



**City of Franklin  
Meeting Minutes  
Sustainability Commission**

**January 16, 2026**

**8:00 AM**

**Administration Conference Room 2B**

**Call To Order**

Chair Christina Christiansen called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Anna Timme, April Eaton, Christina Christiansen, Brian Stone, Keith Gordon, Meredith Zehnder, Alan Pramuk

**Members Absent:** Jim Mahurin, Alderman Beverly Burger

**Staff Present:** Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Kelly Dannenfelser, Trevor Hannon, Bill Squires, Katie Walker, Walter Denton, Brian Walker, Paige Cruse

**Citizens Present:** Ned Dannenburg, Kay Matthews

**Citizen Comments**

Ned Dannenburg made comments regarding recycling services and trash reclamation in Franklin.

**Approval of November 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the November 14, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, by Keith Gordon, seconded by Brian Stone. The motion carried with all in favor.

**Consideration of Electing Chair and Vice Chair**

A motion was made to nominate Christina Christiansen for Chair by Brian Stone, seconded by Keith Gordon. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made to nominate Brian Stone as vice chair by Anna Timme, seconded by April Eaton. The motion carries with all in favor.

**City Acquisition of 171 Hillhaven Lane (Ropers Knob Park) Update**

Andrew Orr introduced the agenda item. Commission member, Jim Mahurin has taken a special interest in this park. He is advocating for a trail network and creating a level 1 or 2 arboretum as well as removing the invasive understory trees. The acquisition of the additional acreage has made access to the location possible.

Brian Walker, Franklin Parks department, spoke briefly about the history of the location including the use of the property during the Civil War. Vegetation includes hardwoods and evergreens. The plan for the property is to create access to Ropers Knob. There will be a master plan developed to gather input from stakeholders but there is no specific timeline yet.

Brian also addressed the Creekside property and the home that is currently occupied by

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renters. These renters are maintaining the property and once they vacate, the Parks department will take over the maintenance and care. There will be a master plan process for this property as well. The vision for the historic home is a visitors center.

**Citizen Comments:** Kay Matthews, The Habitat Connection, stated that its great news that the City has acquired the additional property. Her main concern with Roper’s Knob is the health of the trees and encouraged that a survey of the trees be done. She went on to state that a level 1 arboretum needs at least 30 native tree species. She requested access for The Habitat Connection to the property at some point because they do Bird Sanctuary Certification and she believes it could be certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

**Discussion of Surplus Solar Panels**

Andrew Orr introduced this item as an idea that was proposed at the previous Sustainability Commission meeting in November. He reached out the Franklin Special District but has not heard back. At this point, there is not a huge urgency but it would be nice to identify the landing spot for the surplus panels.

Keith Gordon stated that he’d hate to see the panels go to waste and agreed the topic should be addressed at the next meeting.


Brian Stone mentioned that Columbia State might also be interested in the panels.

**Discussion of Litter Surveys**

Locations for Litter Surveys were assigned. The deadline is February 9<sup>th</sup> and the results will be shared at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The City uses the surveys to determine areas that need to be cleaned up or prioritized.

**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.

  
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Chair Signature

  
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Date

