



**FARMERS
BRANCH**

City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

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

Sustainability Committee

Wednesday, January 14,
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
Jasper Morse
Suzette Vaquera
Essirifi Sackeyfio

Absent: **Loren Rives**

Staff: **Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager**
Kevin McCoy, Chief of Police
Ray Silva-Reyes, Director of Public Works
Maria Minter, Managing Superintendent
Mark Moffeit, Parks Superintendent
Tara Bradley, Park Planner

A. CALL TO ORDER

Price Trosin called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm on January 14, 2026.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Discuss water utility rates and conservation strategies

Ray Silva-Reyes provided an update on the new water rates, noting that it has been nearly ten years since the rates have increased. The water and sewer bills fund the operations of the water and sewer utilities along with the repairs and improvements to the system. Ray noted that water conservation will be vital as population in North Texas continues to grow. In response to some of the member's questions, Ray mentioned the upcoming 20 year plan for water infrastructure that will be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Alex Pharmakis provided further information regarding the Sustainability Committee's work in providing education and outreach to residents and the status of current water conservation rebate programs.

Al Mahesh mentioned ways to reduce non-revenue water loss and asked about the smart water meter portal to help with leak detection.

Lisa Massey asked about grey water infrastructure and what building code issues that it may have.

Val Clark mentioned the possibility of adding a rebate for xeriscaping or turfgrass removal. Staff mentioned that other cities offer these programs and will research further.

Jasper Morse asked if the City had data specifically regarding usage from existing irrigation meters. Staff will follow up with data.

Ted Spradley asked about the capability to notify residents if they have never had a period of time with zero consumption, likely indicating a leak.

Further questions were asked about backflow prevention from irrigation meters.

C.2 Receive a presentation from the Parks Department on the Median Maintenance Plan

Tara Bradley provided a presentation on the Median Maintenance Plan. The Parks department maintains 55 acres of medians throughout the city.

Mark Moffet provided information regarding the City's plant selection within the medians and noted a number of challenges including resident concern over aesthetics, diversity of species, erosion control, and high temperatures from the surrounding hardscape. He noted that while they attempt to plant drought tolerant species, irrigation is still required and sometimes grasses such as Bermuda need to be used for resiliency and erosion control. He noted that the narrow medians pose a challenge for plants other than grass.

C.3 Consider approving minutes from the December 10, 2025 meeting; and take appropriate action

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

C.4 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- Price Trosin attended the City Council and Board Chair Strategic Planning meeting on Tuesday.
- The State of the City event will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at City Hall.
- The Boards and Commissions Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 21 (6-8 pm) at the Branch Connection
- The City submitted a grant for four EV fast chargers through the Council of Governments.
- Water Rebates:
 - 131 toilet replacements approved.
 - 17 irrigation checkup applications approved.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be on February 11.

C.5 Consider updating subcommittees of the Sustainability Committee; and take appropriate action

Alex Pharmakis provided a summary of what the committee members had previously discussed regarding the subcommittees. Members discussed removing the Communications subcommittee and keeping the Built & Natural Environment and Water Conservation subcommittees. Additional discussion included ideas for composting and food waste diversion. Alex noted that the committee can choose to add or remove subcommittees later if the need arises.

Lisa Massey made a motion to update the subcommittees to the following topics: Built & Natural Environment and Water Conservation. The motion was seconded by Jasper Morse. Motion passed unanimously.

C.6 Receive subcommittee updates

Built and Natural Environment – No updates

Water Conservation – Will work to provide resources now that increased rates will have more people interested in conservation

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

Price Trosin attended the City Council and Board Chair Strategic Planning meeting and provided comments on grow-zones and water conservation.

C.8 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings

Lisa Massey mentioned a company that collects hard to recycle items through the mail and may follow up with the committee.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Price Trosin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Spradley. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Chair

Secretary