



GARLAND

MINUTES

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

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

Staff Present: Matt Watson, Assistant City Manager
Pedro Barineau, Public Information Officer
Carl Carson, Police Officer
Daniel Rivas, Police Officer
Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consider Approval of the Minutes of the April 1, 2026 Meeting

Motion was made by Committee Member Veit and seconded by Committee Member Zapata to approve the April 1, 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.

There were no speakers for this item.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Police Department Presentation on Resources for Residents with Disabilities

Lieutenant Pedro Barineau, Public Information Officer, will present information from the Police Department regarding local resources available to residents with disabilities, including department programs, accommodation services, and neighborhood initiatives.

Lieutenant Barineau, provided an overview of community programs and resources available to residents, including the Residential Lockbox Program, Safe at Home Program, Vacation Watch Program, Neighborhood Police Officer Program, Crime Watch initiatives, Citizens Police Academy, and community outreach efforts. Officer Rivas and Officer Carson also participated in the discussion. Committee Members discussed program eligibility, emergency response procedures, de-escalation efforts, accessibility considerations, communication with residents with disabilities, School Resource Officer involvement, and accessibility improvements for department social media and community programs.

b. Event Accessibility Standards

Discussion regarding the development of baseline recommendations for event accessibility, including captioning, communication tools, and accommodations.

The Committee discussed the development of baseline accessibility recommendations for public events, including captioning, communication tools, and accommodations. Committee Members discussed accessibility considerations and potential future recommendations for city events.

c. All Abilities Resource Guide – Framework Discussion

Discussion regarding the All Abilities Resource Guide to be available on the Committee webpage, including brainstorming ideas and establishing an initial framework.

The Committee discussed development of an All Abilities Resource Guide to be made available on the Committee web page. Discussion included brainstorming potential content, organizational ideas, and establishing an initial framework for the resource guide.

d. Staff Updates

Discussion regarding staff updates on previously requested information.

Staff provided updates regarding previously requested information and ongoing Committee initiatives.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee briefly discussed future agenda topics and continued accessibility initiatives.

5. ADJOURN

Chair Esquivel adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted By:

/s/ Amanda Esquivel, Chair

/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary