



CITY OF NOVI
Beautification Commission
Wednesday, June 11, 2025 6:00 pm
Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road

Call to Order: 6:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Winter; Seconded: Kumar; Approved: 4:0

Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2025

Motion: Crawford; Seconded: Kumar; Approved: 4:0

Chair – Vacant

Secretary – Torry Yu

City Liaison – Kate Oppermann

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Election of Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Crawford expressed his interest in becoming the new Chairperson of the Beautification Commission. The Other Commissioners were all in support.

Motion to approve the appointment of Commissioner Crawford to be Beautification Commission chairperson

Motion: Winter; Seconded: Kumar; Approved 4:0

2. Commission Mission Statement

Newly elected Chair Crawford started by stating that the previous Commission Mission Statement has not been updated since 2008, a period of almost 20 years. While there is nothing objectively wrong with the existing statement, he'd like the Commission to examine it to determine if it should be updated to better match the current Commission and their focus. Commissioner Seksaria said he had also read the original statement and thinks it should be updated to better

match the Commission's directive from the City. It could be made to be briefer and clearer, which would also make it easier to follow. Commission Kumar also agreed that the current 2008 statement is a bit broad and non-specific to the Beautification Commission, it should provide a clear guideline with a view towards the next 20 years. Commissioner Winter said that she agreed with everything that had been said so far and also noted that, from her stance as a longtime English teacher, it needs rewriting. Commissioner Seksaria suggested using verbiage that more closely relates to the Novi Code of Ordinances section pertaining to the Beautification Advisory Commission.

Suggestions for content of the mission included improving the physical appearance of the City, as well as potentially noting environmental concerns such as supporting pollinators. Commissioner Sekasaria suggested that in addition to a new Mission Statement the Commission could consider creating a plan document with ideas for programming and other matters, this could also help to potentially guide future Commissioners. Commissioner Kumar expressed that he thinks the group could do more to bring citizens in and empower them in individual beautification efforts. Commissioner Seksaria agreed and noted that once the Commission starts doing more things visible to the population it could encourage people to become more involved or even join themselves.

The Commission decided that each Commissioner would present their own idea for a Mission Statement at the next meeting, from those ideas could then be refined into a singular, final statement. Once that is completed they would like to work on an action plan, ideally bringing in input from the larger city population, in various increments (3-month, 6-month, 1-year, etc.). It was also suggested that, as accessory to the action plan, an event or volunteer Calander could be created.

Roundtable Discussion

1. Social Media

The Commission determined to delay the evolution of their social media and promotion plan following the finalization of the new Mission Statement.

2. July Meeting (Originally planned for 7/9)

As Staff Liaison Oppermann will be out of office during the originally planned July 9th meeting it was determined to reconvene instead on Wednesday, July 23rd.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment: 7:06 p.m.

Motion: Seksaria; Seconded: Crawford; Approved 4:0

Upcoming Meetings – 8/13, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10

Upcoming Events – Perennial Exchange (Saturday, September 20th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)