



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

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

### Sustainability Committee

---

Wednesday, November 12,  
2025

6:00 PM

Fire Station #2

---

Meeting held at 6:00 PM

**Presiding:** Price Trosin, Chairperson

**Present:** Lisa Massey, Vice-Chair  
Val Clark  
Al Mahesh  
Loren Rives  
Suzette Vaquera  
Essirifi Sackeyfio

**Absent:** Ted Spradley, Secretary  
Jasper Morse

**Staff:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Price Trosin called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm on November 12, 2025.

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments received.

**C. AGENDA ITEMS**

**C.1 Consider approving minutes from the October 8, 2025 meeting; and take appropriate action**

Al Mahesh motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Essirifi Sackeyfio. Motion passed unanimously.

**C.2 Receive an update on sustainability awards received by the City of Farmers Branch**

The City recently received three awards for its sustainability efforts.

Two awards were given by the nonprofit Texan by Nature. The TxN 20 award recognizes the best work in conservation coming from Texas based businesses. They evaluated over 2,000 organizations through public sources and selected the top 20 best businesses committed to conservation. Texan by Nature also awarded project certification to the City's Water Conservation Rebate Program. The rebate program was a recommendation of the Sustainability Committee and saves approximately 980,000 gallons of water annually.

The City also received the SolSmart Bronze Designation from the Department of Energy. This award recognizes the city's commitment to solar energy and removing obstacles to growth of solar.

### **C.3 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives**

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- Thanked the volunteers who assisted at the Tree Giveaway and Haunts & Houses events
- Price Trosin provided the Committee's annual update to the City Council.
- The Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy were adopted by City Council on November 4.
- The City submitted a grant for four EV fast chargers through the Council of Governments.
- The Tree Giveaway event was held on November 8.
- Alex Pharmakis attended the Texan by Nature summit in Dallas.
- The final application for LEED for Cities was submitted today.
- Solar and EV ready were listed as guidelines for residential buildings in the latest building code adoption.
- Forty solar powered lights were installed along Rawhide Trail.
- Water Rebates:
  - 120 toilet replacements approved.
  - 14 irrigation checkup applications approved.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be on December 10.

### **C.4 Receive an update on the progress of the Sustainability Plan**

Alex Pharmakis provided an overview of the recommended actions listed within the sustainability plan. He provided a document listing all actions taken so far and future actions relating to the Plan.

### **C.5 Discuss Sustainability Committee goals for 2026**

At the October meeting, committee members identified energy and composting as potential goals for 2026. During the discussion, members ranked their top goals that they would like to focus on in 2026. Access to recycling, waste reduction, water conservation, and harmony between the built and natural environment were the most common choices.

Committee members spoke about the need to bring awareness to waste reduction and mentioned working with special events or economic development to increase waste diversion at city events.

#### **C.6 Discuss subcommittee objectives and the potential for adding or removing subcommittees**

The committee discussed the existing subcommittees and their goals. The subcommittee on the Built and Natural Environment plans to continue into 2026.

It was mentioned that the water conservation subcommittee had established programs and much of the remaining work for conservation depends on infrastructure improvements, which are somewhat outside of the scope of the committee. It was recommended to replace the water conservation subcommittee with one focused on waste reduction to align with the committee's 2026 goals.

The Communications subcommittee noted that it would continue some of its work at an ad-hoc level, but didn't need to have a formal subcommittee around the topic.

Essirifi Sackeyfio presented an idea for a subcommittee around renewable energy and clean technology. During the group's discussion, it was recommended that this information be provided to the committee through other means than a subcommittee.

Formal action to update the subcommittees will be taken at a future meeting.

#### **C.7 Receive subcommittee updates**

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

Built and Natural Environment: Mentioned their involvement in the Tree Giveaway event.

Communications: No updates.

Water Conservation: No updates.

#### **C.8 Receive an update from Committee members on activities attended**

Price Trosin presented the Committee's annual update to City Council on November 4.

Al Mahesh provided preliminary research on a composting program to city staff.

Loren Rives attended a presentation from the Texas Trees Foundation on their upcoming work in the Dallas medical center. She also attended an event at the Firehouse Theatre, Haunts & Houses, and the Tree Giveaway event.

Lisa Massey volunteered at the Haunts & Houses and Tree Giveaway events.

Suzette Vaquera volunteered at the Haunts & Houses and Tree Giveaway events.

Val Clark volunteered at the Tree Giveaway event and will attend the Let's Grow webinar from the Council of Governments.

#### **C.9 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings**

No new items.

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Al Mahesh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Essirifi Sackeyfio. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary