



GARLAND

MINUTES

The All Abilities Committee of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 5:00 PM on February 4, 2026, in the Council Chambers at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Council

Present: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Chris Ott
Councilmember Carissa Dutton

Members

Present: Amanda Esquivel, Chair
Leigh Calmes, Vice Chair
Jana Veit, Committee Member
Tommy Zapata, Committee Member
Jennifer Reeder, Committee Member
Grant Laird Jr., Committee Member
Susan Behrens, Committee Member
Heather Miller, Committee Member

Members

Absent: Elizabeth Sherley Graham, Committee Member

Staff Present: Mike Betz, Interim City Manager
Matthew Watson, Assistant City Manager
Jennifer Stubbs, City Secretary
Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

David Hoag.

2. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Introductions - Board and Staff Members

Newly appointed board members and staff will provide brief introductions.

Committee members and staff introduced themselves, briefly sharing their names, roles, and relevant experience.

b. Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee will consider the nomination and election of a Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion was made by Committee Member Veit to nominate Committee Member Esquivel as Chair, and seconded by Committee Member Reeder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Committee Member Calmes to nominate herself for Vice Chair, seconded by Committee Member Behrens. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

c. Committee Purpose and Vision

The Committee is requested to hear and discuss Councilmember Dutton's vision for the Committee's work.

Committee Member Zapata arrived at 5:21 p.m.

The Committee discussed Councilmember Dutton's vision for the Committee's work, with a focus on accessibility, inclusion, and improving City services and programs for residents of all abilities.

d. Discuss Meeting Dates

The Committee is requested to discuss future meeting dates and the meeting schedule.

The Committee established its regular meeting schedule as the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The Committee discussed potential topics for future meeting dates:

- Identification of local and City resources related to accessibility.
- A list of upcoming City events and available accommodations.
- Evaluation of past events to identify successes and areas for improvement.
- Examples of accessibility initiatives implemented by other cities.
- Exploration of potential new programs.

3. ADJOURN

Chair Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted By:

/s/ Amanda Esquivel, Chair

/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary