



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

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

### Sustainability Committee

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

6:00 PM

Fire Station #2

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Meeting held at 6:00 PM

**Presiding:** Loren Rives, Chairperson

**Present:** Price Trosin, Vice-Chair  
Ted Spradley, Secretary  
Val Clark  
Al Mahesh  
Lisa Massey  
Jasper Morse  
Suzette Vaquera

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Loren Rives called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm on June 11, 2025.

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Councilmember Elizabeth Villafranca spoke to the committee regarding the possibility of providing residents with small compost bins. She mentioned this service is offered in other cities. She mentioned the material collected could be diverted from the landfill and potentially be used at the Community Garden.

**C. AGENDA ITEMS**

**C.1 Consider approving minutes from the May 14, 2025 meeting; and take appropriate action**

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

**C.2 Receive staff updates on sustainability initiatives**

Alex Pharmakis provided the following updates:

- LEED for Cities Certification: Work is ongoing, with goal of completion by end of year
- Grants: The City has submitted all documentation for the Department of Energy's EECBG grant program and is awaiting reimbursement. Funds were utilized to purchase two electric vehicles for the fleet. A decision is pending for the TCEQ electric vehicle grant. The TXDOT Inwood Trail grant did not receive the required resolution from City Council to complete the application. The City will not be pursuing that funding further.
- Water Rebates:
  - 116 toilet replacements approved.
  - 14 irrigation checkup applications approved.
- Staff met with the North Central Council of Governments to discuss the Regional Bike Safety Plan and priority areas within Farmers Branch. There is a public input survey available until the end of the month.
- City Council will be voting on extending the Sustainability Committee until 2030 and appointing a new member to the vacant position on June 17, 2025.
- The Compost 101 Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at the Community Garden.
- DART will be hosting a public meeting on potential service and fare changes on Wednesday June 18 at the Recreation Center.

The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be July 9.

### **C.3 Receive an update on the Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy**

Alex Pharmakis informed the committee that the Study Session item for the Active Transportation Plan and Complete Streets Policy was removed from the June 3, 2025 Council meeting to allow more time for Councilmembers to review the document.

The item will be placed on the August 19, 2025 Study Session agenda and on the September 16, 2025 Regular Agenda.

### **C.4 Elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary for the period of July 2025- June 2026**

Alex Pharmakis detailed the responsibilities of the Committee's officers. The nominations received were as follows: Loren Rives and Price Trosin for Chair. Lisa Massey and Price Trosin for Vice-Chair. Ted Spradley for Secretary.

No further nominations were received. Loren Rives removed her name from consideration for the Chair position.

Al Mahesh motioned to elect Price Trosin for Chair, Lisa Massey for Vice-Chair, and Ted Spradley for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Suzette Vaquera. Motion passed unanimously.

**C.5 Receive a presentation on the preliminary results of the 2023 greenhouse gas inventory**

Alex Pharmakis provided a presentation on the greenhouse gas inventory for the calendar year 2023. He provided the scientific background and methodology for conducting the inventory. The inventory consists of two parts. The first calculates emissions for the entire community and the second is just for emissions associated with municipal operations.

Since the first inventory was conducted for the City using 2019 data. Community emissions have decreased by 23.8%. These reductions are largely attributed to more efficient vehicles and increased renewables associated with grid electricity. For municipal operations, excluding landfill emissions, emissions decreased 6.3% from 2019.

Al Mahesh asked if carbon sequestration from trees located in the city were accounted for in the inventory. Alex Pharmakis said they were not, but there is additional reporting that can be done in the future to account for them. Ted Spradley asked if this data could be calculated on an individual tree level and if there was a way to track the number of trees cut down during development. A brief discussion was had on the status of the landscape ordinance that was previously being worked on by P&Z.

Jasper Morse asked if the emissions from the landfill were decreasing. Alex Pharmakis confirmed they had decreased, but stressed that it is related to the amount of waste received, which can fluctuate drastically from year to year. Loren Rives asked if other cities had emission reduction goals. Alex Pharmakis confirmed they do and are typically an 80-100% reduction by 2050. Ted Spradley asked for clarification on fugitive emissions. Those emissions are an estimate of natural gas loss during distribution.

**C.6 Receive subcommittee updates**

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

Built and Natural Environment: No updates

Communications: Mentioned the need to plan for participation at Fall events.

Water Conservation: Discussed the roll-out of residential smart water meters. Alex Pharmakis mentioned that he informed Public Works staff that the subcommittee had volunteered to test the system if needed.

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

Loren Rives attended the P&Z and City Council joint session.

Price Trosin and Lisa Massey attended the Town Hall meeting.

Suzette Vaquera attended Harvard University's graduation and noted the electric buses that operated around the campus.

Val Clark received a landscaping certification through the Native Plan Society of Texas.

#### **C.8 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings**

- Discussion with Parks department on native plantings in medians
- Information on landscaping from the school districts
- Artificial trees with solar panels – Milwaukee example

#### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary