



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Venue 1842 at the Historical Park
2540 Farmers Branch Ln
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Historical Preservation & Restoration Board

Thursday, February 26, 2026

6:30 PM

Venue 1842

Absent	0
Presiding	1 – Ginny Welch
Present	7 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Melissa Dours, Alternate Helena Fregia, Vice Chair Christian Martinez, Member Sharon Montgomery, Alternate Pat Steed, and Member Teresa L. Webster
Staff	3 – Robert Diaz, Parks and Recreation Director, Jessica Alvarado, Recreation Superintendent, and Kim Jolly Chapman, Parks Coordinator
Guest	1 – Patsy Mayo, Board Emeritus

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginny Welch at 6:30 PM.

B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for citizens to address the Board or Committee on any matter that is not posted on the agenda. Anyone wishing to address the Board or Committee should complete a Citizen Comments Registration Form and submit it to the Board Liaison or Board Chair prior to the start of the meeting. There is a three (3) minute time limit for each citizen to speak with a reasonable limitation on speakers on one topic or item with a maximum of fifteen total minutes on the same topic item. Anyone wishing to speak shall be courteous and cordial.

The Board or Committee is not permitted to take action on any subject raised by a speaker during Citizen Comments. However, the Chair may have the item placed on a future agenda for action; refer the item to the City Administration for further study or action; briefly state existing City policy; or provide a brief statement of factual information in response to the inquiry.

There were no citizen comments.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

26-165 Consider approval of the January 22, 2026 meeting minutes; and take appropriate action.

Member Teresa L. Webster moved the minutes of the January 22, 2025, Board minutes be approved as written. Member Missy Dours seconded. Motion carried by the following vote:

Absent 0

Aye 7 – Member Samaria Cate, Member Melissa Dours, Alternate Helena Fregia, Vice Chair Christian Martinez, Member Sharon Montgomery, Alternate Pat Steed, and Member Teresa L. Webster

26-166 Discuss Historical Park and Venue 1842 Operations.

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz provided an update on current Historical Park and Venue 1842 operations, Jocelyn Avina, and Events Coordinator, Mollie Martinez are now officing in the Dodson Garage, what was the Museum Store. Museum Educator, Lauren Prengler is officing on the second floor of the Dodson House. Part-time Event Specialist Kim Guido will also be working 30 hours per week and officing in Venue 1842.

As updates on direction for the Historical Park and Venue 1842 become available Robert will pass those on to the Board.

26-167 Receive an update on Historical Park current projects, events, and upcoming activities.

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz provided an update on Historical Park current projects, events, and upcoming activities. The Branch Arts Live Event will take place on October 25, 2026 and is hosted by the Arts & Culture Committee. Haunts and Houses will be merged into an all-day Fall Festival taking place on October 10, 2026. The festival will begin with a 5K, midday will feature Haunts and Houses esque activities with the Historical Park structures and Docents and the festival will conclude with family-friendly spookier activities in the evening. Day of the Dead Celebration will still take place on October 29, 2026 with its cultural and educational components. Girls Make History Camp is scheduled for the week of July 13, 2026 and will now fall under the Recreation Division's Youth Programs with the help of Museum Educator, Lauren Prengler. The two-day Christmas Teas in December and the Mad Hatter Tea in March will still take place with the support of the Community Recreation Center staff. Girl Scout programming will continue with the Recreation Center staff coordinating with Museum Educator, Lauren Prengler assisting. Staff would like to roll out Boy Scout programming in the future. The Community Events team is in partnership with C-FBISD schools to assist with their Trunk-or-Treat events.

26-168 Discuss status of Log Culture Area.

Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz provided an update on the projected cost of the Log Culture Area. Estimated overall total would be \$971,250. An option to lower the estimated total would be to eliminate the maintenance area, but earthwork would still be needed. The project is not currently in the budget, but City Council is aware of the cost. Member Miss Dours suggested the historic landscaping might make a great project for Eagle Scouts and/or Girl Scout Gold Awards.

26-169 Receive Sub-Committee updates.

The Historical Park Board has three established sub-committees: Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery, Fundraising, and STEPS. Chair Ginny Welch and Member Teresa L. Webster expressed interest in serving on the Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery sub-committee. Recreation Superintendent, Jessica Alvarado mentioned the focus should be on City Council agendas/initiatives.

26-170 Receive the Recreation Division update.

A holiday hours/closure listing and 2026 events calendar was included in the Board packet. The Fall Festival was mentioned in detail under item 26-167. Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Diaz mentioned the 5K route would begin and end at the Historical Park and is being planned with a vendor, AMPT.

Recreation Superintendent, Jessica Alvarado would like more exposure for the Boards. Board members will soon have the opportunity to volunteer in the all Board tent.

26-171 Receive an update from Board members on parks, programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch.

Chair Ginny Welch and Member Teresa L. Webster attended the Gateway to the Globe sub-committee meeting. Chair Ginny Welch and Member Sharon Montgomery attended the Boards and Commissions Banquet. Member Sharon Montgomery has been attending line dancing at The Branch Connection. Member Teresa L. Webster has been attending water aerobics at the Aquatics Center and gave kudos for the renovations.

26-058 Discuss agenda items for future Historical Park and Restoration Board meetings.

Alternate Pat Sneed requested a Docent class.

Member Teresa Webster requested an update on the Docent program, a listing of all past Witness to History Award recipients.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ginny Welch adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Chair

Secretary