GARLAND

MINUTES

The All Abilities Committee of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 6:00 PM on April 1, 2026, in Community Room 122 at the Garland Central Library, 625 Austin Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present:	Amanda Esquivel, Chair
	Leigh Calmes, Vice Chair
	Tommy Zapata, Committee Member
	Elizabeth Sherley Graham, Committee Member
	Grant Laird, Jr., Committee Member
	Jana Veit, Committee Member
	Heather Miller, Committee Member
Absent:	Jennifer Reeder, Committee Member
	Susan Behrens, Committee Member
Staff Present:	Matt Watson, Assistant City Manager
	Samantha Cairy, Aquatics & Athletics Manager
	Darci Pickel, Public Information Coordinator

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider Approval of the Minutes for the March 4, 2026 Meeting

a. Consider Approval of the Minutes for the March 4, 2026 Meeting

Motion was made by Committee Member Veit and seconded by Committee Member Zapata to approve the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

David Hogue.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Aquatics Accessibility and Adaptive Swim Programs

Samantha Cairy, Aquatics & Athletics Manager, will present information regarding adaptive swim programs, facility accessibility, and special needs swimming opportunities, including coordination with Parks & Recreation, Aquatics, and Therapeutic Recreation.

Ms. Cairy provided an overview of accessibility initiatives within the Parks & Recreation Department. The Department promotes inclusive participation for individuals of all abilities and maintains CAPRA accreditation. Ms. Cairy presented information on accessible aquatic facilities, including ADA-compliant pathways, multiple pool entry options (ramps, lifts, and transfer stations), and sensory-friendly accommodations available upon request. She noted that accommodations are individualized based on participant needs. Information was provided regarding the adaptive swim program, which offers one-on-one instruction using adaptive equipment and techniques. The program is available for individuals ages five and older and is offered at all aquatic facilities at a cost of $65 for eight sessions. Scholarships are available for qualifying participants. Additional programming includes the “Splish Splash Family Bash” event held at Holford Pool. Future initiatives include

expansion of adult adaptive lessons, autism awareness training for staff, focus groups for accessibility improvements, and enhanced instructor training. Committee Members discussed the need to improve communication and awareness of available programs and accommodations. Suggestions included development of a centralized resource guide and improvements to concession accessibility.

b. Technology and Communication Accessibility at City Facilities and Events

Staff will provide an overview of technology needs to support accessibility at City facilities, including captioning display and Wi-Fi connectivity, and evaluate options for interpreters and/or captioning at City events and meetings.

Mr. Watson provided an overview of accessibility-related technology available at City facilities. Public Wi-Fi is available at City buildings, including libraries and recreation centers, while outdoor connectivity remains limited. Teams Room technology has been implemented to support meetings and includes captioning capabilities. Discussion included opportunities to enhance accessibility through website improvements, including text-to-speech or immersive reader functionality, and expanded use of captioning at public events. Staff noted that providing braille agendas presents logistical challenges due to production timelines and costs. Alternative accessibility solutions were discussed.

c. Audible Pedestrian Crossing Signals

Staff will provide an update on the status of audible pedestrian crossing signals throughout the City.

Mr. Watson provided an update on audible pedestrian crossing signals currently installed throughout the City, noting that all signals are operational. Historically, installations have been based on requests or grant requirements. He also indicated that the City is transitioning to a more proactive approach by incorporating audible signals into ongoing traffic signal replacement projects. An evaluation process is currently in development, with additional updates anticipated in Summer 2026.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee identified the following items for future consideration:

- Employment and workforce accessibility, including partnerships with the Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.
- Website accessibility enhancements, including text-to-speech functionality.
- Event accessibility standards and checklist.
- Facility usage and fee structure.
- Disability awareness and community programming initiatives.

5. ADJOURN

Chair Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Submitted By:

/s/ Amanda Esquivel, Chair
/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary