

Meeting Held at 6:30 p.m.

PRESIDING: David Jones

PRESENT: Barbara Leedy
Jennifer Nelson-Smith
Adriane Young
Jan Wooldridge
Margaret Young, Emeritus

ABSENT: Stephen Stremel

STAFF: Robert Diaz, Director, Parks & Recreation
Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent
Mark Moffeit, Parks Superintendent
Ashley Muñoz, Recreation Manager
Jocelyn Avina, Community Events Manager

GUESTS: None Present

A. CALL TO ORDER

David Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 17, 2025 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Adriane made a motion to approve the April 17, 2025, minutes, with the following changes:

B Remove the extra “spill” in the last bullet.

C.2 Add the following to the beginning of the section: “Barbara Leedy said Urbano Olivas has been responsive and open to considering ideas and letting her know when it’s not a good idea. She challenges the Department of Parks and Recreation to do what they can to retain Urbano Olivas.”

C.2 In the 8th bullet – remove the extra comma after City Manager.

C.6 Replace the first bullet with: “Jennifer Nelson-Smith attended Gateway to the Globe. It was a great event, well attended. Enjoyed the food she ate.”

Jan Wooldridge seconded.

Motion carried.

C.2 UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY GARDEN.

- David Jones provided updates from his conversation with District 5 Council Person Roger Neal:
 - Feared moving the garden sounded expensive.
 - Did not feel removing the \$30,000 budget line item for the Community Garden was material.

- Did not feel the City was pushing the Community Garden to become a 501(c)(3) (non profit).
 - Asked what the members of the community garden want.
- David Jones made assignments for board members to reach out to additional council members about the Community Garden.
- Jan Wooldridge said between Manske and Fire Department it is an uphill climb which the gardeners could not do. It is flat where it is now.
- Discussed Funding
 - Robert Diaz said we're going into budgeting with direction to maintain the budget. May need an updated agreement with the church.
 - Jan Wooldridge asked if there could be information on how much the community garden being moved to another location would cost.
- Barbara Leedy provided an update:
 - The gardeners would like to remain where they are.
 - Elizabeth Villafranca will be coming to the next community workday.
 - Yesterday there was an unhinged person in the garden around 4/4:30 p.m.
 - Group discussion on needing citizens to call the police in situations like this.
 - Safety update – there is a sign up now with the physical address.
- Mark Moffiet said safety is another reason looking at moving the garden.

C.3 UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY EVENTS SUBCOMMITTEE.

- Jennifer Nelson-Smith provided an update.
 - Event Subcommittee members turned in homework which discussed events they'd like to see in Farmers Branch, what they would take to implement, safety considerations, and which events they'd remove to add new events.
 - Next meeting is June 5, 2025.
 - Discussed creating a proposal and budget for smaller, lower cost pop up events at different parks which featured music and food trucks at the next meeting.
 - Adriane Young will attend in Jennifer Nelson-Smith and Stephen Stremel's place for the June meeting.

C.4 DISCUSS 2ND QUARTERLY REPORT UPDATES:

A. RECREATION CENTER & ATHLETICS;

B. AQUATICS CENTER; AND

C. COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Recreation Center & Athletics quarterly update provided by Ashley Muñoz.
 - Events and Miscellaneous went up 30% due to kids night out events.
 - 202 kids in Summer Funshine.
 - Parent orientation for the first time this year.
 - David Jones commended the Recreation Center on their great rating.
- Aquatics Center quarterly update provided by Jessica Alvarado.
 - Paul Macias worked to get the aquatics center setup for the summer early and will be out on paternity leave for the summer. Jessica Alvarado will be point of contact until he returns.
 - Membership sales rose 2%.
 - Total Revenue up 4% year over year.
 - New pumps in lap and therapy pools. Virigina Gram Baker compliant covers were installed.
 - Smaller facility with a majority of members providing feedback and receiving a high rating.
 - Haylee Hamilton and Cassie Wilder have been working hard to implement new programs.

- David Jones thought the babysitting training sounded interesting.
- Robert Diaz said replastering the indoor pool will be in September causing it to be shutdown for about a month. Taking to Council to approve this bigger ticket item.
- Community Events quarterly update provided by Jocelyn Avina.
 - Deep into planning 2025 events: Gateway to the Globe, Fishin' Fun, Independence Day, Halloween in the Park, and Christmas Carnival.
 - Working to not schedule over other Farmers Branch events.
 - Gateway to the Globe subcommittee met frequently.
 - Gateway to the Globe - 4000 attendees. Did not extend the budget.
 - Began the new Events Subcommittee.

C.5 RECEIVE RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE.

- Jessica Alvarado provided an update.
 - CFBISD Community Partners meeting - she and her team attended. Sold opportunities for Farmers Branch to get involved with school events.
 - Opportunity to prepare graduation boxes for Mary Grimes kids.
 - Meetings scheduled with Principals at Elementary Schools to see how we can get involved on a quarterly basis.
 - NRPA Month activities – June 1 Branch newsletter, a whole list of events for NRPA month.
 - Independence Day event volunteer sign-up sheet provided to the board (welcome gate x2, activity coordinator, food and beverage attendant – monitoring the lines).
 - Jennifer Nelson-Smith asked if there will be volunteer opportunities for the NRPA month and Jessica Alvarado said there would be.

C.6 RECEIVE PARKS DIVISION AND PROJECT UPDATES.

- Mark Moffeit provided an update on Parks Division and Project Updates.
 - Mercer Park – tomorrow 30 trees being planted, then grass in a couple weeks. Taking design of the park to council in a month.
 - Transform Squire Park
 - June 25th at 6 p.m. at Squire Park, meeting with residents in the neighborhood, food, survey, get more feedback. April 30th event was rained out.
 - Robert Diaz said June 5 from 5-7 at Vivian Field will have outreach. Sent postcards with the survey and meeting dates (in person and virtual). 100 surveys back so far.
 - Surveys went out to Junior HS.
 - Creek Ridge Park
 - Property the City has had a long time with no access and no way to build parking.
 - Looking at Creek Ridge to do something like Holiday Park with the wildflowers which has received a lot of compliments.
 - Trying to mitigate pollutants to streams. Looking at native grasses.
 - Behind the houses, going to maintenance to provide a buffer before getting to higher vegetation.
 - Working with sustainability to save our water from getting pollutants.
 - David Jones commented that what Mark Moffeit is describing sounds good to rewild with maintenance.
 - Rawhide Creek - Looking to try sustainability measures to help the erosion.

C.7 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.

- Branch Connection Walk Through - David Jones thought the reconstruction was well done.

- Upcoming Event – Friends of the Historic Park are Helping with Coffee with Cops - Adriane Young will be there from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- David Jones attended the ceremony for Bob Stewart’s passing and expressed appreciation to Robert Diaz for letting the board know.
- Barney Wood Dog Park - Jennifer Nelson-Smith noted a higher volume of dog owners bringing their dogs in on leash and it’s causing some leash aggression in the park

C.8 DISCUSS POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

- Event Subcommittee.
- Community Garden.
- Volunteer Sign-up Opportunities.
- Robert Diaz said all boards are continuing for the next 5 years and Council is finalizing new board members soon.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Jan Wooldridge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Barbara Leedy. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Note: A full video of the meeting is available on the YouTube FBTV channel.