

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2024
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:02 pm

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

Present: Yogesh Kumar, Jan Lach, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Christen Pietraz, Mary Angela Winter

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

Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2024: Moved: Yu, Seconded: Kumar, Approved 4:0

Old Business:

1. Perennial Exchange Reflection

Chair Lach and Commissioner Williams both thought the event went well. Chair Lach noted that, given the incident of the resident who brought Buckthorn without realizing it to be an invasive plant, future events we should have someone to review and clear plants for the exchange. It would also be useful to have someone with general plant and gardening knowledge present for various resident questions. Commissioner Kumar also thought the event went well but that we could do better to publicize it going forward. He suggests a flyer be made available earlier and to increase our Social Media presence and advertisement. It should be made clear that anyone from the community is welcome to attend, even if they don't have a plant to exchange themselves. Overall, the Commission thought that we were lucky to have such lovely weather and that the turnout was good for the first exchange in several years. Everyone also commended Fire Cpt. Theisen for his excellent presentation, they all very much enjoyed it.

2. Beehive Progress

The Commission was given an update on the Beehive Pilot Program progress. The location for the Pilot has determined to be the "back 30" of Bosco Fields park. This part of City Park property is currently not assigned for a specific purpose beyond a ITC Trail connector path between said trail and the current active part of Bosco Fields (Soccer Fields and Splash Pad) and as such is very open, not heavily trafficked and has a large amount of wildflower already present for bee foraging needs.

Commissioner Williams noted that we should determine if there are any pesticides currently used in the area, and if so, ensure we stop them well ahead of any bee installation.

New Business:

1. Recommended Tree Species Lists

Per Commissioner Kumar's request at a previous meeting City Forester Keith Salowich provided the species list he uses to inform his planting decisions. Typically, he works not from the full list but pares it down to about 20 different species to plant in a given season (some species do better with a fall transplant vs spring, etc.) based on what our contractor is able to source. He assigns the species based on site conditions, potential infrastructure conflicts, and with a focus on increasing species diversity and native species in the area.

If a resident wants to request a specific species be planted, he provides them a pared down version of the list and discusses their top 2-3 options until a decision can be made that works well both for their wishes and for the planting site.

Commissioner Williams would like to know what the purpose of including non-native species on this list is.

2. Coming Soon – Community Development Block Grant (Nov 13th)

Ms. Oppermann let the Commission know that the Community Development Block Grant decision has been formally planned for the upcoming November 13th meeting. Assistant Finance Director, Sabrina Lilla, will provide a memo ahead of the meeting and be present for the discussion.

Roundtable Discussion:

Commissioner Kumar stated his idea for monthly social media posts to give residents tips about how to beautify their property and the city in general. He thinks that by doing so we can inspire residents as well as helping to keep the Commission visible and in mind.

The other Commissioners thought this was a good idea and plan to come up with posts in advance, to be started in the new 2025 year.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 6:31 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 11/13, 12/11