



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Historical Preservation & Restoration Board

Farmers Branch Historical Park  
Dodson House  
2540 Farmers Branch Ln  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

6:30 PM

Old Church

#### Meeting held at 6:30 PM in the Old Church

**Presiding:** Chair Ann Christman

**Present:** Melissa Dours, Johannes Hylkema, Betina Miller, Danielle Neumeyer, and Ginny Welch.

**Present:** Bill Stolp

**Staff:** Hillary Kidd, Historical Park Manager

#### A. **AGENDA ITEMS**

##### A.1 **Call to order.**

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

##### A.2 **Approval of minutes from the July 23, 2020 Board meeting; and take appropriate action.**

Johannes Hylkema moved to approve the minutes. Ginny Welch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

##### A.3 **Receive an update on the Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery; and take appropriate action.**

A brief history and update on Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery was given. The cemetery was founded in 1843, it is the oldest cemetery in Dallas county. It has three historical designations. In 2007 a new software was used to start mapping the burial plot locations. Recently, this year plot sensing radar was used to map the grounds. There are 1,038 occupied graves, of the occupied graves there are many unmarked graves. There are also available plots. There is an option to allow the selling unoccupied plots to fund the upkeep of the cemetery. City Council has asked that the Historical Board create a sub-committee to review the options for funding, allocating plots, and create a plan to execute. Ann Christman and Johannes Hylkema will represent the Board on the sub-committee.

Johannes Hylkema moved to accept the sub-committee as a formal project. Betina Miller seconded. Betina Miller moved to confirm Ann and Johannes on the sub-committee. Johannes Hylkema seconded. Both motions carried unanimously.

**A.4 Receive Historical Park Quarterly Report: Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2019/2020; and take appropriate action.**

The Quarterly Report was provided in the Board Packet. Fiscal year runs October to September. The current report includes year to date information from October through June. Revenue is at 71% decrease from this time last year, however for entire fiscal year is up 57% as compared to last year. Rental year to date is down 42%. Only one wedding took place in June. Year to date overall rental revenue was up 111% in rental revenue. Expenses decreased 34% for the third quarter. This was mainly in part to furloughed workers starting April 1 through the date of this report. Overall total for the third quarter of FY19/20 increased by 57% despite the Historical Park being closed starting March 13 through May 31 due to COVID-19.

**A.5 Receive an update on the Historical Park's programming.**

Hillary Kidd gave an update on the Historical Park's programming. The sold out camps have been successful this summer, even with limitation in capacity. The Girls Make History Camp was hugely successful, and all precautions were taken for safety of the children and staff. This week started the display at City Hall. The display includes a quilt top made by the campers. The sold out Fairy Workshop took place in August. Special Events has started a Music and Movie series that takes place every other Friday night. The last one will be on September 11. Tours have continued by appointment. Teen Camp, which historically been at the Recreation Center was at the Park on June 15 – August 14. Fall events such as the Bloomin' Bluegrass Festival, Day of the Dead Celebration, and Halloween are still being planned.

**A.6 Discuss *Witness to History Award*; and take appropriate action.**

At the last Board meeting, it was asked if it were possible to decrease the requirement for residents to be considered for the *Witness to History Award*; the Board can decide to decrease the residential requirement from 75 years to a lower number. Johannes Hylkema moved to set the requirement for individual awards for a resident of Farmers Branch to 50 years. Betina Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**A.7 Discuss Board questionnaire; and take appropriate action.**

Ann Christman reviewed the responses to the Board Questionnaire.

The Board suggested to put energy into: updating Historical Park website, fundraising, promoting the Park within the City by hosting more events, supporting existing events, and volunteering.

Possible Fundraising Events: carnival, more hosted dinners, athletic events such as 5K races and Yoga in the Park, special tours, audio tours, and yard games like badminton and croquet.

**A.8 Receive committee updates; and take appropriate action.**

Johannes Hylkema gave an update on the fundraising committee. The committee would like to create a community with Mercer Crossing, Farmers Branch proper, and Brookhaven. Johannes met with the President of Chamber of Commerce the week of August 17 to discuss how to best partner with businesses in Farmers Branch to create events and partnerships. One of the biggest goals is to make residents aware of the Park and the events offered. Hillary Kidd gave a brief update of Park staff. Currently there are still only three full time positions. The Curator position is still open and will not be filled until next year.

**A.9 Receive an update from Board members on parks, programs, events, or facilities attended in the City of Farmers Branch; and take appropriate action.**

No discussion.

**A.10 Discuss agenda items for future Historical Preservation and Restoration Board Meetings, and take appropriate action.**

Johannes Hylkema requested to discuss the Chamber of Commerce under Committee Reports in September.

**B. ADJOURNMENT**

Ginny Welch moved to adjourn the meeting. Betina Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary