



City Council Agenda Item Report

FROM: Jamie Wolters, City Clerk

MEETING DATE: June 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Reappointments to Board and Commissions

DESCRIPTION:

I provided notice to City Council on May 27 of upcoming board and commission vacancies. I provided notice the public on June 6 that the city is accepting applications for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Per City Ordinance Section 152.06, appointments shall be made by the Mayor subject to the confirmation/approval of the City Council. Copies of the applications are in your meeting packet. The following have applied for re-appointment:

Planning Commission: Auston Marineau - term expires 7/1/25
Zoning Board of Appeals: Richard Crawford - term expires 7/1/25
Chris Raphael - term expires 7/1/25

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:

N/A

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A

SAMPLE MOTION:

Motion to re-appoint the following:

- Auston Marineau to the Planning Commission with a term ending July 1, 2028.
- Richard Crawford to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending July 1, 2028.
- Chris Raphael to the Zoning Board of Appeals with term ending July 1, 2028.

Jamie Wolters

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 2:28 PM
To: Jamie Wolters
Subject: New Form Entry: Application for Boards & Commissions

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. DO NOT click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

You've just received a new submission to your [Application for Boards & Commissions](#).
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Submitted Information:

Name
Auston Marineau

Email
[Redacted]

Home Phone Number
[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number
[Redacted]

Address
[Redacted]
Saugatuck, Michigan USA 49453

Current Employer

Michigan Supreme Court

Occupation/Position

Judicial Law Clerk

Business Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Business Reference Name

Chief Justice Elizabeth Clement

Business Reference Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Business Reference Email

[REDACTED]

Does your employer have any business dealings with the City which might present a conflict of interest

No

If yes, please explain:

Are you a City of Saugatuck resident?

Yes

Are you a registered City of Saugatuck voter?

Yes

Serving on a board or commission can be time-consuming. Are you committed to attending all regularly scheduled meetings?

Yes

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Board of Review

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Historic District Commission

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Interurban Board

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Parks and Public Works Committee

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Planning Commission

1

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Zoning Board of Appeals

1

Please describe any qualifications, expertise or special interests that relate to your possible appointment:

Digital Signature

Auston Marineau

Submitted Files

Cover Letter

[marineau_cover_letter.pdf](#)

Resume

[resume_austonmarineau.pdf](#)

Auston (AJ) Marineau

Saugatuck, MI 49453

October 21, 2024

Saugatuck City Council
102 Butler St
PO Box 86
Saugatuck, MI 49453

Dear Members of the Saugatuck City Council,

With the recent appointment of Joe Clark to the City Council and the forthcoming vacancy on the Planning Commission, I am writing to express my interest in serving on the city's Planning Commission. Having returned to Saugatuck, the community where I grew up, I feel a deep connection to both its history and its future. Although my qualifications may not be traditional for this role, I believe my diverse experiences, combined with my unique perspective as a young professional, can contribute meaningfully to the city's long-term vision.

This past May, I graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School, and shortly after began clerking for the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. This role has given me substantial exposure to legal research, drafting key legal documents, and understanding the intricacies of governance. During my time at the University of Michigan Law School, I held positions in both the private sector at some of the world's largest law firms and in public service, including working in Governor Whitmer's Office of Legal Counsel as a senior law clerk for nearly a year. These experiences have helped me develop a well-rounded approach to solving complex issues—something I believe is essential to the evolving challenges faced by Saugatuck.

Before embarking on my legal career, I served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army for seven years, with deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. In leading diverse teams in high-pressure environments, I honed skills in project management, coordination across various stakeholders, and making strategic decisions in rapidly changing situations. These experiences instilled in me a sense of discipline, responsibility, and teamwork that I believe can be a valuable asset to the Planning Commission.

Growing up in Saugatuck, I had the privilege of being involved in various roles within the community—attending Saugatuck Public Schools, working in local restaurants, at the Saugatuck/Douglas Convention and Visitors Bureau, and as a tour guide for Saugatuck Dune Rides, among others. All of these experiences provided me with an intimate knowledge of our local history, natural beauty, and what makes Saugatuck such a special place. My personal experiences, combined with my family's longstanding connection to the area—my grandfather having served as the town doctor for over 40 years—have helped me build a strong connection with residents and visitors alike, a connection that I would like to deepen by giving back to the community that shaped me. These experiences have also given me a unique perspective on the balance between preserving our heritage and fostering growth.

At 32, I recognize that I am younger than many who have served on the Planning Commission. However, I see this as a strength rather than a limitation. My generation has a vested interest in shaping Saugatuck's future, ensuring it remains a vibrant, thriving community for decades to come. I believe my age provides a fresh outlook, and I am deeply committed to working with the city to build a long-term vision that honors Saugatuck's past while preparing it for future challenges and opportunities.

Thank you for considering my application. It would be an honor to contribute to the ongoing success of our community, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the city's Planning Commission.

Very Sincerely,
Auston Marineau

Auston (AJ) Marineau

Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

Ann Arbor, MI

Juris Doctor

May 2024

Honors: Graduated *Cum Laude*; Pro Bono Pledge; Dean's Scholarship Recipient

Activities: Michigan Journal of International Law – Executive Editor; Michigan Law Veterans Society – Co-President; National Security Law Society – Co-President; Syrian Accountability Project – Chief Investigator; Michigan Law Softball Team Member

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Bloomington, IN

Bachelor of Arts in History

May 2014

Activities: Men's Soccer Varsity Letterman (Lake Forest College)

Worked 25-40 hours per week in restaurant and tourism industries during undergraduate studies

EXPERIENCE

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Judicial Law Clerk to Chief Justice Elizabeth T. Clement

Lansing, MI (August 2024 – Present)

- Responsible for researching and drafting all manners of memorandum, opinions, and orders; assist in coordinating the Chief Justice's communications within the court and assist with her administrative responsibilities and taskforce work

COOLEY LLP

Litigation Summer Associate (received offer of employment; will begin as associate in Chicago following clerkship)

Boston, MA (May – July 2023)

- Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on complex litigation matters, providing critical support in case preparation, strategy development, and legal analysis
- Drafted and reviewed various legal documents, including motions, briefs, and discovery requests, ensuring accuracy, adherence to procedural requirements, and alignment with client objectives

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN

Senior Law Clerk

Lansing, MI (August 2022 – May 2023)

- Analyzed legislation for regulatory, constitutional, and other legal and policy deficiencies; delivered legal research, analysis, and memoranda regarding a variety of legal and policy issues concerning both the state of Michigan and the Office of the Governor

MILLER, CANFIELD, PADDOCK AND STONE, P.L.C.

Summer Associate (received return offer for 2L summer)

Detroit, MI (May – July 2022)

- Drafted a \$5 million bond purchase agreement; created a 50-state survey regarding the implications of remote work on various state tax and employment laws and regulations; managed two expungement cases in coordination with the City of Detroit's Project Clean Slate
- Authored 10+ memoranda on topics including commercial litigation, guaranties, labor and employment, immigration, and real estate

UNITED STATES ARMY

(November 2014 – August 2021)

Infantry Officer, Honorably Discharged at the rank of Captain

Aide-de-Camp to Deputy Commanding General

Iraq; Syria; Fort Hood, TX (April 2019 – August 2021)

Assistant to a Two-Star British General charged with oversight of Coalition Forces in Iraq and Syria and ~95,000 U.S. soldiers

- Planned, facilitated, and prepared the General for engagements with a variety of entities, including the United Nations, NATO, and senior Defense and State department representatives from over 40 countries
- Managed the efforts of a 500 person staff tasked with preparing in-depth analysis and presenting options to shape the future of the mission to defeat ISIS, affecting the interests of 83 countries and ~20,000 military personnel
- Prepared speeches and official correspondence for the General; assisted with drafting whitepapers regarding Coalition and U.S. policy in Iraq and Syria which were routinely distributed to heads of state and top U.S. officials

Executive Officer

Iraq; Kuwait; Fort Hood, TX (June 2017 – March 2019)

Second-in-command of an 850-person multinational company focused on logistics during a 13-month combat deployment

