



**GARLAND**  
**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS**

**Senior Citizens Advisory Commission**  
**Work Session Room of City Hall**  
**William E. Dollar Municipal Building**  
**200 N. Fifth Street**  
**Garland, Texas**  
**June 4, 2026**  
**9:00 AM**

A meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission of the City of Garland, Texas will be held at the aforementioned location, date, and time to discuss and consider the following agenda items.

**AGENDA:**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **Consider Approval of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Minutes for the May 7, 2026 Meeting**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

- a. **Garland Mayor Dylan Hedrick Q&A on Issues Pertaining to Senior Citizens**

*Garland Mayor Dylan Hedrick will discuss issues pertaining to Senior Citizens and will be available to answer any questions.*

- b. **Garland Police Department Presentation on Fraud, Scams, and Senior Citizen Safety**

*Matt Pesta, Police Officer, will discuss fraud, scams, and issues pertaining to senior citizens and be available to answer questions.*

- c. **Envision Vision Rehabilitation Center Will Provide an Overview Presentation on the Services They Offer**

*Mr. Castillo will provide a presentation on Envision Vision Rehabilitation Center and be available to answer questions.*

- d. **Consider Canceling or Rescheduling the July 2, 2026 Meeting**

*Jesse Johnson, Jr., Recreation Services Manager, requests that the Commission consider*

*canceling or rescheduling the July 2, 2026 meeting.*

**e. Marketing Outreach to Senior Citizens Update**

*Commission Members Montgomery and Bruns will present and finalize which city events the Commissioner Members will attend and determine the items needed for each event.*

**f. Garland Church Food Assistance Update**

*Commission Member Garrett will present a report on the regular operating days and hours of various food banks.*

**g. Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Website Discussion**

*Jesse Johnson Jr., Recreation Services Manager, will discuss developments of the Commission web page and city department research and be available to answer questions.*

**h. Senior Center Reports**

*Jelisa Baker, Recreation Services Supervisor and Ms. Muhlinghaus, Recreation Services Supervisor, will provide updates to the Commission and be available to answer questions.*

**i. City Press Upcoming Topics Discussion**

*Chair Cooper will lead a discussion on upcoming topics to be included in the City Press and be available to answer questions.*

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**5. ADJOURN**

**NOTE:** A quorum of the City Council may be in attendance and may or may not participate in the discussions of the Commission.



# GARLAND

## MINUTES

The Senior Citizens Advisory Commission of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 9:00 AM on May 7, 2026, in the Work Session Room at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

- Present: Carol Cooper, Chair  
Gail Belton, Vice Chair  
Amador Castro. Jr., Commission Member  
Wytonia Montgomery, Commission Member  
Sal Liberto, Commission Member  
Kathleen Gardner, Commission Member  
Venita Lovelace - Chandler, Commission Member
- Absent: Robert Bruns, Commission Member  
Ann Garrett, Commission Member
- Staff Present: Jesse Johnson Jr., Recreation Manager  
Jelisa Baker, Recreation Services Supervisor  
Dee Muhlinghaus, Recreation Services Supervisor  
Yvonne V. Naser, Management Services Coordinator

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **Consider Approval of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Minutes for the April 2, 2026 Meeting**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Belton, and seconded by Commission Member Liberto, that the minutes of April 2, 2026, be approved as submitted. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

### 3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- a. **Garland Police Department and Environmental Health Department will Discuss Scams, Issues, and Mental Health Pertaining to Senior Citizens**

*Matt Pesta, Garland Police Officer, and Melissa Sullivan, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Environmental Health Department, will discuss fraud, scams, and mental health issues pertaining to senior citizens.*

Mr. Pesta, Garland Police Officer, and Ms. Sullivan, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Environmental Health Department, provided information on fraud, scams, and mental health issues pertaining to senior citizens. Ms Sullivan also provided a brief overview to the Commission on which departments provide referrals to her for an assessment for her services.

- b. **Marketing Outreach to Seniors Update**

*Commission Members Montgomery and Bruns will provide an update on which city events the Commission could provide outreach at, including other marketing efforts.*

Commission Member Montgomery provided an update on which city events the Commission could provide outreach at. Some options mentioned: Asian American Festival, Juneteenth, Red White and You, Bingo at both senior centers, Health Fair, Christmas on the Square.

**c. Garland Churches Food Assistance Update**

*Commission Member Garrett will present a report outlining the scheduled dates and times of recurring food banks.*

Commission Member Garrett was not in attendance. However, she previously emailed a list of Garland churches that provide food assistance, which will be included in the email blast as well.

**d. Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Website Update**

*Jesse Johnson Jr., Recreation Manager, will provide an update on the Commission's website.*

Mr. Johnson, Jr. Recreation Manager, provided an update to the commission on the Commission's website. Information provided included: a new link to In the Know Newsletter from the city home page (Live in Garland tab) and future webmaster upgrades to the commission page as previously discussed.

**e. Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Bylaws Update**

*Jesse Johnson Jr., Recreation Manager, will update the Commission on the bylaws that were previously submitted for Council approval.*

Mr. Johnson Jr., Recreation Manager, provided an update to the Commission on the bylaws that were previously submitted for Council approval. He also provided a reminder to commission members to submit their board and commission applications for those districts that recently had elections.

**f. Update on Email Blast, Survey, Utility Bill Marketing, and Beam Signing Event**

*Jesse Johnson Jr., Recreation Manager, will update the Commission on the email blast, survey, utility bill marketing, and beam signing event.*

Mr. Johnson, Jr., Recreation Manager, updated the Commission on the email blast (254 people have signed up for the newsletter, survey (48 completed), utility bill marketing, and a briefing on the beam signing event.

**g. Senior Center Reports**

*Jelisa Baker (Carver) and Dee Muhlinghaus (Senior Activity Center), Recreation Services Supervisors, will provide updates to the Commission and be available to answer questions.*

Ms. Baker, Recreation Services Supervisor, provided a presentation on past and upcoming activities from the Carver Senior Center to the commission and was available to answer questions. Ms. Muhlinghaus, Recreation Services Supervisor, was not available to present; however, she did provide the Silver Scoop to all commission members.

**h. City Press Upcoming Topics**

*Carol Cooper, Commission Chair, will lead a discussion on upcoming topics to be included in the City Press.*

Chair Cooper, notified the commission that the July–Aug. City Press will include the Elder Lawyer article and Sept. - Oct. City Press article will cover the Senior Health Fair.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Cooper has requested the following:

- June - Envision Dallas (formerly Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind) hosted by Kathleen Gardner
- July — No Meeting
- Aug. — Chair Cooper will not be in attendance and Vice Chair Belton will lead the meeting. The Fire Dept. will speak to the commission and Chair Cooper suggested that either Caption Call or a new Council member come speak to the commission.
- Sept. - Mandy Pippin, Environmental Health Director, hosted by Ann Garrett
- Oct. - Commission yearly Chair and Vice Chair election and possibly a speaker from The Senior

Source as well as a speaker to discuss how the city is using AI.

- Nov. - Emergency Management hosted by Ann Garrett

## **5. ADJOURN**

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

### **Submitted By:**

**/s/ Carol Cooper, Chair**

**/s/ Yvonne V. Naser, Recording Secretary**

## Envision Vision Rehabilitation Center (Envision Dallas)

- **Specialized Services:** Expert low vision rehabilitation following a collaborative, holistic team approach.
- **Low Vision Consultations:** Partnering with Dr. Amy Burcham, OD, FAAO (Beacon Vision Center).
- **Occupational Therapy:** Assistance with daily living activities, lighting, magnification, and leisure activities.
- **Orientation & Mobility Training:** White cane training for improved navigation.
- **Assistive Technology:** Setup for accessibility tools like JAWS, Magnification, NVDA.
- **Independent Living Skills Training:** Training on adaptive aids, cooking skills, and resources.
- **S.K.I.P:** Senior Keys to Independence Program. Training which focuses on independent living skills, adaptive aid training, cooking skills, O&M/cane training, and social emotional health of an individual 55+ adapting to vision loss. The program is contracted through TWC and is of no cost to the client.
- **VR/Programming:** Job readiness services available through TWC contract services; Upward mobility preparation.

## **Process Overview**

- **Initial Appointment:** Low vision evaluation with Dr. Burcham to determine necessary services/devices.
- **Occupational Therapy/ILST, O&M or AT Follow-up:** Holistic assessment and training on prescribed devices, training; scheduled as needed.
- **Ongoing Support:** Continued training visits for goal-oriented training; in-home/ at work visits available if necessary.

## **Key Collaborations**

- **Medical Directors:** Dr. Burcham (Assistant Medical Director at Envision Dallas) and Dr. Donald Fletcher.
- **Billing:** Separate billing through private practices; services covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurers.
- **Funding Support:** Assistive technology and training funded through TWC, VA, ARCIL, private pay, grants, or donations.

## **Accessibility Commitment**

- **No Financial Barriers:** Services provided regardless of ability to pay, with financial assistance applications available.
- **DAAA SOS Grant:** Resources and low-tech devices for clients 60+ in Dallas County to maintain independence.

- **Referrals:** Not required for low vision consultations; needed for OT services. Last visit note from regular eye doctor preferred.
- **Providing Products for Low Vision Needs (Envision Everyday Store):**

The Envision Everyday Store provides individuals with low vision needs access to the latest adaptive aids, technology, and equipment. Our wide range of low-vision products can improve quality of life by allowing the user to accomplish everyday tasks that are vital to their sense of independence. Our goal isn't to sell you a product. Our goal is to give you expert advice on your situation.

Product categories include:

Magnifiers

Electronics

Clocks and watches

Digital magnifiers and CCTV's

Games, toys, and educational materials

Household and pet products

Office supplies

White Canes and accessories



# Rehabilitation Treatment for People with Vision Loss

Envision Vision Rehabilitation Centers  
Wichita, KS and Farmers Branch, TX



## What is low vision?

Low vision is a significant loss in visual acuity or visual fields and cannot be corrected or improved with regular eyeglasses or surgery.

Common causes of low vision are eye diseases such as:

- Macular Degeneration
- Glaucoma
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Eye or Brain Injury

## Maintain Your **Independence**

Blindness and vision impairment may impact personal goals in education, work and the day-to-day activities many people without vision loss take for granted. This may include difficulties with reading, using a computer, watching TV, mobility and travel or other social activities. However, loss of vision doesn't have to mean loss of independence.

If vision impairment is interfering with daily activities, employment, education or quality of life, low vision rehabilitation can help!

# Envision **Vision Rehabilitation** Center

Envision's Vision Rehabilitation Centers in Wichita, Kansas and Farmers Branch, Texas provide low vision rehabilitation which may include training in the use of optical magnifiers, video magnifiers, special lighting, or training in activities of daily living skills including cooking, leisure or reading.

## **Rehabilitation services may include:**

- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Independent Living Services Training (restorative training for daily living activities)
- Orientation and Mobility Training (known as white cane training)
- Assistive Technology Training
- Intro to Braille Communications Training

*Providers vary by location and are available to see clients in office, in the community, or in the home.*

In addition to providing low vision rehabilitation services, our staff is dedicated to helping patients find essential resources that support their independence.

Envision's Vision Rehabilitation Center handles claims to private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid on behalf of eligible patients. Additionally, we are a recognized vendor for state Vocational Rehabilitation Services, including the State of Kansas and Texas Workforce Commission, as well as the national Older Individuals Who are Blind Program.

**For more information on insurance coverages and qualified vendors per service:**



Wichita, Kansas email: [rehab@envisionus.com](mailto:rehab@envisionus.com)  
Farmers Branch, Texas email: [dallasrehab@envisionus.com](mailto:dallasrehab@envisionus.com)

*Envision Vision Rehabilitation Center in Wichita, KS has been certified as Outpatient Physical Therapy Rehab Agency under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).*



# Reclaim your **INDEPENDENCE**

Call the Envision  
Vision Rehabilitation Center today!

Wichita, KS: 316-440-1600

Farmers Branch, TX: 214-420-5095



To improve the quality of life and provide inspiration and opportunity for people who are blind or visually impaired through employment, outreach, rehabilitation, education and research.

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610 N. Main St., Wichita, KS 67203

[EnvisionUs.com/Rehab](http://EnvisionUs.com/Rehab)

1801 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, TX, 75204

[EnvisionUs.com/DallasRehab](http://EnvisionUs.com/DallasRehab)

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