



GARLAND

MINUTES

The Community Multicultural Commission of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 6:00 PM on June 18, 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: CorSharra Prenell, Chair
Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair
Merrill Balanciere, Commission Member
Rene Granado, Commission Member
Moses Uvere, Commission Member
Jennifer Nguyen, Commission Member
Arthur Gregg, Commission Member
Charles Leonard, Commission Member
Glenna Saygidia, Commission Member

Absent: Alex Alexander, Commission Member
Kymberlaine Banks, Commission Member

Staff Present: Oswaldo Rodriguez, Sanitation Director
Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consider Approval of Minutes from the March 19, 2026 Meeting

Commission Member Gregg made a motion to approve the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes. Commission Member Saygidia seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

There were no speakers on this item.

4. COMMISSION REPORT UPDATES, PAST AND FUTURE

Commission Member Nguyen reported attending Councilmember Joe Thomas Jr., Town Hall and Coffee with Council hosted by Councilmember Jimmy Tran. She also shared that the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Festival attracted approximately 14,600 attendees, a significant increase from the previous year, and received high satisfaction ratings from participants.

Commission Member Uvere provided an update on a student talent show held at Bussey Middle School, which was attended by approximately 180 students and family members. Students played a significant role in organizing and operating the event, and Commission Member Greg and Commission Member Balanciere served as judges. Commission Members commended the students for their efforts and the event's success.

Commission Members discussed the Ninth Street Boxing Gym fundraiser, highlighting the program's positive

impact on youth and noting that approximately \$70,000 was raised toward a new facility in Garland. Commission Members also reported attending various community events, including the Good Samaritan of Garland ribbon cutting, community outreach activities, and Councilmember Jimmy Tran's swearing-in ceremony.

5. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Financial Update

Staff will provide the Commission with an update on the CMC Budget.

Staff provided a financial update, reporting an annual budget of \$8,000, expenditures of \$1,408, and a remaining balance of \$6,592. Commission Members discussed utilizing remaining funds before the end of the fiscal year, including costs associated with meetings, community events, and promotional items. Commission Members discussed potential outreach and giveaway items for use at community events and agreed that staff would provide an inventory of previously purchased items and solicit recommendations for future purchases. Vice Chair Johnson made a motion to allocate \$3,500 of the remaining budget funds for the purchase of promotional items to be used at community events and community engagement activities. Commission Member Granado seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

b. Monthly Calendar Update

Staff will provide an update to the Commission on the updated CMC calendar.

The Commission reviewed upcoming events for June, July, and August and discussed participation in the City's Juneteenth Celebration. Although the Commission did not have a reserved booth, Commission Members were encouraged to attend, volunteer, and support other City Boards, Commissions, and Community Organizations.

c. 25th Anniversary Celebration Discussion

Discuss details regarding the upcoming 25th Anniversary Celebration.

The Commission discussed planning efforts for the Community Multicultural Commission's 25th Anniversary celebration. Members reviewed information previously presented by Project Unity's Together We Dine program and agreed that additional discussion with the organization would be beneficial. The Commission requested that a 25th Anniversary Subcommittee meeting be held on July 16, 2026, prior to the regular Community Multicultural Commission meeting, to develop questions, gather input, and further refine the event concept before inviting Project Unity to return for additional discussion. Commission Members discussed the importance of identifying event goals, community participation, sponsorship opportunities, potential costs, and venue considerations. Members also shared information regarding past Commission anniversary celebrations and emphasized the importance of creating an event that promotes community dialogue and engagement. The Commission agreed to continue planning efforts through the 25th Anniversary Subcommittee and to revisit the matter at a future meeting.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items discussed.

7. ADJOURN

Chair Prenell adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Submitted By:

/s/ CorSharra Prenell, Chair

/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary