



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 6:30 pm
Manager's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

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

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

Late Arrival – Commissioner Rumao arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2025

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

Chair – Gareth Crawford

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

Staff Liaison Oppermann briefly shared that a new Commission, Tracey Wick, be in attendance at the next meeting and that there is currently a plan from the Environmental Sustainability Committee for a new food composting program that may be of interest should it be adopted.

1. Review 2026 Project Plan

Staff Liaison Oppermann noted that at the last meeting it was requested that a review of the project plan be added as a standing item for the Commission and shared the current version with the commissioners for any suggested edits or comments. It was suggested that the Commissioners be informed of when their

suggested social media posts are planned to go out and, when viable, that they receive a preview of what is going out ahead of it going public. This way they can plan ahead for their own responses to the posts. Commissioner Winter asked about the potential of a Beautification Award program, Ms. Oppermann said that they can look at options for a program of that type.

2. Preview Discussion for Entryway Enhancement Grant 2026 Cycle

Ms. Oppermann shared that at this stage one application has been officially received, for Beckenham subdivision, primarily for an overhaul of their existing trees. She has also had communication from a few other subdivisions which may still plan on submitting, such as Carlton Forest.

Roundtable Discussion

1. Signage Options for Native Plants/Pollinator Spaces, etc.

Commissioner Seksaria shared several images of signs in support of pollinators, native plants, pesticide free zones, etc. He suggested that the Commission might look into obtaining similar signs so that they could be provided to residents for free or at a nominal charge. Ms. Oppermann noted that one of the signs show is from the xerces society and while the City received one, as part of their Bee City USA designation, they are fairly expensive to buy individually. She will look into options for free/ready to use graphics for such signs or if the City will need to design their own (and what sort of timeline that might entail). It was also noted that we might need to look into the life cycle of such a sign (IE potential environmental impact), the cost of printing, the option of having a graphic available that residents can print themselves, etc. It was noted that in some communities nearby (Ann Arbor, Ferndale, etc.) similar signs are distributed but with registration of a pollinator or native plant garden by a resident or business, Novi could consider a similar set up. Should such signs be made available it should also be made clear to residents where placing them is permitted under City Ordinance (and that they may need to also confirm what is permitted under their Homeowners Association, which may be more restrictive).

Public Comment - none

Adjournment: 7:09 p.m.