



BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

June 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

(248) 347-0460

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Gareth Crawford, Yogesh Kumar, Dinesh Seksaria, Mary Angela Winter, Torry Yu

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[May](#) 14, 2025 Minutes

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Election of Commission Chairperson

[Commission](#) Mission Statement

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Social Media

July Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: *People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.*



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, May 14, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:01 p.m.

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

Present – Gareth Crawford, Dinesh Seksaria, Torry Yu

Absent Excused – Yogesh Kumar, Mary Angela Winter

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Crawford; Approved: 3:0

Approval of Minutes – March 12, 2025

Motion: Crawford; Seconded: Yu; Approved: 3:0

Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Election of Commission Chairperson

As only 3/5 of the Commissioners were present for the meeting it was decided to postpone the election of a new Chairperson to a date with more attendance.

2. Addendum to 2025 Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program

Ms. Oppermann explained that this late addition for the 2025 cycle appears before the Commission now because a clerical oversight caused the valid Neighborhood Entryway Matching Grant application from Walden Woods II to be inadvertently omitted from the initial review process. Upon identifying the error, the applicant was contacted and staff proceeded with the normal review process. The grant program is funded at \$25,000 per cycle and for 2025 total amount recommended previously was \$14,316.50. As such, sufficient funds remain to support Walden Woods II's additional request of \$4,325.50, should the Beautification Commission and the City Council choose to support it.

The Commission recognized that Walden Woods II was an older subdivision requesting the grant for the first time. Their entryway has been well maintained but is due for improvements. The Commission was pleased to see that a special effort was being made to remove invasive buckthorn from the area. It was noted that none of the new plants planned as additions to the landscape were native, they hope that the HOA might consider working to add some native specimens either as part of this project or in the future.

Following discussion, the Commission determined to make the following recommendations to City Council:

To recommend approval granting the Neighborhood Entryway Enhancement Matching Grant Program award to Walden Woods II for \$4,325.00.

Motion: Yu, Seconded: Seksaria; Approved 3:0

3. Arbor Day Recap

Commissioner Crawford thought that the event went great, several people came to the table to talk in addition to participating in the sapling giveaway. He did think that it may be worth consideration of an inside space for future events in the event of cold, rainy days like the one we had this year. Commissioner Seksaria agreed and suggested that for future events a flyer or brochure specific to the Beautification Commission could be produced to pass out. He also suggested clearer advertising of our participation at the event, this could also increase the notice of our Bee City USA status and efforts.

4. Bee Hives

Ms. Oppermann shared that a small group of city staff was very excited to participate in the introduction honeybees to their two new hives in the undeveloped "back 30" section of Bosco Fields Park on 5/8. Fire Cpt. Theisen did a marvelous job with the installation and walking everyone present through the process. We hope to see the bees thrive over the coming year and, should the hives prove viable, will consider related public programming. Commissioner Seksaria suggested we could look to other communities as well as the Bee programming at Tollgate Farm as examples.

Roundtable Discussion

1. Social Media – discussion postponed due to absence of Commissioner Kumar who requested the topic.

2. Commission Mission Statement

Commissioner Crawford shared that he brought up the topic of the Mission Statement as the most recent version is nearing 20 years old. Commissioner Seksaria agreed that it has been many years and could be updated for the current Commission. Commissioner Yu agreed that it was worth examining the existing statement and work as a group to

either revise it or retain it if they feel it still applies. Commissioner Crawford stated that he plans to draft an example of a new, possibly more defined, mission statement for the next meeting. The rest of the Commissioners agreed to make their own notes as well and discuss the matter further as an agenda item in June.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 6:37 p.m.

Motion: Yu; Seconded: Crawford; Approved: 3:0

Beautification Commission

Vision Statement

Beautiful Corridors, Neighborhoods, and Business Districts.

Mission Statement

Education, Providing Outreach, and Enhancing Community Involvement

Core Values

Members are welcoming, focused, visionary, and stewards of the environment.

Members are focused on creating partnerships, collaboration, being an information resource, and strengthening community image and sense of place.

Members promote thinking green, health and wellness, and community involvement and education.

DIVISION 2. BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sec. 2-171. Creation.

There is hereby created a beautification advisory commission for the city.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 1.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-172. Composition.

The beautification advisory commission shall be composed of nine (9) electors of the city.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 2.02, 6-6-83; Ord. No. 95-64.02, Pt. I, 5-15-95; Ord. 96-64.03, Pt. I, 2-5-96)

Sec. 2-173. Appointment, terms of members.

The members of the beautification advisory commission shall be appointed by the council. Following the initial appointments, all subsequent commission terms shall be for three (3) years.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 3.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-174. Compensation of members.

The members of the beautification advisory commission shall serve without compensation.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 4.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-175. Chairman.

The beautification advisory commission shall elect its own chairman for a term of one (1) year.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 5.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-176. Appointment of committees.

The beautification advisory commission may set up committees and appoint to such committees, persons not members of the commission. Such appointees, at the time of their appointment, shall be employed by or associated with a firm or business located within the city or shall be electors of the city.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 6.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-177. Meetings.

The beautification advisory commission shall hold at least one (1) regular meeting each month. It shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep records of its resolutions and recommendations, which records shall be a public record.

Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 7.01, 6-6-83)

State law reference(s)—Open meetings act, MCL 15.261 et eg.; freedom of information act, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Sec. 2-178. Staff assistance.

The city manager shall be responsible for providing necessary staff assistance to serve the beautification advisory commission as in his opinion he may deem necessary.

Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 8.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-179. Funding.

Funds may be appropriated for the beautification advisory commission to defray its expenses. Such appropriation shall be made at the discretion of the council.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 9.01, 6-6-83)

Sec. 2-180. Functions.

The beautification advisory commission shall perform the following and/or advise the council concerning any and all of the following matters:

- (1) Consider and propose programs which would improve the physical appearance of the community and implement such programs as may be approved by the council;
- (2) Annually organize and carry out a shortterm campaign to encourage citizen participation in activities designed to beautify the city;
- (3) Consider and advise the council on such other matters as may be referred to the commission by the council.

(Ord. No. 83-64.01, § 10.01, 6-6-83)

Secs. 2-181—2-190. Reserved.