



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**

September 12, 2025

8:00 AM

Administration Conference Room 2B

Members Present: Anna Timme, April Eaton, Christina Christiansen, Jim Mahurin, Brian Stone, Alderman Beverly Burger, Keith Gordon, Meredith Zehnder

Members Absent: Al Pramuk,

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Katie Dannenfels, Trevor Hannon, Blake Harper

Citizens Present: John Kell, Ned Dannenberg

Citizen Comments:

John Kell shared that there are two upcoming native habitat events hosted by The Habitat Connection. The "Pull-Plant-Do-Good" event on October 18 at First United Methodist Church from 9:00am-1:00pm, and a wildflower pollinator garden installation at Liberty Elementary School in mid-late November. Any volunteers interested should contact him at

john@thehabitatconnection.org

removed 300ft of invasives!

Approval of August Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the August 2025 minutes as presented, by Jim Mahurin, seconded by Brian Stone. The motion carried with all in favor.

Announcements:

- Andrew Orr shared the following announcements:
 - A new transit service will begin running from Downtown Franklin to the Factory beginning September 15th from 11am to 2:00 pm in 10-15 minute intervals.
 - There is a new Transit Master Plan being developed by the Franklin Transit Authority to study ridership and how to improve efficiency in the network.
 - The City of Franklin has begun an update to the City's Historic Preservation Plan.
 - The new pollinator gardens at Fire Station #1 will be receiving over 500 new plant plugs in an effort to revitalize the gardens thanks to a cooperative effort between the City and Natchez Glen.
 - Removal of old solar panels has begun at the solar array at the City's wastewater treatment facility to prepare for update and expansion.
 - The Sustainability Commission will cancel the October meeting due to it falling within the Fall break schedule and therefore minimal attendance.
 - The Sustainability Commission will schedule the group photo at the November 14th Commission meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION



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Discussion of Adjusting Meeting Start Time to 8:30 AM

Andrew Orr brought forward the idea to begin Commission meetings at 8:30 AM moving forward instead of the regularly scheduled 8:00 AM due to conflicts that have arisen with elementary school drop-off timing and school traffic.

After discussion, no motion was made and the Commission decided to leave the start time at 8:00 AM.

Presentation of Liberty Park Sports Lighting Upgrades

Eric Conner presented an update regarding the Liberty Park sports lighting project that the Commission voted to allocate EECBG (Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant) funds to in 2024. The lighting project has now been completed, and the City is in the process of completing all materials required by the Department of Energy to receive the approximately \$146,000 equipment rebate.

Brian Stone asked what the reduction in energy usage and electricity cost is with the new lighting systems. Eric Conner did not have an answer, but will ask the Parks Department and return in November with any information he receives.


Discussion of Streetlight Fixtures Zoning Ordinance Update

Andrew Orr presented information regarding the steps the City has taken to reduce the overall light pollution caused by street lighting with the City of Franklin. The presentation included information about the typical models of street lights and the models that have been added to the approved light list for Middle Tennessee Electric (MTE), as well as changes recommended to the Zoning Ordinance indicating a preference for lights that limit light pollution.

The Commission discussed whether replaced fixtures are changed to more dark sky friendly options, and whether it is possible to add deflector shields to existing lights to aid in reducing light pollution.

NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM with a motion from Jim Mahurin and a second from Alderman Beverly Burger. The motion carried with all in favor.


Chair Signature

Nov. 14, 2025
Date

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