



# 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*