



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Parks & Recreation Board

Farmers Branch  
Community Recreation Center  
14050 Heartside  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Thursday, April 17, 2025

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

#### Meeting held at 6:30 PM

**PRESIDING:** David Jones

**PRESENT:** Stephen Stremel  
Jennifer Nelson-Smith  
Adriane Young  
Barbara Leedy  
Margaret Young, Emeritus

**ABSENT:** Jan Wooldridge

**STAFF:** Robert Diaz, Director  
Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent  
Tara Bradley, Parks Planner  
Linda Gaucin, Sr. Administrative Assistant

**GUEST:** Price Trosin

#### A. CALL TO ORDER.

David Jones, Chair. called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

#### B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Price Trosin made the following comments to the Board:

- Rewilding/pollinator attractors in certain parks.
- He is on the Sustainability Committee in Farmers Branch.
- He said the City did a great job with seeding at Holiday Park.
- About Creek Ridge Park on Webb Chapel, this park is inaccessible as it is on the east side of Webb Chapel with parking only on local streets. Can this park be re-wilded? Since it is sparsely used, it would be a good place to go. Parks staff wouldn't have to mow, weed, or do regular maintenance to keep the grass low. It is next to spillway, so the deep roots would help erosion.

#### C. AGENDA ITEMS

##### C.1 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 20, 2025 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

Adriane Young made a motion to approve March 20, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Stephen Stremel. Motion carried.

**C.2 DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY GARDEN.**

Barbara Leedy gave the following updates:

- 5 new gardeners; 7 people waiting for the last 5 plots.
- One plot not properly tended. One of the gardeners took over the plot and cleaned it out.
- 41 lbs. of food went to Metrocrest on Wednesday.
- The Master Gardener class is upcoming.
- 7 volunteers coming in next Wednesday morning to work in the Orchard. Bottom 2 feet of the tree may get lime wash to help with pests. Compost and mulching trees in orchard.
- Working with Urbano Olivas, Parks Manager to have a teen group come in once a week in the summer to work/learn about gardening.
- Experimenting in the orchard with watermelon and cantaloupe in raised beds to help keep the soil cooler.
- Councilman Richard Jackson and City Manager, Ben Williamson discussed with the gardeners moving the community garden onto a City site and gave them 3 options: a) Creek Ridge Park, but there is no parking; b) adjacent to the rose garden west there is a little green space, it is small; c) across from the library adjacent to the fire station.
- Stephen Stremel reported that the community garden needs to be moved onto city property to get the city invested long term.
- Barbara feels it might be a good idea to do a 5013(c) because they can fundraise and do things the city may not be able to do.
- Stephen Stremel said he had some brief discussions with his City Councilman. If it's not on city property, it will be difficult to continue funding.
- David Jones recommended that each board member reach out to their council person and try to engage them regarding the Community Garden and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

**C.3 DISCUSS THE BRANCH CONNECTION REOPENING.**

Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, reported that the Park Board is invited for a walk-through of The Branch Connection on May 8, 2025 at 1 pm. The Grand Reopening Event will be June 10, 2025, which will give staff/contractors 3-4 weeks to test equipment and rooms.

Other information includes:

- Classes will remain at the Recreation Center until May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- All programs will be back at TBC on May 12<sup>th</sup> except the dances.
- Slow transition to start the events they didn't bring to the Recreation Center. Clean up the back patio area on the other side of the ballroom to make it an inviting environment when it's nice weather.
- The ballroom looks as good as hotel ballrooms and was the least touched room, with only lighting, paint, and refinished flooring.

**C.4 RECEIVE RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE.**

Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, reported that July is National Park and Recreation Month. It's the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Parks and Recreation Department is going to provide activities to celebrate.

- 2-3 programs at facilities and parks.
- Focus will be on different parks around the city.
- Swag items will be handed out at the parks, and meet/greet the residents at the parks.
- Attend classes with an instructor for a Pop-Up class at a park.
- Chalk in the park, park tours, and playground inspection with families.
- Hoping to get a section in the Branch Review and the newsletter in the water bill, and content on social media.
- There will be a proclamation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting in June to establish July as Parks and Recreation month.

- Staff would like to get the board more involved at our community events such as a Parks & Recreation booth. This can be done in shifts.
- The Recreation Center is starting a relationship with Special Education with CFBISD in the fall. They are going to do a cleanup of the Recreation Center.
- The first events review subcommittee meeting happened in April.

#### **C.5 RECEIVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTAL PROJECT UPDATE.**

Tara Bradley, Parks Planner, gave an update on the following Park Projects:

- Dutch Village
  - Mapped out a canopy, equipment being ordered.
- Mercer Park
  - Installing the trees at Mercer Park (12700 Chartwell Crest).
- Squire Park
  - Public outreach held on 4/30/25 at Squire Park.
  - May 7 will be a virtual meeting for those unable to attend on 4/30.
  - Follow-up meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> to report findings and receive more input.
- The Branch Connection Renovation
  - Opening is May 12, 2025.
  - Renovating with exterior paint, landscape installation.
  - Parks is working on medians throughout the city. Josey Lane will be next for median restoration.
  - Testing the generator.
- Gussie Field Watterworth Park
  - Looking at material section for the new We-Go-Round equipment. Once color is finalized, it will be ordered.

#### **C.6 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.**

- Jennifer Nelson-Smith attended Gateway to the Globe. Food was great.
- Adriane Young loved the passports. The orchestra performed in the Venue.
- Jennifer Nelson-Smith said the subcommittee discussed ideas about setting this event up for a shorter timeframe, and others liked the evening hours.
- Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, said there is discussion about changing the time of the event.
- Adriane Young said she liked the different performing acts.
- David Jones said last year the acts were all on the stage.
- Stephen Stremel said more signage is needed about performances held inside the Venue as many thought the Venue was holding a private event.
- Discussion was held about moving the food trucks inside the park. Jessica reported that if it rains the week of, you cannot have the trucks in the park as the weight of trucks will damage the ground. Lining them up on the brick pathway is currently being discussed.
- Adriane Young reported the signage at Joya is taken care of.

#### **C.7 DISCUSS POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- Citizen comment proposal;
- Community Garden and recommendations from City Council representatives;
- Events Subcommittee.

**D. ADJOURNMENT.**

Stephen Stremel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Adriane Young. The motion carried. The April 17, 2025 meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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

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David Jones, Chair

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Jennifer Nelson-Smith, Secretary