out and them to stay turned at the next meeting as that's when they will vote and make those appointments.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: None

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA REMOVALS AND APPROVALS:

- A. Approve Minutes of:
November 25, 2024 - Regular Meeting