



Meeting Minutes

Sustainability Commission

Friday, April 10, 2026

8:00 AM

Admin 2-B

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christiansen called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

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

Board Members Absent: Alderman Beverly Burger, Meredith Zegler, Al Pramuk

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Eric Conner, Joel Aguilera, Milissa Reiersen, Jerry Hatcher

Citizens Present: Sarah Williams, Kay Matthews, John Kell, Ned Dannenburg

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Open for citizens to be heard on any issue or concern, including those related to items on the agenda. Please submit a Speaker Card at the beginning of the meeting if you would like to address the Commission. If you would like to speak on an agenda item, the Chair will hold your comment until the public comment period associated with the item. As provided by law, the Commission shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizen comments for items not on the agenda, except to refer the matter to the Planning Director/Staff for administrative consideration, or to a schedule the matter for consideration at a later date. Those addressing the Commission are requested to come to the microphone and identify themselves by name and address for the official record. The Chair may restrict the period for public comment, including the length of the public comment period, the number of individuals who can speak and the length of time each individual may speak. When time allows, the standard individual public comment time is two minutes.)

Ned Dannenburg stated that he recently learned that he had been recycling wrong. 1 and 2 plastics are only recyclable if they are bottles with necks. Other containers cannot be recycled.

Kay Matthews continued the conversation by asking what happens if people continue to throw non-recyclable containers in the bins.

The consensus was that they would still be sorted and thrown out if needed.

Andrew Orr offered that he would invite someone from sanitation to a future meeting to answer questions.

Comments on agenda items may be made in person or by emailing PlanningIntake@FranklinTN.gov before noon on the day of the meeting. Emailed comments will be provided to the Commission and included in the minutes, but not read aloud in their entirety during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Consideration Of Approval Of February, 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Sponsors:

A motion was made by Board Member Jim Mahurin, seconded by Board Member Brian Stone to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2026 meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Announcements

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr briefly introduced Milissa Reiersen, the City's Communication Director.

Christina Christiansen stated that there would be a fleet of Atmos Utility trucks parked along Main Street on April 16 for a company event. She does not want people to be concerned that there is an issue with gas leaks going on at that time.

Andrew Orr continued with the announcements by reminding the commission that the Arbor Day Event is April 18 at Pinkerton Park. The Planning Department will have a booth with seeds and other Bee City giveaways. Everyone is welcome to attend. Additionally, May 20 is the State of the City. Doors open at 7am, at Rolling Hills Church on Columbia.

Milissa Reiersen continued the discussion regarding the State of the City by mentioning that all departments will have booths, so attendees can learn more about what they do. The theme for this year is "The Doctor is In".

Christina Christiansen added that her company had planted a redbud in front of Moore Elementary. They partnered with the school and the Tennessee Environmental Council.

3. Roadside Litter Pick Up Update

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr introduced Jerry Hatcher from the Streets Department to provide an update on this subject. He mentioned that the litter in the areas of the surveys continued to get less and less every year and that the department was doing a great job of keeping everything cleaned up.

Jerry Hatcher briefly introduced himself and his background. He stated that litter has been a persistent problem for many years. There are two main pieces that are being addressed. The first piece is the act of cleaning up the litter and the second is the education piece. He thinks his department is doing a great job picking up around the city. The biggest litter offenders they are seeing are the waste and trash haulers. If there are corridors between a landfill and a municipality, that corridor will have a litter problem. The priority is to stay on top of the cleanup so that the issue does not compound itself. Sometimes, when people see litter stacking up, they think it's acceptable to add more.

TDOT takes care of maintenance on interstates and state routes and the City will communicate directly with them on issues that arise. TDOT's pickup happens ahead of the mowing schedule and happens about 3–6 times a year. The City accepts service requests via the website or by calling the main line. These requests are tracked, employees are assigned, and the request is prioritized. As a proactive approach, the City has a dedicated Historic District landscape team. Trash pickup happens Monday-Saturday roadside as well as in the parking garages. The streets department has also split the city into 9 maintenance zones with 1 lead for each zone. During large weather events, this enables the department to quickly and efficiently disperse teams to their zones to take care of hazards. For standard litter pickup, dispersing teams to their zones allows the department to cover the whole city in a day. The zones that typically require a higher level of service are Downs Blvd, Mack Hatcher, Boyd Mill and Hillsboro Road.

Milissa Reiersen asked if there is a fine for littering. Andrew Orr stated that there is a fine, but it is typically very difficult to enforce.

