

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Roll Call: Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Present: Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Christen Pietraz

Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2023: Moved: Lach, Seconded: Williams, Approved 4:0

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Lach, Seconded: Williams, Approved 4:0

Old Business:

- Adopt-a-Park-Sign Program – The Commission aims to have this program up and running by spring of 2024. To finalize it a complete review and adjustment of the old language to match the new parameters will be necessary. Additionally, the group hopes to advertise the new program in an upcoming engage magazine in addition to social media and the city website.
- Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation – The new signs have been successfully fabricated and installed. The Commission hopes to secure regular volunteers to assist in maintaining the native garden.
- New Project/Programming Options
 - City of Novi Beautification Awards – Starting in 2024 the Beautification Commission is interested in having a local City of Novi Beautification Award program and Ceremony. This program would be nomination based and would include collaboration from Code Compliance to ensure the properties are in good standing as well as attractive. Awards would be offered for both residential and business properties recognizing those that go above and beyond in adding beauty to the community. Ideally a ceremony to honor the awardees would be held in early Autumn each year of the program.
 - Seasonal Beautification Events – The commission would like to have a small have a Social Media interactive community event encouraging residents (and businesses) to share their autumnal décor, carved pumpkins, etc. They are also interest in a larger scale project for recognizing those in the City with superb Holiday light displays in the Winter, they would like to discuss the viability and execution strategy of such a project with the City's Community Relations team. This Holiday Light program would be modelled, in part, after the "Dearborn Aglow" program.
 - Educational Programs (Native Plants, Foraging, etc.) – The group would like to focus efforts primarily on promoting programming in this field being put on by other entities such as the internal Nature-Nurture-Novu programs from the Parks division or Library programs as well as outside local partnerships like Tollgate Farm. They are interested in

- potentially hosting a plant identification course as a Commission with an outside speaker with expertise in the subject.
- Bee City USA/Bee and Pollinator Focus – the commission opted to table this topic until their October meeting when Fire Captain Theisen, who is also a Beekeeper, will be attending the meeting to discuss potential pollinator initiatives for the City.
 - “Plant of the Month” Michigan/Midwest Native Plant Feature – The Commission suggested a “good plant of the month/bad plant of the month” so as to focus both on excellent natives as well as identifying invasive species that should be removed if a resident finds it in their yards.

New Business

- 2024 Calendar Adoption – approved unanimously
- Entryway Grant Update – Application and information for the 2024 season were posted, applications will be accepted starting in January.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 10/11, 11/8, 12/13