



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

Call to Order: 6:32pm

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

Present – Gareth Crawford, Nicole Rumao, Dinesh Seksaria, Tracy Wick, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2026

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

Chair – Gareth Crawford

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. 2026 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program

The Commission reviewed the applications submitted for the 2026 cycle of the program, as well as comments from staff regarding the applications.

There were a total of 6 applications submitted for the 2026 Program Year and the total monies requested by applicants exceeded the Program budget of \$25,000. It was decided that the four highest ranked projects would be given the full amount requested and the two that tied for lowest ranked, Bradford of Novi and Churchill Crossing, would have the remaining funds divided evenly between them, resulting in the amount of \$3,402.73 being recommended (a lesser amount than their application requests).

Ultimately, the Commission determined to make the following recommendations to City Council:

To recommend approval to award the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant to the following neighborhoods upon successful completion of the entryway work depicted in the application Beckenham (\$5,000), Bradford of Novi (\$3,402.73), Carlton Forest (4,819.54), Churchill Crossing (\$3,402.73), Liberty Park (\$3,375.00), and Willowbrook Farms (\$5,000).

Motion: Winter, Seconded: Rumao; Approved: 6:0

2. Review 2026 Project Plan

As a standing item, the Commission briefly reviewed the current 2026 Project Plan and affirmed it with no changes needed at this time.

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

The Commissioners confirmed who amongst them planned on attending the event to assist with the Beautification Commission table alongside Staff Liaison Oppermann. Commissioner Yu noted that seedling requests/reservations appear to be up this year from the prior.

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

Staff Liaison Oppermann shared the draft submittal for the Community Impact Day project being supported by the Commission, a clean-up of the pollinator gardens at Fuerst Park. The intent would be to have volunteers (estimated 15 – 20, if available) work to pull up the various weeds that had sprung up in the garden since it was last tended. She will be working with Landscape Architect Rick Meader closer to the event to identify the specific target plants and then be present on-site for the event to monitor and inform volunteers, to ensure no natives are pulled up in error since most will not yet be blooming. Most of the materials/tools needed are already on hand as part of the garden volunteer kit and water will be purchased to provide for the volunteers. Ms. Oppermann encouraged the Commissioners to participate in the event if they are interested and able.

Roundtable Discussion

The group briefly discussed the good news from Captain Theisen that our two bee hives at Bosco Park are doing well and agreed that the May meeting would instead

be scheduled as a in-service at Bosco Park for a hive tour, and 1st Anniversary/"Bee-Day" celebration of the hives. Ms. Oppermann noted the preferred date of May 8th and affirmed that she would work with Cpt. Theisen to finalize plans and reach out to the Commissioners once confirmed.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 7:31 pm

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