



# GARLAND

## MINUTES

The Community Multicultural Commission of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 6:00 PM on November 20, 2025, in the Work Session Room at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present: CorSharra Prenell, Chair  
Merrill Balancier, Vice Chair  
Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair (newly elected)  
Steven Flores, Commission Member  
Rene Granado, Commission Member  
Jimmy Tran, Commission Member  
Kymberlaine Banks, Commission Member  
Arthur Gregg, Commission Member  
Charles Leonard, Commission Member  
Glenna Saygidia, Commission Member

Absent: Jennifer Nguyen, Commission Member  
Moses Uvere, Commission Member

Staff Present: Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary  
Darci Pickel, Public Information Coordinator

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the September 18, 2025 meeting.**

A motion was made by Steven Flores to approve the September 18, 2025, minutes, seconded by Arthur Gregg. Motion Carried.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Persons who desire to address the Committee on any item on the agenda are allowed three minutes to speak.

There were no speakers for this item.

### **3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

#### **a. Election Nominating Committee Report**

*Nominating Committee members Merrill Balanciere and Steven Flores will provide a report for upcoming election.*

The Nominating Committee provided a report for the upcoming annual officer elections.

#### **b. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair**

*The commission elects officers annually, with a Nominating Committee presenting a slate of candidates during the October meeting, followed by a secret ballot election. The Chairperson, who presides over meetings and represents the CMC, and the Vice Chairperson, who acts in the Chairperson's absence, serve one-year terms, with a limit of three consecutive terms.*

The Commission conducted its annual officer elections. The results were CorSharra Prenell re-elected as Chair and Christopher Johnson, elected as Vice Chair.

**c. Committee Event Report Updates: Past & Future**

*Committees of the CMC may present reports on their meetings, and members who have participated in events may provide summaries of past activities as well as updates regarding forthcoming events.*

Members shared updates and planning notes related to upcoming CMC activities and community events, including:

- Encouraging commissioners to be more active in the community and at events.
- Discussion of event materials/swag ideas (e.g., drawstring sheer/candy-filled bags and CMC wristbands) for future outreach.

**d. Future Meetings and Event Logistics**

*Commission members will discuss coordination and participation in upcoming community events.*

The Commission discussed logistics and volunteer coordination for upcoming events:

- CMC Holiday/Christmas Gathering: Discussed for December 18 at Fortunate Son
- MLK Parade / MLK Youth Extravaganza: Members discussed participation, including a volunteer/walking group and banner visibility.
- Registration and coordination details to be finalized, including whether participation would be walking or with vehicles.
- Volunteer support tools: Discussion of creating a direct contact sheet by district and a CMC mission/contacts pamphlet with QR code for outreach.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Potential future agenda topics included:

- eAssist (noted for follow-up discussion).
- A possible volunteer poster for booth/outreach (to confirm if allowed and bring back as a future item)

**5. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

**Submitted By:**

**/s/ CorSharra Prenell, Chair**

**/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary**



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Present: CorSharra Prenell, Chair  
Merrill Balanciere, Vice Chair  
Steven Flores, Commission Member  
Rene Granado, Commission Member  
Moses Uvere, Commission Member  
Arthur Gregg, Commission Member  
Glenna Saygidia, Commission Member  
Christopher Johnson, Commission Member

Absent: Jimmy Tran, Commission Member  
Kymberlaine Banks, Commission Member  
Jennifer Nguyen, Commission Member  
Charles Leonard, Commission Member  
Isaac Abu, Commission Member

Staff Present: Phil Urrutia, Assistant City Manager  
Courtney Vanover, Public Information Coordinator

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2025 meeting.**

A motion was made by Christopher Johnson to amend the minutes to include the discussion on purchasing tickets for fundraising items, seconded by Glenna Saygidia. Motion Carried. Steven Flores then moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025 meeting as amended, seconded by Christopher Johnson. Motion Carried.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Persons who desire to address the Committee on any item on the agenda are allowed three minutes to speak.

There were no speakers for this item.

### **3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

#### **a. Committee Event Report Updates: Past & Future**

*Committees of the CMC may present reports on their meetings, and members who have participated in events may provide summaries of past activities as well as updates regarding forthcoming events.*

Commission members shared updates on recent outreach activities and participation in community events. Members also reported attending the following meetings and events: the Youth Council Meeting, City Council meetings, and the District 6 Town Hall.

#### **b. Outreach Materials and Promotional Inventory**

*Commission members will discuss the finalization of promotional item orders.*

Courtney Vanover reported on the recent purchase of promotional items and the expenditures associated with them. Items purchased included fanny packs, flashlights, umbrellas, and towels. The Commission had approved a budget allocation of \$2,500 for promotional materials, and total expenditures amounted to \$2,411.48, remaining within the approved budget. In addition, a new spinning wheel was acquired and presented to the Commission; staff clarified that this expense will not be charged to the CMC budget.

**c. Formation of Subcommittee for CMC 25th Anniversary Planning**

*Commission members will discuss establishing a subcommittee to lead planning efforts for the Commission's 25th Anniversary celebration, including determining subcommittee meeting dates and times, event logistics, planning timeline, and preliminary ideas.*

A subcommittee was established to lead planning for the Commission's 25th Anniversary celebration. Discussion included potential dates, event logistics, and preliminary ideas. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet at 5:00 p.m. on November 20, 2025, prior to the regular CMC meeting. Commission members volunteering to serve on the subcommittee are Merrill Balanciere, Christopher Johnson, and Arthur Gregg. Staff noted that a formal agenda will be posted, and the meeting will be open to the public.

**d.**

**Establishment of Nominating Committee for Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

*The commission will establish a nominating committee for the election of the Board Chair and Vice Chair. The committee will present a slate of candidates, followed by a secret ballot election. The officer election is scheduled to take place at the October 16, 2025 meeting.*

The Commission established a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the upcoming election of Chair and Vice-Chair on October 16, 2025. Commission members volunteering to serve on the nominating committee are Merrill Balanciere and Steven Flores. Staff noted that the election will be conducted by secret ballot.

**e. Children's Fall Festival Planning**

*Commission members will discuss the planning and logistics for the Children's Fall Festival scheduled for October 18, 2025.*

The Commission reviewed details for the Children's Fall Festival scheduled for October 18, 2025. Discussion included setup times, volunteer shifts, and event logistics, with confirmation that the CMC will host a table at the event. A request was made to confirm the exact arrival time for CMC volunteers. Staff will reach out to Jennifer Nguyen to obtain details of the event schedule and arrival times for Commission members who are volunteering.

**f. Future Meetings and Events**

*Commission members will discuss coordination and participation in upcoming community events.*

Members discussed coordination and participation in several upcoming events, including:

- Community Cookout at Bussey Middle School – September 26, 2025
- Safety Fest – October 4, 2025
- Tri-City Litter Cleanup – October 11, 2025
- Texas Tamale Festival Exhibit – October 11, 2025 through January 3, 2026
- GISD Town Hall Meetings – various dates in September and October 2025
- DFW Asian American Charity Golf Tournament – October 28, 2025; staff will reach out to Jimmy Tran

regarding volunteer opportunities for CMC members

- Additional opportunities for outreach and collaboration with other boards, including the Garland Youth Council (GYC)

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Presentation by an MD Pathways Representative
- Discussion on use of the spinning wheel at events

**5. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**Submitted By:**

*/s/ CorSharra Prenell, Chair*

*/s/ Courtney Vanover, Public Information Coordinator*