



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Farmers Branch
Community Recreation Center
14050 Heartside
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Parks & Recreation Board

Thursday, June 18, 2026

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

Meeting held at 6:30 PM

PRESIDING: Adriane Young

PRESENT: Christy Dimon
Christian Gomez
Deborah Hull
David Jones
Jennifer Nelson-Smith
Stephen Stremel
Jan Wooldridge

ABSENT: Barbara Leedy
Margaret Young, Emeritus

STAFF: Robert Diaz, Director of Parks & Recreation
Maria Minter, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation
Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent
Ashley Waldon, Recreation Facility Manager

A. CALL TO ORDER.

Adriane Young, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

None.

C. AGENDA ITEMS.

C.1 **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 21, 2026 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

A motion was made by David Jones to approve the March 19, 2026 Minutes with the following amendment on Page 2, Item C.6. Bullet Point 7:

- Discussed options of bike valet for future events due to parking issues.

The motion was seconded by Christy Dimon. Motion carried.

C.2 RECEIVE THE 2nd QUARTER REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING DIVISIONS:

- **AQUATICS RECREATION CENTER**
- **EVENTS, HISTORICAL PARK, VENUE 1842 (Q1 & Q2)**

Ashley Waldon, Recreation Facility Manager, summarized the 2nd quarter report on the Aquatics Recreation Center facilities. A complete copy of the report was provided in the agenda packet to the board.

Jocelyn Avina, Community Events Manager, summarized the 1st- and 2nd-quarter reports on Events, The Historical Park, and Venue 1842. A complete copy of these reports was provided to the board in the agenda packet.

C.3 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE BIRD CITY SUBCOMMITTEE.

- Subcommittee is still strategizing;
- Actively seeking participants;
- Reached out to other cities similar to Farmers Branch for do's and don'ts;
- Will meet again this month at 6 pm;
- Reported there are currently 14 cities in Texas that have accomplished becoming a Bird City.

C.4 DISCUSS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS.

Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, reported the following:

- Mom & Sons Dance will be a new program;
- Youth Program wants to do a Social at the Recreation Center with funds already allocated in the budget;
- Robert Diaz, Director of Parks & Recreation, reported that this item was placed on the agenda to keep the board informed and aware of what was presented to City Council regarding events scheduled for the upcoming year;
- Staff is actively involved and supports other programs not on the adopted list of events such as National Night Out and events with the school district;
- Community outreach with the school district includes all Farmers Branch schools located in the CFBISD and our schools that fall under DISD, to include PTA programs that do not conflict with the established list of programs/events.

C.5 RECEIVE THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTAL PROJECT UPDATES.

Robert Diaz, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided an update on the following projects:

- Mercer Park
- Squire Park
- Liberty Plaza
- Rawhide Trail Development (Next Phase)
- Farmers Branch Elementary School Redevelopment Project

MERCER PARK and SQUIRE PARK:

- Both parks are still in design and should be completed by end of summer.
- Tentative schedule includes having bid packages ready by the end of the year to get these two projects moving forward;
- Funding reviews by City Council may affect timelines.

LIBERTY PLAZA:

- Concepts for Liberty Plaza have been pushed back to the July meeting for City Council;
- Robert will update the board at the August meeting regarding the outcome of Liberty Plaza;
- City Council confirmed the new location by the Rose Garden in front of the cemetery off of Valley View;
- Exterior set-up will remain the same as it exists now.

RAWHIDE TRAIL (NEW PHASE):

- The current phase, Phase 3, will widen the existing trail, adding additional sidewalk connections so people parking on the street can get to the playground;
- Add solar lighting;
- Potential tree removal exists, and the goal is to remove as few trees as possible;
- Staff will replace any trees that need to be removed;
- Construction will begin in early July 2026.

FARMERS BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT:

- Robert updated the board on the Farmers Branch Elementary School project and discussed the site plan.

C.6 RECEIVE THE RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE.

- Staff is transitioning Halloween in the Park into an all-day event—Fall Festival;
- No car show this year;
- The Summer Funshine Program had 215 kids enrolled at the start of the program;
- Teen Fire Academy, which is a 1-week camp, successfully concluded and was co-hosted by the FB Fire Department;
- Teen Camp had 22 attendees.

C.7 RECEIVE THE PARKS DIVISION UPDATE.

- Staff has been doing underbrush clean-up at John Burke Nature Preserve and behind City Hall.
- Staff is working on quotes for an additional shading area at the dog park near the water feature.
- Dutch Village Park recently sustained some damage to the playground surfacing due to vandalism. Staff will be coordinating with the playground surfacing vendor on repairs. Staff will also be exploring the addition of cameras in the playground area for added security.

C.8 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.

- David Jones reported that he rode his bike out to the Fitness Park located near the Police Department, and he reported that the park is accessible through the fence. Staff noted that there will be some trail connections made to fitness park, providing better access in the future.
- Adriane Young reported that she assisted the Teen Camp in their clean-up efforts of the headstones at Keenan Cemetery. It was also noted that the teens have volunteered their assistance at the community garden.
- Jennifer Nelson-Smith spent time at the Frog Pond with family and had an awesome time.
- Deborah Hull assisted at the Teen Fire Academy Camp – Ladder Climb Day.
- Stephen Stremel attended the Events Subcommittee meeting and updated the board: July 3 Independence Day Event, noting the theme for the 250th Anniversary, variety of market vendors, and food vendors.
- The Events team does a great job persevering with the heat and large crowds.

C.9 DISCUSS POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.

- No July meeting;
- Park Board Tour on September 19, 2026;
- Work Plans for upcoming year;
- Election of Officers;
- Liberty Plaza;
- Dog Park update (cameras/shade structure);
- Dutch Village update.

D. ADJOURNMENT.

David Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Stephen Stremel. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Note: A full video of the meeting is available on the YouTube FBTV channel.

Adriane Young, Chair

Linda Gaucin, Sr. Administrative
Assistant