

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:15 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 – April 12, 2023: Moved: Lach, Seconded: Yu, Approved 4:0

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

Old Business:

- Plant Identification Sign Webpage Content Review
 - The Commission approved the text and design for the Plant Identification Signs as well as the planned Webpage that the QR code on the signs will link to. They asked that the webpage be made public and the signs be fabricated and installed at the nearest opportunity.
- Spring Social Media Promotion
 - The Commission reviewed the statistics on the engagement with the Spring Social Media promotion, they were disappointed to see little interaction but resolved to improve the messaging and better advertise for any similar future projects, with views of having another push for Autumnal or Winter Holiday décor. It was also suggested that prizes of some kind might be considered for a future effort.
 - Chairperson Lang noted the success of the Dearborn City Beautiful Commission and their Dearborn Aglow program as well as “Standards of Excellence” awards.
- Reinvigoration of the Adopt-A-Park-Sign Program
 - The Commission approved the landscape designs and plant lists submitted by City of Novi Landscape Architect Rick Meader as potential ready-made designs for future applicants to the program. The plans are Designed to be easy to install, offer some color for most of the growing season, and not require too much maintenance (although all will require steady watering the first year).
 - The Commission would like to continue to focus on re-invigorating this program as a primary goal and with that in mind intend to work to advertise the program in future City of Novi publications (both print and digital) as well as potentially reaching out to local HOAs, the Chamber of Commerce, etc.

New Business:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Responsibilities
 - The Commission reviewed the overview of the CDBG responsibilities provided to them

by Deputy Finance Director Sabrian Lilla. The responsibilities for this program will now falls to the Beautification Commission following the dissolution of the Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee on March 20, 2023.

- Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation
 - The Commission observed that the Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation, originally installed as a project of the Beautification Commission in 2015, was in need of additional care and weeding and resolved to hold an informal service meeting in July to tend to the garden as well as assess potential future needs/programming for the site.

Roundtable Discussion

- The commission also discussed various future programming ideas such as:
 - Additional educational programs, with focus on native plants, and potentially even foraging and cooking with native plants.
 - Community Garden affiliated programs (such as with Tollgate Farm)
 - The creation of a Novi Beautification Award Program to recognize the efforts of individual residents and businesses with especially well-kept and beautiful properties.
- The Commission would also like to emphasize the current membership vacancies and invite any interested individuals to stop by a meeting.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:12 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 8/9, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8, 12/13