

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

Call to Order: 6:06 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 – November 8, 2023: Moved: Williams, Seconded: Lach, Approved 4:0

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

New Business:

Chairperson Lang inquired on the status of new commissioners, Staff Liaison Oppermann relayed that the City Clerk had not received any applicants for January but that the openings would be readvertised, and interviews held once more in February.

Old Business

2024 Programs/Projects

- **Bee City USA**

The Commissioners approved the draft resolution and requested it be submitted to Bee City USA by the end of the week (1/12), once approved the Commission plans to then send the resolution for consideration by City Council.

The Commission also discussed providing information on the City of Novi webpage on "Pollinator-Aware Yard Care", they were impressed by similar information provided by Ann Arbor to their residents. They would also like to create some "bite-size" versions of that information that could be provided as social media posts.

Chairperson Lang noted her concern about the number of Bradford Pear trees (also known as Callery pears) present on City Properties and inquired if an official count could be performed and considered for removal/replacement. While once popular as a landscape tree for its attractive white spring blossoms the Bradford Pear is now recognized as an invasive species. She also recommended that the Beautification make an advisory against using Bradford Pears in landscaping to residents as it is still often found at garden centers.

Other ideas were to work with the Novi Public Library on a Native Plants display and having a spring social media post promoting the planting of native plants and where to purchase them.

- **City of Novi Beautification Awards**
The Commission determined it was not interested in pursuing putting on a “City of Novi Beautification Awards” event and requested that the matter be removed from any future agendas.
- **Seasonal Social Media Beautification Events**
The Commission would like to continue to promote general awareness regarding pollinators, native plants, etc. as well as programs that relate to such interests. To this end, they have expressed interest in having a Beautification Commission webpage or social media page (such as Instagram). They would be interested in having a member of the Community Relations team attend a future meeting to discuss strategies for social media presence. They hope such a webpage would help promote interest in the Beautification Commission, leave a positive impression of the City of Novi, and also encourage residents and local businesses to share their own efforts in their yards/property in beautification, landscaping, support of pollinators, etc.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 2/21, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13, 12/11