



# City of Farmers Branch

## Minutes

### Sustainability Committee

Community Recreation Center  
14050 Heartside  
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Wednesday, September 8,  
2021

6:30 PM

Pecan Room

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#### Meeting held at 6:30 PM

**Presiding:** Joseph Riegel, Chairperson

**Present:** Shelby Anders  
Soren Thomsen  
Valerie Clark  
Price Trosin  
Mark Lyda  
Loren Rives  
Kamal Mahesh

**Absent:** Matthew Kopchak

**Staff:** Alex Pharmakis, Sustainability Manager

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Joe Riegel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

#### B. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments received.

#### C. AGENDA ITEMS

##### **TMP-3645 Introduction of staff and committee members**

All staff and committee members provided brief introductions.

##### **TMP-3646 Consider approval of minutes for the August 11, 2021 meeting; and take appropriate action**

Loren Rives made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Soren Thomsen. Motion carried.

**TMP-3647 Consider excusing the absence of board members from the August 11, 2021 meeting; and take appropriate action**

Four members of the committee were absent from the August 11 meeting.

Soren Thomsen made a motion to excuse the absence of all absent committee members. The motion was seconded by Al Mahesh. Motion carried.

**TMP-3648 Election of officers; and take appropriate action**

Alex Pharmakis provided a brief overview of the position responsibilities for the Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

Joe Riegel called for nominations for the Vice-Chairperson. Soren Thomsen was the only nomination for the position. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Soren Thomsen as Vice-Chairperson.

Joe Riegel called for nominations for the Secretary. Loren Rives was the only nomination for the position. The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Loren Rives as Secretary.

**TMP-3649 Receive an update on City sustainability initiatives**

Alex Pharmakis provided a presentation on past and ongoing sustainability initiatives. A number of topics were discussed that align with the draft Sustainability Plan's focus areas, including: Solar installations, vehicle electrification, greenhouse gas reduction, water conservation, and waste diversion.

**TMP-3650 Discuss the draft Sustainability Plan**

The Committee discussed elements of the sustainability plan and received clarification on certain portions of the document. Engaging the business and commercial communities was a significant part of the discussion. Members also suggested clarification on the timeline or duration of the plan and the wording of actions. Members asked about viewing similar sustainability plans of other cities. Alex Pharmakis will follow up and send members examples of these other plans.

**TMP- 3651 Discuss agenda items for future Sustainability Committee meetings**

The following items were suggested for future agenda items including: Identification of specific interest areas of the committee, smart metering, water conservation and xeriscaping, and community engagement.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary