



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Senior Advisory Board

The Branch Connection
14055 Dennis Lane
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Thursday, March 13, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Community Recreation Center -
Pecan Room

Meeting was held at 1:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center - Pecan Room.

PRESIDING: Deborah Hull, Chair

**PRESENT: Matt Rice, Vice Chair
Debra Krusehart, Secretary
Christopher McGuire
Mary Creason
Joyce Benoit
Rick Cathey
Deborah Long**

**STAFF: Robert Diaz, Parks and Recreation Director
Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent
Jackie Byles, The Branch Connection Manager
Jennifer Stone, Recreation Assistant Manager
Kevin Branch, Recreation Supervisor**

ABSENT: Tammy Bennett

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deborah Hull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

C.1 Consider approval of Minutes for February 13, 2025, meeting and take appropriate action.

Matt Rice made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Mary Creason seconded the motion, which carried.

C.2 Discuss the Reopening of The Branch Connection.

Robert Diaz, Director, reported the projected opening date is May 12, 2025, which is a Monday. The goal is to get us in the building and work through any kinks before a possible grand opening for June 10, 2025. However, Mayor Terry Lynne wants his Town Hall meeting on May 29, 2025, in the ballroom. Contractors want to be out of the building by the end of April.

City is reviewing “dressing up” the outside of the building with landscape, repainting fire lanes, etc. Jessica Alvarado is going to reach out to Deborah Hull and Matt Rice to help promote the reopening.

C.3 Review Events and Activities.

Viva Fiesta is tomorrow, and we need board members to help set up at 11:00 if possible. Jennifer Stone highlighted some of the food that will be at the Taco Bar. There will be 3 games and a photo booth. The games will be a cake walk, ring toss, and red solo cup challenge. And there will also be a DJ. Hours are 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

The Dance Mixer is next Monday. Core members have continued to stay strong in attendance. When The Branch Connection reopens, the dances will be held every week. Inquiries were made about having a DJ instead of a live band once a month, but it was stated that this had been tried before and was not received well.

Matt Rice mentioned the Cooking Club which had an attendance of about 28 people, which is growing every month. Its theme was St. Patrick’s Day.

Friday Franks will start in May. Jackie is suggesting hosting this on the 3rd Friday of every month, based on all the other activities going on. Friday Franks will happen in May, June, July, and August.

C.4 Receive an Update from the Following appointed subcommittees and take appropriate action:

- Spotlight
- Memorial
- Century
- Social Program Series: July 11, 1 – 3 and Sept 12, 5-8pm
- Veterans Day: Jackie is sending out upcoming meeting information for March 18, 2025. The committee is usually 5 – 6 people. It will be November 11, 2025, at The Branch Connection.
- Renovation: already reviewed

C.5 Discuss agenda items for future Senior Advisory Board members.

None

C.6 Receive the Senior Advisory Board and City Council updated calendar and take appropriate action.

Jackie Byles stated our meetings will continue to be the 2nd Thursday of each month. For December, we will have our standard meeting first and then lunch right after. Robert Diaz wants us to think about postponing the May meeting because of everything that will be going on to get The Branch Connection open for the following Monday or maybe make that meeting a tour of The Branch Connection before it opens.

The Senior Advisory Board will have its Sunset Review in June. On years ending in 0 or 5, all Boards are required to be reviewed by the City Council, which evaluates what each board provides to the community. Our year-end review will be in November or December.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Matt Rice moved to adjourn the meeting. Deborah Long seconded the motion, which carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Deborah Hull, Chair

Debra Krusehart, Secretary