

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2024
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

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

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

Absent: Christen Pietraz

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Yu, Seconded: Williams, Approved 5:0

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2024: Moved: Yu, Seconded: Williams, Approved 5:0

Old Business:

1. Perennial Exchange Booth – Saturday, September 21st (9 - 11am)

Ms. Oppermann updated the Commission on Oakland County Parks partnering with the City of Novi for the upcoming Perennial Exchange and that they will be bringing a large number of live native plants as giveaways for residents who sign up. With this in mind it was determined that the Beautification Commission would no longer purchase plants to distribute at the event as it would be an unnecessary duplication of efforts, especially given the small Commission budget. After some small discussion of alternatives, the Commission decided it would instead purchase packets of native seeds to distribute from their table instead as it would be both a unique item for the event and any packets remaining after the occasion could easily be saved for future efforts. In addition, the Commission finalized handouts to be provided at the event and gave Ms. Oppermann a general design scheme for the table display.

Commissioner Kumar noted that in the future the Commission might consider partnering more with High School students such as the SSLI group on events.

2. Beehive Progress

The Commission was given an update on the Beehive Pilot Program progress, Ms. Oppermann had briefly met with the head of Internal Solutions prior to this Commission meeting and was pleased that he was very supportive of the Pilot going forward in Spring 2025. She also shared his view on preferred potential locations (with an eye towards both security and potential for growth). Another internal city staff meeting is planned for the following week and will be utilized to finalize the site and to determine any prep work that should be done ahead of snow/frost. Commissioner Williams noted her support for a location with diverse flora. Ms. Oppermann will continue to share information with the Commission as the pilot program progresses.

3. Social Media Post for Autumn and Winter Holidays

The Commission entrusted with Ms. Oppermann, alongside the Community Relations team, to determine the verbiage to be used for October and December social media posts requesting residents share photos of their Autumnal/Halloween and Winter/Holiday Light décor.

New Business:

1. 2025 Calendar Adoption

The Commission reviewed the proposed 2025 calendar dates.

Motion to accept and adopt the 2024 Beautification Commission.

Moved: Williams, Seconded: Kumar, Approved 5:0

2. Grant Identification for Pollinator Gardens and/or Prairie Restoration

Currently the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services (PRCS) team are looking for available grants that might assist in funding the prairie restoration at Northwest Park and potentially for the ITC Sports Park expansion property. Through Ms. Oppermann, the PRCS Director Jeff Muck kindly asks the Commissions for any insight or recommendations they might have regarding such grants. The Commissioners stated that they do not currently have any grants to recommend but will inform staff of any they become aware of, all were pleased to hear about the planned prairie restoration.

3. Coming Soon –

- a. Community Development Block Grant (Review in Oct or Nov)
- b. Entryway Grants (Launching 2025 applications soon!)

Ms. Oppermann let the Commission know to plan for the Community Development Block Grant decision to come to them soon and that the Assistant Finance Director, Sabrina Lilla, would be presenting the matter to them once more.

Additionally, Ms. Oppermann is currently working on revising the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program application for the 2025 year and anticipates it being posted in October with an application deadline set in late January. The Commission suggested that the grant be advertised and be made more easily accessible on the City webpage.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 6:49 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 10/9, 11/13, 12/11