

MEETING MINUTES
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
JUNE 17, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COMMUNITY ROOM
31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI

CALL TO ORDER BY: Chairperson Kailee Sosnowski at 6:01 PM in the City Hall Community Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kailee Sosnowski, Kathie Brown, Robert Levine, Michael Harris.

MEMBERS ABSENT: JoAnn Rowland, Alex Clar.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracey Emmanuel, Staff Liaison.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCE GUESTS

Guests Shyam Kambalapally and his son Srijan Kambalapally

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Harris, second by Levine to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried: 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Levine, second by Brown to approve the minutes of May 20, 2025 as submitted. Motion carried: 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Levine sent thank you notes to the BCSEM speakers; BCSEM Summer Newsletter; James Geisling to be appointed to the Commission at the 06/23/25 City Council meeting; Commissioner Jawahar Babu resigned his position effective 05/21/25; Levine will reach out to another possible applicant who has shown interest in joining.

REVIEW OF CALENDAR

The Commissioners reviewed the calendar.

OLD BUSINESS ITEM

A. BCSEM June 12, 2025 Quarterly Meeting Results

1. Brown noted there were 55 attendees. City Manager Gary Mekjian provided the welcome, and presentations were made by Ashley Smith and April Heier. \$487 was raised through the 50/50 raffle. Two winners received \$127 each with the remaining \$232 going to BCSEM to help upcoming hosts with meeting expenses.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. BC Awards 2025 - Planning

1. Award Signs -Price comparison with different sign shapes: rectangular - \$17.13 , round - \$21.06. A reminder that round signs have always been provided, so the rectangular may not be well received. Commission will decide which to use at the July meeting.
2. This Year's Flower Selection– Purple Cone Flower with Painted Lady Butterfly
3. Levine suggested that the Commission use the BC Awards as a “public art display” by having a contest where members of the community submit flower choices with the winner being used for the sign and perhaps have multiple winners and display the art at locations like the Hawk or City Hall.

B. Commissioner Goals

1. Sosnowski asked each commissioner to share their goals for the Commission going forward.
 - a. Brown would like to do a project with the schools.
 - b. Harris would like to create a community group to pick an area in Farmington Hills and work to remove invasive species.
 - c. Levine suggested:
 - Creating children's beauty gardens, by non-professional designers, in a subdivision common area, school or Heritage Park.
 - Work on projects with other FH commissions, like food banks or Grand River Corridor Business Society.
 - Develop measures to decide which project we should do.
 - Work through City Council with city development.
 - Use native plants and turf lawn?
 - d. Sosnowski suggested:
 - Collaboration with other city commissions, boards and the community.
 - Create a Public Outreach Committee is part of the Beautification Commission.
 - Tree City USA accreditation and also the National Audubon Society for accreditation as Bird City USA.
 - Partner with Parks and Rec. Plant a tree and/or native pollinator garden which could be maintained by PTA or scout groups.
 - Work with HOA to not mow their lawn until after the lawn flowers have been pollinated.
 - Place boxes in the libraries and in City Hall and do a form on the city website to collect ideas for things we could do to beautify our city.
 - Sosnowski thanked the commissioners for their ideas and will compile into a list to discuss later in the year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kambalapally said the commissioners had good discussions and they appreciate all the work they do for the community. He noted that he and his family have participated in the Litter Walk.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 15, 2025

MEETING ADJOURNED BY: Chair Sosnowski at 7:10PM

Submitted by Kathie Brown, Secretary