



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Sustainability Committee

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

6:00 PM

Fire Station #2

Meeting held at 6:00 PM

Presiding: Price Trosin, Chairperson

Present: Lisa Massey, Vice-Chair
Ted Spradley, Secretary
Val Clark
Al Mahesh
Loren Rives
Jasper Morse
Essirifi Sackeyfio

Absent: Suzette Vaquera

Staff: Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager
Craig Hahn, Utilities Superintendent
Will Hines, Utility Compliance & Contract Coordinator
Tara Bradley, Planning Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Price Trosin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on April 8, 2026.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Receive a presentation from Public Works on water infrastructure

Will Hines and Craig Hahn with the Public Works department provided a presentation regarding utility replacements and water loss mitigation.

Will Hines informed the committee that since 2022, the City has replaced over 27,000 linear feet of water mains and that there has been a decline in main breaks. From 2024-2025, 48 large meters were replaced. The City has also been transitioning to an iTron automated meter reading software which will allow residents to view usage through an online portal.

Price Trosin offered to assist if the city needed residents to test the portal system.

Al Mahesh asked about tracking water loss, Will Hines responded that the City had around 9.5% water loss per year.

Essirifi Sackeyfio and Ted Spradley asked about notifications to residents for potential leaks when the online portal is set up for residential meters.

C.2 Receive a presentation from the Planning department on proposed amendments to the citywide landscape ordinance

Tara Bradley with the Planning department provided a presentation on proposed amendments to the landscape ordinance. The amendments would update the minimum landscaping requirements, help expand the tree canopy, and increase the use of drought tolerant and native plants.

Loren Rives commented on lighting requirements and the use of dark sky compliant lighting, extending the deadline for plant replacements, and the potential of a sliding scale based on size.

Lisa Massey asked about permeable parking incentives. Price Trosin asked about preservation for old growth trees. Tara Bradley responded that this would likely be addressed if the City chooses to adopt a tree preservation ordinance.

Other comments regarding irrigation and encouraging species diversity were mentioned.

C.3 Consider approving minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting; and take appropriate action

Loren Rives motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Lisa Massey. Motion passed unanimously.

C.4 Consider reapproving minutes from the following meetings: January 11, 2023, February 8, 2023, March 8, 2023, and July 9, 2025: and take appropriate action

Alex Pharmakis informed the committee that while the minutes for the listed meetings had already been approved, the hardcopies had been lost and needed to be reapproved for proper record keeping.

Lisa Massey motioned to approve all minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Loren Rives. Motion passed unanimously.

C.5 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- Alex presented on the City's sustainability efforts to the City Efficiency Leadership Council
- Alex will be tabling at the Branch Connection and Manske Library on Earth Day
- Fishin' Fun will take place on Saturday, April 25. The Committee will host a table at the event.
- The City is hosting a cleanup at Cooks Creek on Saturday, May 9. Committee members are encouraged to participate.
- Committee members with expiring terms were requested to provide notice if they would like to serve another term.
- The Parks and Recreation Board is looking to start a subcommittee regarding Bird City certification.
- The library is offering classes relating to sustainability around Earth Day.
- Water Rebates:
 - 137 toilet replacements approved.
 - 18 irrigation checkup applications approved.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be on May 13.

C.6 Receive subcommittee updates

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

Built and Natural Environment

- Is working on a presentation and will provide that to the committee next month

Water Conservation

- No updates

C.7 Receive an update from Committee members on activities attended

Al Mahesh attended Gateway to the Globe

C.8 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

Lisa Massey mentioned that the City of Denton has a turf buyback rebate program and requested that the city look into adding this to its existing programs.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Al Mahesh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lisa Massey. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Chair

Secretary