



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Sustainability Committee

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

Wednesday, August 13,  
2025

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  
Suzette Vaquera  
Loren Rives  
Jasper Morse  
Essirifi Sackeyfio

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Price Trosin called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm on August 13, 2025.

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments received.

**C. AGENDA ITEMS**

**C.1 Receive a presentation from the Community Services department on city code requirements related to landscaping**

Barry Boyd, Community Services Manager, provided a presentation regarding water-wise landscapes that incorporate native plants to reduce water usage. Mr. Boyd informed the committee that interpretation of the code can often classify water-wise landscaping as weeds, leading to non-compliance. If a warning is issued, a resident can contact the city and notify them that it is an attempt at sustainable landscaping in order to remove the warning or citation. Multiple members of the committee asked if there was a more proactive measure for a resident to inform code enforcement staff about the landscaping prior to a warning or citation being issued. Currently there is not, but Mr. Boyd informed the group that this is something that staff would investigate.

Additional questions were asked about the types of notifications that residents receive for code issues and ways that these communications could open friendly dialogue between the residents and the city. Mr. Boyd informed the committee that they are often form letters and that they are moving away from door hangers.

Regarding rainwater collection, rain barrels must not be visible from the public view. Jasper Morse asked if there was a difference between business and residential code violations. Mr. Boyd responded that they are treated the same under the code, primarily in regard to irrigation onto impervious surfaces.

## **C.2 Consider approving minutes from the July 9, 2025 meeting; and take appropriate action**

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

## **C.3 Discuss fall event participation**

Alex Pharmakis provided the schedule for the upcoming fall events.

### Public Works Events

- Compost 101 Workshop –Saturday, 9/13
- Household Hazardous Waste Recycling – Saturday, 9/27
- Shredding/Electronics Recycling – Saturday, 10/25
- Tree Giveaway – Saturday, 11/8

### Tabling Opportunities

- Haunts and Houses – Thursday, 10/16 (4-6 pm)
- Halloween in the Park – Saturday, 10/25 (5-10 pm)

Committee members expressed interest in tabling the Halloween in the Park event and potentially the Haunts and Houses event. Alex will follow up to confirm availability and provide members with the necessary volunteer forms.

#### C.4 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- The Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy is planned to be presented to the City Council on August 19 during the study session.
- LEED for Cities Certification: Work is ongoing, with goal of completion by end of year. The preliminary application will be submitted in the next few weeks.
- Water Rebates:
  - 117 toilet replacements approved.
  - 14 irrigation checkup applications approved.
- The City Council will host a budget town hall on August 26.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be on September 10.

#### C.5 Receive subcommittee updates

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

Built and Natural Environment: Loren Rives informed the committee that the organization Texan by Nature awarded their certification for the Water Rebate Program. This application was initiated by the subcommittee to help recognize the efforts of the committee.

Communications: Discussed participation for fall events and ideas for engagement activities with residents, potentially a photo contest that highlights sustainability efforts in resident's homes.

Water Conservation: Requested an update on piloting the smart water meter dashboard.

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

Loren Rives mentioned volunteer opportunities at the Metrocrest Services teaching garden.

Lisa Massey visited a store in Dallas that sells recycled art supplies and offers refills for items to reduce single use plastic. Lisa also asked for more information regarding the Saturday drop-off events at Senlac.

Price Trosin hosted a composting lunch & learn at his workplace and attended the Chair meeting at City Hall.

#### C.7 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

Essirifi Sackeyfio mentioned the potential for a new subcommittee relating to sustainable technologies.

#### 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 7:12 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary