



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 6:30 pm
Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:35 pm

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

Present: Gareth Crawford, Nicole Rumao, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Absent Excused: Dinesh Seksaria, Yogesh Kumar

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Winter; Approved 5:0

Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2026

Motion: Crawford; Seconded: Rumao; Approved 5:0

Chair – Gareth Crawford

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Presentation and Discussion with [Plymouth Pollinators](#)

Plymouth Pollinator Founders David and Carly Cirilli introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Beautification Commission. Ms. Cirilli then presented the slides they had prepared (see attached). Following the presentation collaboration opportunities for the City of Novi and Plymouth Pollinators. Their garden certification program could be offered to Novi residents, and the “pollination station” signs they provide (designed by a local SE Michigan artist) could be personalized for Novi to include our City logo. The City could also work with them to create new pollinator gardens on our own property, they sometimes have grant money available that

could potentially cover the plant costs for such a project. The City would need to identify the space for a garden, clear the space as needed, provide a mulch pile and identify a water source to ensure sustained growth over the initial two years so the plants can be established. Some other initiatives to engage with or emulate discussed included Dark Skies International and the "Science on Screen" series at the Penn Theater.

2. Community Impact Day Recap

Staff Liaison Oppermann briefly shared with the Commission about how successful the recent Community Impact Day was for the project the Commission had put forward, the clean-up/weeding of the Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation/Pollinator Garden. Over 20 volunteers were present and were a huge help, completing the work with time to spare. She shared before and after photos of the garden and also put the individual project in the context of the overall Community Impact Day statistics for Novi, as provided by the Chamber of Commerce, who ran the event.

3. CDBG Update

Staff Liaison went over the formal confirmation letter received from Oakland County regarding the City's request for funds to be allocated for the Program Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application cycle. The City had requested a total of \$140,000 to be divided between public services (HAVEN, Novi Youth Assistance, and Hospitality House) at \$21,000 and the City's Minor Home Repair Program at \$119,000. Oakland County ultimately approved the allocation of \$135,450.00, maintaining the \$21,000 requested for Public Services but offering only \$114,450 the City's Minor Home Repair Program.

4. Review 2026 Project Plan

The Commission reviewed the 2026 Project Plan and spend time discussing the proposed promotion of walking paths/trails within the City and potential of hosting a luminary walk in winter.

For the walking path/trail promotion it was decided that staff liaison Oppermann and each Commissioner present would take on a identified path: Villa Barr – T. Yu, Lakeshore Park – G. Crawford, ITC Trail – T. Wick, Rotary Park – M. Winter, M-5 Trail – N. Rumao, Power Park/Fuerst Park – K. Oppermann. They will walk their chosen trail or path and take photos, create a small writeup/review that can then potentially be shared on the City webpage or social media. Attention should be paid to accessibility so that it can be noted in the reviews. It was also suggested that we could

also ask residents to vote for their favorite walking path in the City.

Staff Liaison asked the Commissioners to provide some further ideas for how they envision the luminary event, while understanding the limited budget and that it will be a 1st time event of this type for the Commission. The Parks and Recreation team is able to provide logistical support for the event but would not be able to contribute additional funds, they had also shared with Ms. Oppermann that some past attempts at winter events (Fuerst Festive Nights and the 12 days at Lakeshore Lodge) had limited success due to low attendance. Some suggestions were made such as hosting the event earlier, in late Autumn, potentially tying in with Diwali or to have the event coincide with the Tree Lighting event at Twelve Mile Crossing or the installation of the Holiday Tree on the Civic Center grounds. Consideration was also given to potentially having a tie-in craft event for residents to make luminaries. The Commissioners like the idea of having either a week or weekend long event. Given the time it was decided to further discuss the matter at a future meeting.

Roundtable Discussion

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 8:12 pm

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Rumao; Approved 5:0