



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 6:30 pm
Manager's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order – 6:31 pm

Roll Call – Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Present – Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Absent – Nicole Rumao

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Crawford; Seconded: Winter; Approved: 6:0

Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2026

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Crawford; Approved: 6:0

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Review 2026 Project Plan

The Commission reviewed the current project plan and affirmed it in its current format. Commissioner Wick suggested that the Commission use Canva to craft social media posts and said she would draft and send some examples following the meeting.

2. Signage Options for Native Plants/Pollinator Spaces Update

The Commission looked at some different ideas and examples for Community Pollinator/Native Plant/Pesticide free awareness signs. The Ann Arbor "Pollinator Aware Yard Care" yard sign and program sign up, alongside a similar natural landscape registration in Ferndale were noted as standouts that Novi could emulate. The Commission suggested that Staff Liaison Oppermann engage the Community Relations department to assist in designing a similar sign template.

3. Community Impact Day (Wednesday, May 13, 1pm – 4pm)

Staff Liaison Oppermann shared that the Novi Chamber of Commerce was planning a Community Impact Day this coming May and that organizations like the City and its Boards/Commissions would have the opportunity to propose a project that would then be promoted through the Chamber for potential volunteers. The deadline for projects to be submitted is March 31st, 2026 per the Chamber's event listing. The Parks and Recreation Department already plans to submit a park clean-up event for Villa Barr and suggested that the Pollinator Gardens at Fuerst Park, originally installed by the Beautification Commission, could use some care and weeding. It was also suggested that we could consider also using the day to add new plantings. The Commissioners agreed that this would be a good project to submit. Commissioner Wick said that it would be helpful for the existing garden plan to be shared, if available, and that she had some concern that it could be too early to add more plantings on May 13th (this is very dependent on the weather patterns leading to the date). She suggested focusing on cleanup, weeding, and potentially edging as a better focus alongside any other upkeep activities that might be needed in the park. Commissioner Kumar suggested that if it was not yet a good time to add new plantings, or if cleaning and weeding alone would fill the time, the Commission might have their own follow-up volunteer event for planting at a later date. Staff Liaison Oppermann thanked the Commissioners for their input and said she would draft the project proposal for them to review at their next meeting, ahead of submitting it.

4. Arbor Day (Saturday, April 25, 9am - 12pm)

Chairperson Crawford and Commissioner Kumar both stated their intent to be present for the Arbor Day Celebration for a Beautification Commission table, Commissioner Yu will also be present but will primarily be helping to run the event from the PRCS department perspective. Other Commissioners plan to confirm if they will be available for the event at a later date. The commissioners agreed that a similar table setup as the previous year would work well and suggested that, if we are able to have pollinator signs designed and ordered ahead of time it would be great to have those at the table as well. It was also suggested that the option for having a sponsoring business for such signs could be looked into.

Roundtable Discussion

1. City of Novi Beautification Awards

The idea of the City of Novi establishing their own Beautification Awards was briefly discussed, Commissioner Winter noted a few examples in nearby

Communities and that a similar program in Novi would be a worthwhile endeavor.

2. City of Romulus Business Grant

Commissioner Seksaria spoke about a business grant program present in the City of Romulus that assists businesses façade/plantings/etc. He thinks that Novi could consider having a similar grant but that a budget would need to be established for it. He plans to gather more information to share with the Commission at a future meeting.

Public Comment – City of Northville Student Moritz Wildemann introduced himself and spoke briefly about his student-led group Northville4Bees. He was interested to learn more about the Bee City USA designation and what the City of Novi was doing since it became an affiliate.

Adjournment – 7:12 pm

Motion: Winter; Seconded: Wick; Approved: 6:0