



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**

June 13, 2025

8:00 AM

Administration Conference Room 2B

Members Present: Alderman Beverly Burger, Al Pramuk, Anna Timme, April Eaton, Christina Christiansen, Keith Gordon, Jim Mahurin,

Members Absent: Brian Stone

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Annette Dalrymple, Blake Harper

Citizens Present: Ned Dannenberg, Randy James, Dan Andrew, Kaitlyn Andrew, Mac Nolan, Belinda Brooks

Welcome:

Chair Christiansen welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction.

Citizen Comments:

Randy James thanked the Sustainability Commission for guidance on the project they have been working on since 2022. There are 14 convenience centers in the County and he provides advice on how to improve and increase the amount of recycling within the County. He met Mike Cassity a few years ago who had questions about recycling and he has sought to answer them.

Dan Andrew said they have created a state of the art process and project called the Liquidator and they can provide more recycling in 90 days than what's currently happening in one year. The folder provided describes that and includes data and numbers that support that claim. Mr. Andrew invited the Commission to see the Liquidator.

Ned Dannenberg asked about the best way to increase participation and would like to see more data on this topic. He is concerned new homes are not providing enough space in garages for both bins.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 2025 minutes as presented, by Al Pramuk, seconded by Jim Mahurin. The motion carried with all in favor.

Announcements:

- Bicentennial Park grand opening next Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 4:00 PM
- The Sanitation Department is working to establish a glass recycling center at their location on Century Court.

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- Right after this meeting, a site visit has been scheduled to visit Millgate’s pollinator meadow and gardens which serves as their proof of concept.
- Future Site Visit options and opening the floor to go on a site visit. Alderman Burger suggested having a Commission meeting in advance of seeing the County recycling prototype at their location. They have a nice conference meeting room. They would put the Liquidator into places people go every week and into parking lots. She suggested we invite the BOMA and Eric visit at the same time as our group. She would like to schedule it sooner than later. Discussion ensued about when to schedule and decided to schedule it in August at the normal meeting time, August 8, 2025.

Robert’s Rules of Order Presentation

Mr. Harper provided a presentation and basic overview of Robert’s Rules of Order. The Sustainability Commission is a recommending body and not a governing body since decisions are recommendations to BOMA. The governing bodies must follow Robert’s Rules closely, but this Commission has more latitude.

Mr. Harper shared that a quorum for this Commission is five members. Business cannot be conducted without a quorum. Standard order of business includes minutes, unfinished business from last meeting, new business, and public comments. Public comments are not a back and forth, but just for citizens to share their opinions. Topics must be placed on the agenda, publicly noticed, in order to discuss. If a quorum is not met, the staff can call absentee members or reschedule.

The agenda is governed by the Tennessee Open Meetings Act so it has to be publicly noticed. For governing bodies, there is a provision for emergency situations.

The Commission has a chair and runs an orderly meeting and recognizes members. It is proper to request to speak.

The most basic rule is to proceed by motion. Typically, a motion should be made to begin discussion. This commission is more informal due to the advisory nature. If you’re going against the staff recommendation on an item, you should state on the record why which is a standard procedure at the City.

Discussion on motions and making amendments to motions ensued. Privileged motions take precedence over other motions such as a motion to defer, which requires a date certain. All other conversation ceases if it gets a second. Motion to recess or call the question when a member is ready to move on and requires a second.

April Eaton asked about a time limit on agenda items. The chair is in charge of the agenda and keeping discussion going and sticking to the agenda.

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Common motions include a motion to recess, adjourn, approval, denial, deferral. It's a good policy to be in support of what you propose. All main motions must have a second. If a second is not made, the motion dies. Another motion would need to be made. After a motion is made with a second, the chair should restate it and the person who made the motion can speak first.

Speakers should address the chair and direct comments to the chair and not towards each other. Generally, members should not speak more than twice on an item.

If a member has a personal tie to an applicant or to an item, the member should state it on the record and possibly abstain from a vote. It's up to the member to decide, but the standard is whether a reasonable person would think you are being unbiased.

A quorum is needed for each item. If someone leaves early, the Commission could lose its quorum.

Mr. Harper suggested just commissioners and staff sit at the table in the conference room and have the public sit on the outside.

Bee City USA Update

Andrew presented an update and went through several slides. The Commission serves as the overseeing body for the Bee City USA program.

This spring, the staff had a booth at Arbor Day and State of the City to pass out seed packets and bookmarks. The staff used bulk seeds provided by our Engineering Department and stuffed them in seed packets. Annette Dalrymple designed a large board and the bookmarks.

The City has a Bee City webpage and will update it with the large posterboard.

Fire Station 1 is located at the corner of 96 West and 11th Ave North and is the first location. Two small beds in the rear and one large bed in the front. Seeds were used to keep the cost down, but the drawbacks include the time it takes, up to three years to fully establish. We used a mix of seeds and plant material, but went heavy on seeds to keep the cost down. The Bee City Committee is maintaining the beds. Rudbeckia and bee balm are coming up and doing well. Some seeds have not come up. More plugs have been ordered.

The downtown landscape crew have put in two pollinator beds on the backside of Harpeth Square, near the river, and on 2nd Avenue near the parking garage. Other beds have been installed near the Visit Franklin office and across from Taziki's.

A pollinator bed has been planned by Gresham Smith for Bicentennial Park. Mr. Pramuk mentioned John Lavendar will probably reach out soon to discuss. The area is mostly prepped and ready.



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Lastly, the Bee City committee went on a site visit to First Presbyterian Church off Legends Club

Lane which is also a Level 1 arboretum with 50 different tree species. Mr. Mahurin spoke about the bird activity on the property and the need to have various trees and shrubs.

Next steps include continual maintenance of Fire 1, the Bicentennial Park project, and Alderman Potts has some suggested locations for future gardens. Alderman Burger suggested

the I-65 interchange as a location which is TDOT right-of-way. She also mentioned the Highwoods Property and the new Well Coffeeshop location in Cool Springs and the great job they have done.

The roundabout on McEwen Drive is a great potential site for landscaping improvements. Alderman Burger suggested that the Parkes Company will put something fabulous at that location as part of their project.

Alderman Burger also mentioned a use for recycled glass in landscaping.

NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

August 8, 2025

