

Beautification Commission Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
6:00 pm
Novi Civic Center
45175 10 Mile Rd.
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: 6:01 pm

Roll Call: Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Christen Pietraz, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Present: Jan Lach, Laura Williams, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Cindy Lang, Christen Pietraz

Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2023: Moved: Williams, Seconded: Yu, Approved 3:0

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Yu, Seconded: Lach, Approved 3:0

New Business:

Bee and Pollinator Focus with Fire Captain (and Beekeeper!) Mark Theisen

Captain Theisen spoke to the Beautification Commission about his activities as a beekeeper and volunteer of the “Bees in the D” organization. He believes Novi has an excellent opportunity in becoming a recognized Bee City and improving our existing garden/park areas with additional pollinator plants and adding beehives strategically through the City. Becoming a Bee City would be an environmentally conscious step for Novi and an excellent education and community relations tool. He also shared information about honeybees, their behavior, jobs, seasons, habitat needs, and how their honey can differ based on their environment and available plants.

Old Business

2024 Programs/Projects

- Bee City USA

The Commission has determined to go forward with the process of becoming a Bee City affiliate. To this end a resolution will be submitted to City Council at an upcoming meeting (presumably December, following the November election). They would like to pursue several projects going forward as part of this goal including: the installation of more pollinator gardens, the installation of bee hives and a “No Mow May” event. They also considered “Bee Here” as a potential slogan for programming related to the process.

Captain Theisen suggested that the 1st hive installation should include at least two hives that include both a brood box and super (honey storage) space. He indicated that the Beautification Commission can assume approximately \$1500 as an initial investment.

Given the presence of the current pollinator garden (the Monarch Waystation) at Fuerst Park it was suggested as a potential first site for hives. Other potential locations include: the rooftops of City-Owned buildings, Villa Barr, City greenspace, and other Parks.

- **Adopt-a-Park-Sign Program**
The Commission suggests that it be noted that native plants are preferred for any Adopt-a-Park-Sign plantings.
- **City of Novi Beautification Awards**
Due to time constraints, the Commission plans to work further on this item of business at future meetings.
- **Seasonal Beautification Events (Autumnal/ Halloween décor, Holiday Lights, Garden of the Week...)**
The Commission requested that responses to the Autumn/Halloween Social Media event be tracked.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 7:06 pm

Upcoming Meetings: 12/13