



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

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

Historical Preservation & Restoration Board

Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:30 PM

Venue 1842

Absent	1 – Vice Chair Christian Martinez
Presiding	1 – Ginny Welch
Present	6 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Melissa Dours, Alternate Helena Fregia, Member Sharon Montgomery, Alternate Pat Steed, and Member Teresa L. Webster
Staff	3 – Robert Diaz, Parks and Recreation Director, Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, and Lauren Prenal, Museum Educator

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

26-051 Consider approval of the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes; and take appropriate action.

Member Teresa L. Webster moved the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Board minutes be approved as written. Samaria Cate seconded. Motion carried by the following vote:

Absent 1 – Christian Martinez

Aye 4 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Melissa Dours, Member Sharon Montgomery, and Member Teresa L. Webster

26-052 Discuss Historical Park and Venue 1842 Operations.

Robert Diaz, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on current Historical Park and Venue 1842 operations, and the recent merger with the Community Events Team due to the recent resignation of Historical Park Manager, Hillary Kidd and the retirement of Historical Cultural Specialist, Bonnie Neumann. Community Event Manager, Jocelyn Avina and Events Coordinator, Mollie Martinez were moved over to help with Historical Park and Venue 1842 operations and oversight. Museum Educator, Lauren Prengler and Maintenance Technician, Tony Derrick will remain. Community Events staff will be officed out of the former Museum Store.

The Historical Preservation and Restoration Board will be overseen by Robert with Lauren assisting. Robert will get an updated contact sheet for the Board.

Current staff levels will stay the same at this point, and programming will be looked at to assess what programming can be delivered. Recreation Superintendent, Jessica Alvarado, spoke on transferring Girl Scouts to the Recreation Center.

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

26-053 Discuss status of Log Culture Area.

Past Historical Park Manager, Hillary Kidd, prepared a memo to City Council on an estimated cost to rebuild the structures, with an estimate of \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 with the proposed site being the current Maintenance Shed/storage area.

26-054 Discuss Board Chair strategic meeting

Chair Ginny Welch attended the meeting and did not present, as she presented in December 2025. She enjoyed hearing the other Boards activities and actions.

26-055 Receive Sub-Committee updates.

No update.

26-056 Receive an update on Historical Park current projects, events, and upcoming activities.

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz, reiterated that programming is still being assessed by staff. The Board will be made aware of any changes. The Mad Hatter Tea will go on as planned.

26-057 Receive an update from Board members on parks, programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch.

Chair Ginny Welch and Board Member Teresa L. Webster attended Wreaths Across America held at the Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery on December 13, 2025. Chair Ginny Welch and Board Member Samaria Cate attended the Christmas Teas at Venue 1842.

26-058 Discuss agenda items for future Historical Park and Restoration Board meetings.

Board Member Teresa Webster requested an update on the Docent program, a listing of all past Witness to History Award recipients, and an update on Wreaths Across America.

Board Member Samaria Cate requested an update on the STEPS program and a Quarterly Report.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ginny Welch adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Chair

Secretary