

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:02 pm

Roll Call: Jan Lach, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Present: Jan Lach, Laura Williams, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Christen Pietraz

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

Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2024: Moved: Williams, Seconded: Lach, Approved 4:0

New Business:

The discussion portion of the meeting was opened by welcoming the new Commissioner Mary Angela Winter.

Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz

Staff Liaison Oppermann presented the Commission with the opportunity to partner with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department for a "Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz". A BioBlitz is an event where community members work with park staff to create a snapshot of the variety of wildlife that can be found in local parks. To participate, community members will use an app to take pictures of plants, insects, and animals to see what wildlife is present in the park on the day of the event and provide the park system with more information about local pollinators, which are essential to our ecosystem. The event is currently tentatively planned for September 2024 and the Commission was interested in taking part in the program as part of their focus on pollinators.

Budget Update

Staff Liaison Oppermann updated the Commissioners on the current budget and requested that the group determine how they would like to spend the remaining amount for the current Fiscal Year. The commissions decided to determine the cost of any Materials that might be needed for the upcoming July/August pollinator display at the Library and to use any remainder for new plants/seeds for Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation/pollinator garden.

Election of Commission Chairperson and Secretary

With the departure of former Chairperson Cindy Lang from the Commission the Chair was left vacant. Staff Liaison Oppermann requested that the commissioners either volunteer or nominate another commissioner to the role.

Laura Williams made a motion to nominate Jan Lach for the role of Chairperson and was seconded

by Torry Yu. Following Commissioner Lach's acceptance of the nomination the motion was approved 4:0.

As Commissioner Lach had been Commission Secretary prior to her nomination it was required that a new Secretary also be selected.

Laura Williams made a motion to nominate Torry Yu for the role of Commission Secretary and was seconded by Mary Angela Winter. Following Commissioner Yu's acceptance of the nomination the motion was approved 4:0.

Old Business

Bee City USA

Ms. Oppermann reiterated to the Commission that the Resolution for the City of Novi to become a Bee City Affiliate was presented and approved by City Council as part of their 3/18/24 agenda. She then noted which obligations had already been completed and the timeline for the other requirements. Most items needed to be completed by March 2025 and the remaining were annual requirements such as having a pollinator awareness event at least once yearly.

The group was pleased with the current progress and also requested to reconnect with Fire Captain Theisen regarding honeybees and hives. It is their hope that at least one hive be installed in 2025.

Pollinator Library Display – July/August 2024

The Commissioners were provided with information regarding the display case - it is located on the 2nd floor of the library, near the adult collections and is roughly 8' wide x 4' tall. It is anticipated that the display will be installed the weekend prior to the 4th of July. The commission discussed some general ideas for the display and chairperson Lach instructed the group to think on the topic over the next month and bring their ideas to the June meeting so they could determine a final plan.

Public Comment: Ms. Syeda Faiz was present as a community member interested in joining the Beautification Commission. She requested clarification on the money that the City offers Homeowners Associations as part of the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program.

Adjournment: 6:47 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11