

**Beautification Commission Minutes**  
**Monday, December 13, 2021**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Novi Civic Center**  
**45175 10 Mile Rd.**  
**Council Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** 6:30 pm

**Roll Call:** Vinit Gupta, Jan Lach, Cindy Lang, Courtney Opalko, Laura Williams

**Excused:** Shaun Page, Christen Pietraz, Celia Todd,

**Approval of Minutes:** Moved: Williams, Seconded:Opalko

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved: Williams, Seconded:Opalko

**Old Business:**

- *Municipal Gardens*  
PRCS Deputy Director Tracie Ringle stated that she was present to answer questions about gardening at Villa Barr. The strategic plan 2020-2021 is to continue to enhance the landscaping, especially in the old garden area at the site. The predominant work year was the intensive work of clearing overgrowth for which a private company was hired. Additionally a part-time gardener was hired for the location and could potentially function to work hand-in hand with prospective volunteer groups such as Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Adopt-a-Park, and Adopt-a-Garden. The site has limited irrigation and watering capabilities so plants selected should be native and drought tolerant. The possibility of another butterfly garden or moving the existing butterfly garden at Fuerst Park to the Villa Barr location was also discussed.
- *Adopt a Sign Program*  
This program is intended for park entryway signs. Commission members asked that they be kept apprised of interest from social media promotion efforts and that the program should continue to be promoted. Ms. Ringle indicated the potential to work with the business community for this program.
- *Entryway Grant*  
January 2022 is the deadline for new applications, in March the commission will start the review and selection process.
- *Community Educational Programs*  
Ideas for potential programs to implement include:
  - Working together with the historical commission to have a program on historical native plants, potentially overlapping with indigenous/native American culture.
  - A program on Foodscaping that would introduce the idea of incorporating edible plants into landscaping. Chairperson Lang has a contact who has written a book on the topic and may be able to be hired to assist with such a program. The commission also considered have a small test plot/pocket garden on city property as an example such as by the Civic Center or Library. Irrigation plans for the buildings would need to be provided and reviewed to see if such a garden would be viable.The Commission would like to create an idea board with a digital spreadsheet at their

next meeting as they continue to discuss potential program ideas and implementation.

**New Business:**

- Mission/Scope of the Commission

**Public Comment:** none

**Adjournment:** 7:24 pm: Moved: Opalko, Seconded: Lach

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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