



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

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

Sustainability Committee

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

6:00 PM

Fire Station #2

Meeting held at 6:30 PM

Presiding: Price Trosin (Vice-Chair)

Present: Ted Spradley (Secretary)
Al Mahesh
Val Clark
Lisa Massey
Jasper Morse
Suzette Vaquera

Absent: Loren Rives, Chairperson

Staff: Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Price Trosin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm on May 14, 2025.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joseph Riegel provided a comment on the new wildflower plantings at Holiday Park. Mr. Riegel appreciated the work completed by Parks staff and hopes to see future installations around the city.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Consider approving minutes from the April 9, 2025 meeting; and take appropriate action

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

C.2 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- Active Transportation Plan: The Committee will have the opportunity to provide a recommendation later in the meeting. It is planned to go to Council for Study Session on June 3, 2025
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory: The inventory is nearly complete and only needs one more piece of data (water) to finish.
- LEED for Cities: Staff participated in the national cohort onboarding sessions. The city has met all performance prerequisite requirements.
- Lights Out Proclamation: The proclamation was read at the City Council meeting in April. A special thanks for the members who were able to attend.
- Grants: The City has submitted all documentation for the Department of Energy's EECBG grant program and is awaiting reimbursement. Funds were utilized to purchase two electric vehicles for the fleet. Decisions are pending for trail funding and another electric vehicle grant.
- Water Rebates:
 - 114 toilet replacements approved.
 - 14 irrigation checkup applications approved.
- The Solar Switch program is currently accepting signups
- Earth Day: Signs were placed at City Hall and Alex hosted a table at the library to provide outreach for residents.
- Alex attended the North Texas Climate Summit and spoke at a regional EV meeting.
- The City Council met to discuss the Sunset review of committees. The consensus of the group was to continue the Sustainability Committee and will appoint a new member to fill the vacant position in June.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be June 11.

C.3 Consider providing a recommendation to the City Council for the adoption of the Active Transportation Plan; and take appropriate action

The committee discussed the Active Transportation Plan. Al Mahesh asked if funding had already been allocated. Alex Pharmakis responded that funding had not been allocated for all projects listed. Outside sources of funding had been located and existing bond funds are planned to be used for some trail projects that are already underway. Benefits of Active Transportation were discussed. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that destinations were mapped that would be likely for residents to visit without utilizing a vehicle. Safety is also the highest priority from the community input sessions and survey.

Other questions included the timing of traffic signals at Valley View and Redhawk. Price Trosin asked about the timing of the projects. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that the projects are split between short and long-term.

Al Mahesh made a motion to provide a recommendation to the City Council for the adoption of the Active Transportation Plan. The motion was seconded by Val Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

C.4 Consider providing a recommendation to the City Council for the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy; and take appropriate action

Alex Pharmakis provided a review on the benefits of having a Complete Streets Policy in regards to grant funding. He noted that not every street will have all transportation infrastructure installed, it will be based on funding availability and infrastructure feasibility/value.

Multiple members asked questions regarding the Transportation Development Credits that the City has received. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that these were awarded to the City through the North Central Texas Council of Governments because Farmers Branch met criteria such as adopted programs and policies. These policies include adopting a Complete Streets Policy which the City does not currently have. Jasper Morse asked how often these awards are available. Alex Pharmakis responded that they typically are offered every three years.

Val Clark made a motion to provide a recommendation to the City Council for the adoption of the Complete Streets Policy. The motion was seconded by Lisa Massey. Motion passed unanimously.

C.5 Discuss upcoming elections for Committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary

Elections for officers will take place next month. Alex Pharmakis asked the committee to provide nominations for the positions. The current officers were all nominated for their same positions.

Members can nominate themselves or other members for positions up until the elections occur.

C.6 Receive subcommittee updates

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

Built and Natural Environment: No updates

Communications: No updates

Water Conservation: Discussed the roll-out of residential smart water meters. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that he informed Public Works staff that the subcommittee had volunteered to test the system if needed.

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

Loren Rives, Ted Spradley, and Suzette Vaquera attended the Lights Out Proclamation at the City Council meeting.

Price Trosin attended the April Parks and Recreation Board meeting and thanked the group for their wildflower planting at Holiday Park and suggested other locations where similar plantings would be feasible.

Ted Spradley led a trip for Brookhaven Campus students to the Texas Trees Foundation tree nursery at Dallas College – Richland.

C.8 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

No new items.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary