



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

Venue 1842 at the Historical Park  
2540 Farmers Branch Ln  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

### Historical Preservation & Restoration Board

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Thursday, April 23, 2026

6:30 PM

Venue 1842

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<b>Absent</b>	1 – Alternate Helena Fregia
<b>Presiding</b>	1 – Ginny Welch
<b>Present</b>	6 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Missy Dours, Vice Chair Christian Martinez, Member Sharon Montgomery, Member Teresa L. Webster and Alternate Pat Steed
<b>Staff</b>	3 – Robert Diaz, Parks and Recreation Director, Maria Minter, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, and Kim Jolly Chapman, Parks Coordinator

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginny Welch at 6:30 PM.

#### **B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Board or Committee on any matter that is not posted on the agenda. Anyone wishing to address the Board or Committee should complete a Citizen Comments Registration Form and submit it to the Board Liaison or Board Chair prior to the start of the meeting. There is a three (3) minute time limit for each citizen to speak with a reasonable limitation on speakers on one topic or item with a maximum of fifteen total minutes on the same topic item. Anyone wishing to speak shall be courteous and cordial.

The Board or Committee is not permitted to take action on any subject raised by a speaker during Citizen Comments. However, the Chair may have the item placed on a future agenda for action; refer the item to the City Administration for further study or action; briefly state existing City policy; or provide a brief statement of factual information in response to the inquiry.

There were no citizen comments.

#### **C. AGENDA ITEMS**

**26-256 Consider approval of the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes; and take appropriate action.**

Vice Chair Christian Martinez moved the minutes of the March 26, 2026, Board minutes be approved with the following change to Item 26-214, Receive an update from Board members on parks, programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch, Teresa L. Webster also attended the City Council meeting on February 17, 2026 for the presentation of the Witness to History Awards. Member Sharon Montgomery seconded. Motion carried by the following vote:

**Absent** 1 – Alternate Helena Fregia

**Aye** 6 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Missy Dours, Vice Christian Martinez, Member Sharon Montgomery, Member Teresa L. Webster and Alternate Pat Steed

**26-257 Discuss Historical Park and Venue 1842 Operations.**

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz provided an update on current Historical Park and Venue 1842 operations. Robert introduced Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, Maria Minter. Maria will oversee the Historical Preservation and Restoration Board and the Arts & Culture Committee. Robert and Recreation Superintendent, Jessica Alvarado will be attending the Historical Board meetings occasionally, but the primary staff in attendance will be Maria and Parks Coordinator, Kim Jolly Chapman.

The Administrative Assistant for the Historical Park/Venue 1842 is currently open with applications being accepted.

Robert said the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the contract Venue 1842 consultant position was released with no response. The management company is assisting with repackaging and advertising.

As updates on direction for the Historical Park and Venue 1842 become available staff will pass those on to the Board.

Robert mentioned the city is in budget season, planning on similar operations for next fiscal year.

The Community Events team is still overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Historical Park and Venue 1842 with Jessica and Maria managing the oversight.

Member Teresa L. Webster asked about the Log Culture Area and if funds were included in the upcoming budget. Robert said not that he had heard of, but the budget is in the early stages, and the City Council is aware of the cost. Teresa asked what could be done to move the project along. Member Missy Dours stated she had asked in the past and was directed to contact her City Council representative.

Member Samaria Cate asked if the Historical Park Camps aligning with the Recreation Center's Camps was continuing. Robert said it was. Samaria asked about the plan for camps moving forward and if Girl Scout workshops would still be taking place? Maria will follow up with Samaria.

**26-258 Discuss Docent program at the Historical Park.**

A copy of the Docent and Stewards Manual was included in the March Board packet. Member Teresa L. Webster brought and left her edits with Parks Coordinator, Kim Jolly Chapman. Kim will compile the edits and bring them to a future Board meeting.

School tours are currently happening and volunteers are needed. Museum Educator, Lauren Prengler would be happy to train anyone interested.

**26-259 Receive Sub-Committee updates.**

The Historical Park Board has three established sub-committees:

- Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery – keep  
Chair Ginny Welch will serve.  
Responsible for coordinating flags being placed on veterans' graves for Independence Day and Veterans Day.  
Responsible for coordinating the cemetery's participation in Wreaths Across America.

Chair Ginny Welch asked for dates for the responsibilities above.

- Fundraising

Replace with Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park.

- STEPS

Board members asked what is the goal of STEPS? Member Missy Dours advised Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, Maria Minter that she might want to investigate the program before the Board decides on the fate of the sub-committee.

The Board liked the idea of establishing a Docent sub-committee.

Chair Ginny Welch attended the events sub-committee meeting after the Gateway to the Globe event.

**26-261 Receive an update from Board members on parks, programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch.**

Chair Ginny Welch, Member Samaria Cate, and Member Missy Dours attended the Gateway to the Globe event on March 28, 2026.

Member Sharon Montgomery attended *The Producers* at The Firehouse Theatre.

**26-262 Discuss agenda items for future Historical Park and Restoration Board meetings.**

Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park – invite to an upcoming meeting for new Board members.

Member Samaria Cate would like to discuss the Marsh Family Cemetery.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ginny Welch adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

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Chair

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Secretary