- Ranked in the top 1% of Army Officers in formal evaluation
- Designed and implemented company accountability program to secure ~3,000 pieces of highly sensitive military equipment valued at \$200 million across 11 bases, spanning three countries, without any loss

Platoon Leader

Afghanistan; Fort Hood, TX (January 2016 – May 2017)

- Planned and conducted ~90 combat missions, synthesizing complex information and competing priorities into coherent and understandable orders; ranked as the #1 officer over 22 officers in formal evaluation
- Directed the daily operations of a 45-person team with military experience ranging from 1-17 years

SAUGATUCK DUNE RIDES

Tour Guide

Saugatuck, MI (May 2013 – October 2014; May – September 2024)

- Operated a 20-seat dune buggy, providing one-hour guided tours filled with local history, folklore, and a bunch of corny jokes

ADDITIONAL

Volunteer: Service to School Undergraduate and JD Ambassador

Interests: Playing all sports, trail running, Detroit professional sports teams, long walks and frequent beverage stops with my wife and dog

Security Clearance: Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Security Clearance

Saugatuck

P.O. Box 86, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Phone: 269.857.2603 Fax: 269.857-4406
Website: www.saugatuckcity.com

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Name: RICHARD CRAWFORD Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Home/Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1172, [REDACTED] SAUGATUCK
E-mail Address: [REDACTED]
Employer: SAUGATUCK SELF STORAGE Occupation/Position: MANAGER
Business Phone: [REDACTED] Business Reference: [REDACTED]

Are you a Saugatuck City resident? YES Are you a registered Saugatuck City voter? YES

Do you or your employer have any business dealings with the City which might present a conflict of interest? NO If yes, explain [REDACTED]

Serving on a Board or Commission can be time-consuming. Are you committed to attending all regularly scheduled meetings? YES

On which Boards and/or Commissions would you be willing to serve?

Board of Review	Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority	Planning Commission
Fire District Board	Kalamazoo Lake Sewer & Water	Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Committee
Historic District Commission	Library Board	Tri-Community Wildlife Committee
Interurban Board	Parks & Public Works Committee	

Compensation Commission

SAUGATUCK CITY COUNCIL 12 YEARS / 2 YEARS AS MAYOR Zoning Board of Appeals
Please describe any qualifications, expertise or special interests that relate to your possible appointment:

SAUGATUCK PLANNING COMMISSION 19 YEARS
SAUGATUCK ZBA - CURRENT MEMBER

You may wish to submit a cover letter with your application. Please return the original to the City Clerk's office at the above address for processing. The City of Saugatuck recognizes and supports the concept of balanced representation in regard to filling vacancies on Boards and Commissions. To this end, every effort is made to appoint members who represent Saugatuck's diverse community, including citizens of all ethnic groups as well as people with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations and equal access to communication are provided upon request.

Signature: Richard Crawford Date: 6-18-25

****Disclaimer:** Per the City of Saugatuck's retention schedule this application will be kept on file for twelve months, unless you are chosen to serve on a board, then this application is kept on file for the duration of your term.

COPY: Mayor City Council City Clerk

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE. **79**
Rich

Jamie Wolters

From: no-reply@weebly.com
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 1:34 PM
To: Jamie Wolters
Subject: New Form Entry: Application for Boards & Commissions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Submitted Information:

Name
Christopher Raphael

Email
[Redacted]

Home Phone Number

Mobile Phone Number
[Redacted]

Address

[REDACTED]

Saugatuck, MI 49453

Current Employer

Self

Occupation/Position

IT Support

Business Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Business Reference Name

Business Reference Phone Number

Business Reference Email

Does your employer have any business dealings with the City which might present a conflict of interest

No

If yes, please explain:

Are you a City of Saugatuck resident?

Yes

Are you a registered City of Saugatuck voter?

Yes

Serving on a board or commission can be time-consuming. Are you committed to attending all regularly scheduled meetings?

Yes

On which boards and/or commissions would you be willing to serve? .Zoning Board of Appeals

1

Please describe any qualifications, expertise or special interests that relate to your possible appointment:

Long time resident with interest in serving and time to do so.

Digital Signature

Christopher Raphael