



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

Farmers Branch  
Community Recreation Center  
14050 Heartside  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

### Parks & Recreation Board

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Thursday, April 15, 2021

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

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#### Meeting held at 6:30 PM

**PRESIDING:** Jan Wooldridge, Chair

**PRESENT:** Barbara Leedy  
Christy Dimon  
Sarah Langhorst  
Marc Traynor  
Margaret Young (Emeritus)

**ABSENT:** Susan Mathis  
Robert Stewart

**STAFF:** Mike Mashburn, Director  
Rachael Arroyo, Recreation Superintendent  
Linda Gaucin, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager  
Adrianne Young, resident

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Jan Wooldridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

#### **B. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **B.1 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 18, 2021 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Christy Dimon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sarah Langhorst. Motion carried.

**B.2 CONSIDER EXCUSING THE ABSENCE OF BOARD MEMBERS FROM THE MARCK 18, 2021 MEETING; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

Due to connectivity issues, Steve Root was unable to log into the March meeting.

A motion was made by Sarah Langhorst to excuse Steve Root's absence. The motion was seconded by Christy Dimon. Motion carried.

**B.3 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FARMERS BRANCH COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT.**

Rachael Arroyo updated the Board as to the progress of the first-floor renovation at the Community Recreation Center. The project is nearing completion and the Grand Opening is scheduled for Monday April 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Dye will do the 'first lift' to christen the facility at 6PM. Immediately following, there will be a reception with light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

No action taken.

**B.4 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BIENNIAL UPDATE.**

Jan Wooldridge will present the Parks and Recreation Board's biennial update to City Council on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The initial presentation has been submitted and Jan asked for any updates, etc. The Board is satisfied with the scope as outlined.

No action taken.

**B.5 RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SIGNATURE PARK PROJECT.**

Due to COVID-19, the planning of the Signature Park project was suspended.

Federal funding for cities affected by COVID-19 has become available and there is the possibility that some of the funding could be directed to this project. In addition to the Federal Funding, staff is exploring grant funding.

Mike reviewed the general plans of the project with the Board. Plans have been developed to encourage daytime and nighttime use. There would be lighted pathways and seating along with three unique play areas to accommodate different age groups.

Christy Dimon asked about the potential for the project being implemented. Mike responded that both the Mayor and John Land are in favor of the project moving forward and that given funding there is a good likelihood that it will progress.

No action taken.

**B.6 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM STAFF ON CURRENT PROJECTS AND EVENTS.**

Rachael Arroyo reviewed the completed and ongoing projects and events. The Mallon Park Playground and The Branch Connection patio area upgrade have been completed and have been well received by residents.

The 'Love Locks' installation is complete, and a few locks have already been attached.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Special Events made a presentation to City Council regarding holiday lighting and décor. Council approved the purchase of a 50-foot Christmas tree proposed to be installed between the Grove and the DART Rail Station. Signature lighting and décor will be installed at six other locations in the city.

Denton Drive Live events will return to The Grove in May. The Branch Connection Bazaar is planned for April 17<sup>th</sup>, and Fishin' Fun will be run at full capacity on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Geoff Fairchild has become an industry leader in planning events with a sensitivity to COVID protocols and he will be a guest panelist at the Annual Texas Travel Alliance meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Rachael also reviewed the returning and new class offerings at the Community Recreation Center.

No action taken.

**B.7 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM STAFF ON DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS.**

The Parks and Recreation Department has been recognized with the Gold Medal award from the Texas Recreation and Park Society. This award recognizes excellence in recreation and park management for three years. The award covers the 2017-2019 timeframe.

The Texas Recreation and Park Society also recognized Historical Park Programming, specifically the 'Girls Make History' Camp with the State of Texas Arts and Humanities Programming Achievement Award.

The Farmers Branch Aquatics Center was recognized by the Texas Public Pool Council with the 2020 Agency of the Year Award. This award is given to an agency recognized as having demonstrated the highest level of effective, quality aquatics programming.

No action taken.

**B.8 DISCUSS THE TRI-BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE.**

Prior to having been put on hold due to COVID, the Board had discussed holding a joint meeting with the Branch Connection and Historical Park Boards. Since then, the Arts Board has been very active and should be included so that all entities are aware of the activities of the others. Staff will discuss holding this meeting with the other boards in the June or July timeframe.

No action taken.

**B.9 RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON PARKS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS OR FACILITIES ATTENDED IN THE CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH.**

Steve Root reported that he had visited the Barney Wood Bark Park and asked patrons about their perceptions, impressions, and experience. The responses were positive and complimentary, though users thought more shade would enhance the park.

Christy Dimon asked if any of the young trees that had been planted were lost in the February freeze. Mike Mashburn reported that he wasn't aware at this time, but he would have staff check.

He was also asked about the possibility of a west side dog park. Open space is extremely limited, but the old landfill site might be pressed into service at some future date.

No action taken.

**B.10 DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS; AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.**

No items discussed.

**C. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No comments received.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

Christy Dimon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Root. Motion carried.

The Park Board meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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Jan Wooldridge, Chair

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Barbara Leedy, Secretary