



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**

November 14, 2025

8:00 AM

Administration Conference Room 2B

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

Members Absent: Al Pramuk, Alderman Beverly Burger

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Kelly Dannenfelser, Trevor Hannon, Bill Squires, Katie Walker, Elizabeth Bulay

Citizens Present: John Kell, Mark Melvinchenko, Ron Merville

Citizen Comments:

John Kell shared that on October the 18th they had a “Pull Plants, Do Good” event along Mary’s Chapel Creek at Franklin First United Methodist Church. With 25 volunteers they removed 300 feet of invasives and planted 240 wildflower plugs. On November 19th, 2025 at Liberty Elementary, they are installing a pollinator garden from 9:30-12:30. This is a joint venture with the Tennessee Environmental Council and TVA. There will be an additional event like this scheduled in Nashville in the Spring at Whitsitt Elementary. Additionally, he spoke about the Bird City Network and a steering committee he is now involved in. They will be meeting monthly.

Approval of September 12, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the September 12, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, by Brian Stone, seconded by April Eaton. The motion carried with all in favor.

Announcements:

- Andrew Orr shared the following announcements:
 - In September, we partnered with Natchez Glen and refreshed the Fire 1 Pollinator Gardens. There were 500 plugs installed over three different beds. Also, one of the commitments of being a part of Bee City, is having an integrated pest management plan. We have been coordinating internally on the IPM plan. Gresham Smith has offered to sponsor a pollinator garden in Bicentennial Park.
 - There is a Transit Masterplan update underway and there is a survey still open for the community to share their input. We wrapped up our community outreach events in early October. The next step is to have a goals and objectives strategy session with the Franklin Transit Authority and there will be another outreach push in early 2026 to Spring of 2026 with the project wrapping up by June. Andrew also encouraged the use of the Franklin Trolleys including the pilot route running 11-2pm from Downtown to the Factory.

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- Every Commission is required to provide an annual written report to BOMA. He and Christina put one together and it will be on November 25th BOMA agenda.
- Lastly, he recognized Bill Squires as the commission’s new City Attorney liaison.
- Elizabeth Bulay shared that there is currently an update being made to the City’s Preservation Plan. There will be two Community Workshop Socials on Tuesday November 18th and Wednesday November 19th from 5-7pm at the Main Barn at Harlinsdale to review strategies the consultant team has put together and to gather community feedback.

Consideration of 2026 Meeting Schedule and Topics

Andrew Orr introduced the meeting schedule for 2026 and pointed out the date for the January meeting was pushed to the 16th to provide a buffer from the Holidays. Topics for the year will include bee city, solar and litter surveys. He asked for input on additional topics the commission would like to see covered. Brian Stone inquired about a possible field trip for next year. Andrew explained that the previous field trip to John Kell’s neighborhood was very lightly attended and an additional trip to the recycling facility had to be cancelled but we can continue to explore these opportunities. Anna Timme requested clarification on if there would be a holiday breakfast this year. Andrew confirmed that it will be the second Friday in December and that the meeting invite would be sent out. Chair Christina Christiansen requested that an invite be sent to Mayor Moore.

Discussion of Solar Expansion Project Update

Ron Merville of Energy Source Partners provided an update on the status of the Solar Expansion Project. There was a recent meeting with Tennessee Solar Energy Industrial Association where a lot was learned. He explained it has been a very interesting year having to navigate the many regulation changes and Presidential directives. Demolition can now start anytime and the construction drawings will be submitted the week of November 17. There are two options for the start or construction. They can either start construction the beginning of December or Safe Harbor the project and it will probably be a combination of both options.

Keith Gordon asked what the commercial operation date of the project is.

Ron Merville estimated it will take 4-5 months and will be completed in early 2026.

Brian Stone asked what the City has planned for the existing panels that are being replaced and if they will be recycled.

Ron Merville explained that they have offered the old panels to the City but a plan has not yet been developed.

Andrew Orr stated he is not aware of any immediate desire by the City. He also questioned whether we are still on track to use batteries.



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Ron Merville replied that we are still on track to use batteries and this was not affected by the recent regulation changes.


There was additional discussion after the presentation regarding how to use the old panels. Keith Gordon and Brian Stone would like to see them used by the Franklin Special School District on roofs that are newer and not needing to be replaced in the near future. Ron Merville explained that the existing racking can be re-used, and the cost for set up would be minimal. He is happy to donate them as part of the partnership.

This discussion concluded with Andrew Orr explaining that this item will be added to the next agenda to for discussion after work is done to establish interest in the donated panels.

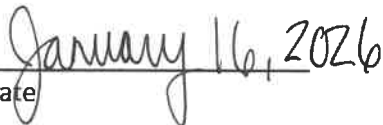
Group Photo

NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 AM with a motion from April Eaton and a second from Keith Gordon. The motion carried with all in favor.



Chair Signature



Date

