



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Sustainability Committee

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

6:30 PM

Fire Station #2

Meeting held at 6:30 PM

Presiding: Loren Rives, Chairperson

Present: Price Trosin (Vice-Chair)
Al Mahesh
Val Clark
Lisa Massey
Jasper Morse
Suzette Vaquera

Absent: Ted Spradley (Secretary)

Staff: Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER

Loren Rives called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm on April 9, 2025.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Consider approving minutes from the March 12, 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 in May. It is expected to be presented to the City Council in June.
- Lights Out Proclamation: Approval of the proclamation is pending, but members are encouraged to attend the Council Meeting on April 22 for the ceremonial item.
- 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.
- Anti-Idling: The City is increasing its anti-idling messaging for staff to reduce emissions and pollution associated with unnecessary idling. Signs will be put in vehicle lots and all other strategies and messaging have been adopted.
- Water Rebates:
 - 114 toilet replacements approved.
 - 13 irrigation checkup applications approved.
- The Power Switch program's deadline to accept offers was March 26
- The Solar Switch program is currently accepting signups
- For Earth Day, signs will be placed at City Hall and Alex Pharmakis will table at the library to provide outreach for residents.
- Funding has been requested in the next fiscal year to pilot energy efficiency rebates.
- The solar repair has been completed at Manske Library to fix reporting issues.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be May 14.

C.3 Receive an update on the Active Transportation Plan

Alex Pharmakis provided a presentation on the status of the Active Transportation Plan. Alex recapped the process of evaluating existing conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and safety. The presentation included maps for the areas of future focus and included background on the Complete Streets Policy. Alex informed the committee that they will receive the drafted Plan and Policy prior to the next meeting so that members can have adequate time to review.

Al Mahesh asked about road diets and roundabouts. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that neither the plan nor policy mandate lane reductions. The plan does provide roadway volume capacity ratios that can be used to identify areas where road diets would have a minimal impact on vehicle traffic.

Concerns were also stated about pass-through traffic and speeding vehicles, with mention that lane reduction could be used to increase safety. Loren Rives reminded committee members that the Comprehensive Plan contained a lot of information about transportation in the City and requested clarification on transportation demand management that was included in that plan. Jasper Morse asked about incorporating new bike routes on online maps.

C.4 Discuss changing the dates for future Sustainability Committee meetings

Committee members requested a discussion on the potential of changing the time/date for future committee meetings. Alex Pharmakis provided information on the dates and locations for other city board meetings and City holidays. He mentioned that for any change to Sustainability Committee meetings there would need to be consensus from all members.

Members indicated that they did not wish to change the location of the meetings. Members discussed that Tuesdays would not be a good day to meet due to potential City Council conflicts. All members present indicated that moving the meetings up to 6 p.m. on the current date would alleviate scheduling conflicts.

Alex Pharmakis informed the committee that he would get feedback from absent member(s) and confirm room availability before any changes are made.

C.5 Receive subcommittee updates

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

Built and Natural Environment: Loren Rives participated in the Lights Out Bird Survey with Texas Audubon tracking bird strikes to buildings in downtown Dallas.

Communications: Hosted a table at Gateway to the Globe event

Water Conservation: Asked if a preview of the watering metering dashboard would be available for the subcommittee to view.

C.6 Receive an update from Committee members on activities attended

Al Mahesh, Lisa Massey, Loren Rives, and Val Clark attended the Gateway to the Globe event

Al Mahesh attended a seminar offered by Verizon on electric vehicles

Lisa Massey attended the Native Plant Society of Texas meeting

C.7 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

No new items.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Chair

Secretary