



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Fire Station #2
13333 Alpha Link
Farmers Branch, TX, 75244

Sustainability Committee

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

6:30 PM

Fire Station #2

Meeting held at 6:30 PM

Presiding: Joseph Riegel (Chairperson)

Present: Loren Rives (Vice Chair)
Price Trosin (Secretary)
Shelby Anders
Val Clark
Suzette Vaquera
Al Mahesh
Ted Spradley
Lisa Massey

Absent:

Staff: Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Joseph Riegel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS No Citizen Comments

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Receive a presentation from Ally's Director of Workplace Sustainability

Eoin Fitzgerald, Ally Financial's Director of Workplace Sustainability provided a presentation of corporate sustainability initiatives at their office in Lewisville. The construction is targeting LEED certification and has incorporated many environmentally friendly attributes. The installation of new HVAC units are 25% more energy efficient and require less maintenance. The parking lot will also feature EV chargers and 1.25 MW of solar panels which provide shade protection for 300 parking spots.

Eoin also went into detail about the centralized trash and composting pilot at the Charlotte, NC headquarters. The headquarters removed individual trash cans and placed central receptacles with trash, compost, and recycling bins. As a result, the diversion from the landfill increased and they reduced the number of plastic trash bags used.

C.2 Consider approving minutes for the May 8, 2024 meeting; and take appropriate action

Shelby Anders made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Loren Rives. All in favor. Motion carried.

C.3 Receive a staff update on sustainability initiatives

- Farmers Branch was accepted into the Texas Accelerator program for the LEED for Cities certification program
- Staff are finalizing the quote with the contractor for the LED light retrofit at the recreation center parking lot. This is a grant funded project.
- The city's use of funding for the Department of Energy's EECBG grants was approved. The city will use these funds for the purchase of two electric vehicles.
- Staff are working on the SolSmart Designation, which aims to reduce barriers to adopting solar.
- Parks department staff are looking into grow zones and pollinator areas. Staff met with the City of Plano to identify best practices.
- Water Rebates – 88 toilet rebates and 5 irrigation check-up applications have been approved since the program has launched.
- Next meeting July 10, 2024
- Thank you to Joseph Riegel and Shelby Anders for their service to the committee

C.4 Elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary for period of July 2024 through June 2025

- Loren Rives was the sole nomination for chair; Unanimous vote to elect
- Price Trosin was the sole nomination for vice-chair; Unanimous vote to elect
- Ted Spradley was the sole nomination for secretary; Unanimous vote to elect

C.5 Receive an update on the compost education event

At the request of the Built & Natural Environment subcommittee staff has been working to plan a composting education event. The event is scheduled for September 14th and will feature a hands-on and classroom portion. Members of the committee discussed goals for the workshop and the promotion of the food waste drop-off at the Citizen's Collection Center. It was recommended to host the classroom portion at Dallas College-Brookhaven.

C.6 Receive an update on outreach at Denton Drive Live events

Lisa Massey provided an update on the tabling at the May Denton Drive Live event. The table was well visited by residents and the giveaways were enjoyed. She mentioned that having a bilingual staffer would help reach additional residents. Lisa is planning on hosting a table at the July 13th event.

C.7 Receive subcommittee updates

- **Built and Natural Environment**
- **Communications**
- **Water Conservation**

Built and Natural Environment

- Compost Workshop

Communications

- Table at Denton Drive Live for outreach; May 11

Water Conservation

- Waiting on water meters and irrigation audits

C.8 Receive an update from Committee members on activities attended

- Loren Rives visited Trinity River Audubon Center
- Shelby Anders attended garden center event
- Joseph Reigel attended HOA meeting and attendees expressed interest in irrigation audit

C.7 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

The following agenda items were recommended for future discussions.

- Review of subcommittees and their alignment with new members.
- Potential of adding a tree rebate program.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Al Mahesh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Suzette Vaquera. All were in favor. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Chair

Secretary