



City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Sustainability Committee

Community Recreation Center
14050 Heartside
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Wednesday, August 11,
2021

6:00 PM

Mesquite Room

Meeting held at 6:00 PM

Presiding: Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager (Staff Liaison)

Present: Joseph Riegel
Shelby Anders
Soren Thomsen
Valerie Clark
Price Trosin

Absent: Mark Lyda
Loren Rives
Kamal Mahesh
Matthew Kopchak

Staff: Rachael Arroyo, Recreation Superintendent

A. CALL TO ORDER

Alex Pharmakis called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

B. AGENDA ITEMS

B.1 INTRODUCTION OF STAFF AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

All staff and committee members provided brief introductions.

B.2 REVIEW REQUIRED TRAININGS

All those in attendance had already completed the required trainings to participate as a member of the committee. Alex Pharmakis thanked the group for completing the trainings prior to the meeting.

B.3 DISCUSS LOCATION AND TIME FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Alex Pharmakis asked the group about their preference regarding meeting dates and times. Group consensus was that meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the month, in the evening, was preferable. All members of the group agreed that the Recreation Center was a preferred meeting place if it was available in the future.

B.4 RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Alex Pharmakis provided a presentation on the draft Sustainability Plan and showed committee members where they could access the document. The presentation included: an overview of sustainability, planned committee actions, primary areas of focus within the plan, and potential actions and metrics.

B.5 DISCUSS COMMITTEE CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND NOMINATION

Alex Pharmakis provided information on the responsibilities of the Chairperson which includes facilitating future meetings, working with the staff liaison on creating the meeting agendas, and presenting bi-annual committee updates to the City Council. Rachael Arroyo provided clarification in response to a question from Shelby Anders regarding the time commitment associated with being the Chairperson, stating that the commitment will vary based on the current projects and initiatives.

Joseph Riegel and Soren Thomsen both nominated themselves for consideration for the position.

B.6 DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following items were suggested for future agenda items including: Waste reduction and compost, overview of existing City programs that relate to sustainability, energy efficiency, smart water meters, tree planting, public messaging and outreach, shredding events, and urban heat island impacts.

C. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Matt Earnest spoke expressing supporting the committee and the development of the Sustainability Plan. He requested that the Committee seek additional public input during the development of the plan. He provided personal advice to members as a former member of the committee and encouraged members to contact him if they had any questions.

Lisa Massey spoke regarding the development of the sustainability plan and resident involvement. . She provided personal advice to members as a former member of the committee

and sustainability practitioner, and encouraged members to contact her if they had any questions.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Chair

Secretary