



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**

**February 13, 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, Beverly Burger, Jim Mahurin

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Andrew Orr, Joel Aguilera, Eric Conner, Trevor Hannon, Katie Walker

Citizens Present: Ned Dannenburg, Kay Matthews, John Kell

Citizen Comments

Kay Matthews mentioned the city rights-of-way and how the streets crew is doing an excellent job maintaining the Bee City gardens. She inquired whether there is a plan to expand the program to additional medians, downtown or highways. Additionally, she addressed National Honey Bee day and if the City does anything to advertise or celebrate, requested that the name be changed "National Bee Day" and gave examples of resources available on this topic.

Approval of January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes as presented, by Jim Mahurin, seconded by Beverly Burger. The motion carried with all in favor.

Announcements

Andrew Orr announced that the city has set up satellite locations for recycling including glass and cardboard.

Litter Survey

Andrew Orr introduced this topic and stated that there was full participation in this year's litter survey. He went through each area and there was brief discussion regarding the areas that needed attention. The scores were similar to the scores from the previous year.

There was specific concern addressed regarding the area in front of the mall and Alderman Beverly Burger advised that she has spoken with the people that maintain the area. They addressed the areas that they maintained as well as the areas that were outside of their property and provided contacts for those. Alderman Burger met with the additional property owners to address the maintenance concerns.

Chair Christina Christiansen stated that the entire area has been looking a lot better.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**



All were in agreement.

Additionally, there was discussion regarding the interchange at 96 and Murfreesboro Road. Alderman Burger stated that she has asked Eric Stuckey to put more money in the budget to disperse crews to this area to keep it cleaned up. She went on to address how this interchange is also very outdated and is very low on TDOT's list of priorities. She will be meeting with Marsha Blackburn in order to do something about the safety of this area. Emergency vehicles cannot get through because vehicles have nowhere to pull over.

Andrew Orr thanked everyone for their participation. The results are communicated back to our streets department.

Alderman Burger mentioned a program called "trash-er-cize" which entails going out to get exercise while picking up trash. She would like the city to look into bringing this back and partnering with Keep Williamson Beautiful for supplies.

Bee City USA

Andrew Orr mentioned that the Sustainability Commission is the entity that oversees the Bee City program and there will be periodic updates provided.

Outreach: The City had a booth in the Tree Commission's Arbor Day event where they handed out seed packets, bookmarks and spoke with community members. There was also a booth at the Mayor's State of the City Address which we will continue to do as well. He encouraged everyone to attend this event on May 20.

Fire Station 1 Gardens: Located off highway 96 West. There are two gardens in the back and one in the front. Maintenance for the first year was provided by city staff. It was difficult starting from seeds and some plants took while others did not. In the fall, all three gardens were refreshed in partnership with Natchez Glen. There will be some interpretive signage added to the front near the multi-use trail. Gresham Smith will be sponsoring an additional garden in Bicentennial Park. There will be a planting date for this garden in April.

Downtown Beds: The streets department oversees the downtown landscaping and they have taken a lot of pride and intentionality to fill in the rights-of-way with native plants. The next area that will be addressed is along 1st Avenue as well as the McEwan interchange.

Alderman Burger stated that she wishes they would address the area along Cool Springs Blvd. because of the vast grass fields. She gets many calls about the grass being very high.

Andrew Orr responded that the streets team wants to start smaller and gets some wins before they take on larger areas.

Harlinsdale Farm: Friends of Franklin Parks is working with Kindred Land Management on a 6-acre tract at the North Entrance of the farm and will be installing native grasses and wildflowers.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION



**City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission**



Site Visits and Next Steps: We will continue to steward the Fire 1 gardens and the Bicentennial Garden. Streets will continue native plantings within rights-of-way and Harlinsdale Park will get started by Friends of Franklin Parks and Kindred Land Management. Additionally, Alderman Potts has expressed interest in adding areas within Ward 3. We are also required by Bee City USA to have an integrated Pest Management Plan so we will be working with the Streets Department and Parks Department on what that should include. We will also be participating in Arbor day, State of the City, Pollinator Week and National Honey Bee Day.

Keith Gordon asked if the Pest Management Plan will include herbicides and seed selection for the grass.

Andrew Orr explained that the plan would address herbicides but that the goal is to try and minimize the use and there will be signage posted before and after applications.

2026 topics and activities

Andrew Orr asked the Commission for ideas on topics and activities for the year. Recurring items will include Bee City, the Litter Survey and the Solar Project. He also plans to have someone come in to brief the Commission on the cardboard and glass recycling efforts.

Brian Stone suggested an update on the City Hall project.

April Eaton suggested a disaster preparedness effort and possibly partner with the Emergency Management Association.

Anna Timme would like to see the Bee City efforts scaled to increase communication and target the biggest developers to inform and encourage the use of native plants and pollinator gardens. She also suggested working with the owners of commercial properties to potentially stop using herbicides and pesticides and with local HOAs to encourage the use of native plants and add this to their published community guidelines.

John Kell mentioned that they are working with the HOA for Cottonwood to help them incorporate native plant suggestions in their community guides and to remove invasive species from their open spaces.

Kay Mathews suggested passing an ordinance to require all developers to plant native plants.

Jim Mahurin mentioned that knowing what to plant is a very complicated task and he believes that what people need are planting models to follow based on the size of the properties.

Christina Christiansen requested that they continue this conversation at the April meeting and for everyone to bring their ideas with them to discuss.

NEWS/UPDATE/ADJOURN


With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM with a motion from Beverly Burger and a second from Brian Stone. The motion carried with

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION



City of Franklin
Meeting Minutes
Sustainability Commission
all in favor.





Chair Signature

April 10, 2026
Date

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