Jerry Hatcher continued speaking about the Proactive Zone Pickup and the results over the last three years. He believes the litter surveys that the Sustainability Commissioners fill out reflect the continued improvement of the litter pickup year over year. His team also maintains the interchanges along I65 from Goose Creek to Moores Lane. During the last cleanup, they picked up 3100 pounds of litter. In the last 3 years, they've picked up 16,000 pounds of litter along the interchanges.

Looking ahead, there are additional programs that could be implemented, including a city-wide cleanup day, adopt-a-road programs or litter grants that could help pay for things like over-time associated with litter pickup. The last thing is to

continue the public awareness campaign.

All commissioners were in agreement that the litter surveys conducted this year showed continued improvement in all zones.

Kay Matthews offered that Keep Williamson Beautiful has a new director, and it might be worth reaching out to them and partnering with them somehow. She also asked if the litter cleanup included the maintenance of the trees or landscaping.

Jerry Hatcher responded that the Urban Forestry department takes a more active role in this area.

Anna Timme asked for further information on prevention strategies around reducing litter from commercial haulers.

Jerry responded that the biggest opportunity is the education piece and to create more awareness. Additionally, Franklin has changed their haulers to be completely enclosed versus being covered by a tarp which cuts down dramatically on litter.

Milissa Reiersen added that the city started the litter prevention campaign in 2017 and there is a link to the campaign on the website. The slogan is "'Bless your Heart' is a Southern Expression, Littering Ain't. Stay Classy, Not Trashy Franklin". There has also been a campaign for the haulers called "Tarp your Trash". She also mentioned that TDOT has their "Nobody Trashes Tennessee Campaign" but she is not sure if they reach out directly to trucks.

The commission was in agreement that there should be a directed campaign to the known offenders.

4. **Glass and Large Cardboard Recycling Update**

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr provided an update on the glass and large cardboard recycling effort by the city. The total cardboard collected to date is 19 tons, glass is 4 tons. The glass is purchased by a company called Recycled Services for \$10 per ton. The cardboard currently goes to waste management and the city is working on finalizing a contract with them. He mentioned that Bobby, the department director, has offered to come to a future meeting to answer questions. The commission was in agreement that this would be beneficial.

5. **Bee City USA Update**

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr introduced this topic by mentioning that Al Pramak had facilitated a partnership with Gresham Smith to sponsor a pollinator garden. The parks department had set aside a location at Bicentennial Park for this purpose and Gresham Smith put together the landscape plan. The garden will be installed today and Andrew encouraged everyone to go check it out. Additionally, the Bee City team is also still working on the fire station garden and the parks department has also prepared additional beds at the downtown locations.

6. **Discussion of Policy Guides and Potential Topics for 2026**

[Sustainability Policy Guides](#)

Sponsors:

Andrew Orr stated that back in 2021, the commission identified three areas of priority. Those areas were energy, transportation and waste. These priorities were detailed in three policy guides that were endorsed by the Board of May and Alderman. Staff would like to bring these guides back out since there are new members of the commission and start looking at making updates to the policies. Additionally, the city has a new multi-modal coordinator, Max Baker, who is working on some of the things listed in the policy guides.

Keith Gordon asked if the goal is to update the policy guides or to look at where we are with some of the priorities.

Andrew stated that we are in the evaluation phase and since the guides are now five years old, they will potentially need an update.

Anna Timme added that there had also been a previous discussion about scaling the pollinator gardens, and she would like to see how this could evolve into the policy as well. Additionally, there was a discussion about disaster management, and it would be interesting to see if that could evolve into a policy as well.

Andrew added that the city has hired an emergency manager, and he can reach out and see if he can come to a meeting as well.

Brian Stone stated that it would be interesting to hear an update about development and planned housing units in the city to help in making updates to the policies.

Eric Conner informed the commission that the 2026 Development Report had just been released and there is a recorded presentation available online at www.franklinton.gov/developmentreport, or he can present the report at the next meeting as well.

Andrew wrapped up the discussion by saying he would continue to add this topic to upcoming agendas. We will most likely start with the energy policy guide and then continue to the other two.

April Eaton added that she would like to understand what the process is if the commission decides to take an idea and move it forward.

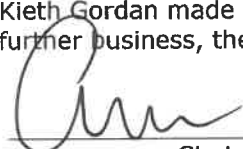
Andrew stated that there are some items that require collaboration with staff and some that will require Board approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

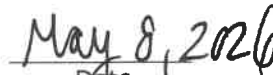
Chair Christiansen asked if there was any further business. There was none.

ADJOURN

Kieth Gordan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Christina Christiansen. All were in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.



Chair



Date