



GARLAND

NOTICE OF MEETING

CITY OF GARLAND, TEXAS

**Community Services Committee
Work Session Room
200 N. Fifth Street
Garland, Texas
September 24, 2026
10:00 AM**

A meeting of the Community Services Committee of the City of Garland, Texas will be held at the aforementioned location, date, and time to discuss and consider the following agenda items.

NOTICE: The committee may recess from the open session and convene in a closed executive session if the discussion of any of the listed agenda items concerns attorney/client communication, including pending/contemplated litigation, settlement offer(s), and matters concerning privileged and unprivileged client information deemed confidential by Rule 1.05 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Sec. 551.071, Tex. Gov't Code.

AGENDA:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Consider the Approval of the August 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

- a. Lake Ray Hubbard**

Discussion regarding litter, debris, and other accumulated materials along the shoreline of Lake Ray Hubbard; Explore potential responsibilities for identifying, removing, and preventing shoreline debris; and exploration of practical, cost-effective approaches to improve the appearance, cleanliness, and usability of lakefront areas for residents and visitors.

Presenter: Councilmember Ed Moore

- b. Native Lawn Program**

The Committee will discuss potential policies for a native lawn program. The item was referred to the Committee by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dutton and seconded by Councilmember Lucht.

4. ADJOURN

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



GARLAND

MINUTES

The Community Services Committee of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 10:00 AM on August 27, 2026, in the Council Chambers at the William E. Dollar Municipal Building, 200 North Fifth Street, Garland, Texas, with the following members present:

Present: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Carissa Dutton, Chair
Councilmember Christina Segoviano
Councilmember Ed Moore

Absent: Councilmember Justin Caraway

Staff Present: Mike Betz, City Manager
Andy Hesser, Assistant City Manager
Brian England, City Attorney
Trey Lansford, Deputy City Attorney
Sargent St. Clair, Police Department
Uriel Villalpando, Managing Director — Environmental Health
DLee Williams, Managing Director — Parks and Recreation
Brian Morris, Code Compliance Director
Thomas Owens, Environmental Compliance Director — Sanitation
Scott Bollinger, Neighborhood Resources Director — Office of Neighborhood Vitality
Kari Pacheco, Parks Director
Laura De La Vega, Senior Planner — Office of Neighborhood Vitality
Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consider Approval of the February 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Segoviano made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026 meeting. Chair Dutton seconded the motion. 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 on this item.

3. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

a. Review Neighborhood Vitality Matching Grant Spring 2026 Applications

The Committee will review applications for the Neighborhood Vitality Matching Grant program, Spring cycle 2026. Applications approved by this Committee will be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration.

Presenter: Laura De La Vega, Sr. Planner

Ms. De La Vega, presented four Spring 2026 Neighborhood Vitality Matching Grant applications:

- Firewheel Farms volunteers requested \$18,711 for entryway and screening wall repairs.
- North West Terrace requested \$9,800 for an entryway art sculpture.
- Pecan Grove Neighborhood Association requested \$3,975 for sign-topper replacements.
- Riverset Residential Association requested \$15,582 for trail amenities.

Staff reviewed project eligibility, costs, neighborhood contributions, maintenance responsibilities, and departmental requirements for each application.

b. Developing a Designated Camping Site for Unhoused Individuals

The Committee will discuss potential policies for a “designated camping site” for unhoused individuals within the City limits. The item was referred to the Committee by former Councilmember Beard and seconded by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dutton.

Presenter: Amber Thompson, Legal Compliance and Special Projects Director

Mr. Villalpando and Mr. Owens presented the requirements for establishing a designated camping site. Staff reviewed the site-selection process, required application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and access requirements for sanitation, health care, social services, public transportation, law enforcement, and mental health resources.

Staff also discussed potential challenges, including community acceptance, public safety, ongoing costs, staffing needs, demand exceeding capacity, and enforcement of site rules.

c. Lake Ray Hubbard

The Committee will discuss issues regarding litter, refuse, and debris along the Lake Ray Hubbard shoreline and adjoining neighborhoods. The item was referred by Councilmember Moore and seconded by Councilmember Caraway.

Presenter: DLee Williams, Managing Director- Parks and Recreation

Ms. Williams and Ms. Pacheco, provided an overview of litter and debris accumulating along the Lake Ray Hubbard shoreline. Staff discussed current cleanup efforts, equipment options, coordination with the City of Dallas, and the ongoing nature of the issue. A contractor provided an estimated cost of \$949,000 for a one-time debris removal, excluding disposal fees.

The Committee discussed litter-control booms, specialized equipment, partnerships with surrounding municipalities, and volunteer cleanup opportunities involving neighborhood associations, boaters, and kayak groups. Councilmember Moore emphasized the need for a coordinated, long-term approach involving applicable City departments and regional partners.

The Committee agreed to continue the item at its next meeting. Councilmember Moore will present additional information and proposed solutions.

d. Native Lawn Program

The Committee will discuss potential policies for a native lawn program. The item was referred to the Committee by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Dutton and seconded by Councilmember Lucht.

Presenter: Brian Morris, Director of Code Compliance

Mr. Morris discussed the City’s current provisions for natural, historic, and scientifically significant vegetation. He explained the challenges of distinguishing intentionally maintained native landscapes from unmanaged weeds and reviewed a proposed application process requiring plant certification, defined boundaries,

maintenance plans, safety measures, and ongoing compliance.

The Committee discussed establishing a voluntary certification program for maintaining native landscapes. Potential partnerships with Keep Garland Beautiful, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and native plant organizations were discussed. The Committee also considered staff workload, consistent certification standards, neighborhood concerns, continued code enforcement, and a possible 12-month pilot program.

The Committee agreed to continue the item at its next meeting. Staff will review the proposed program outline and explore options for using qualified volunteers and community organizations to assist with certification and monitoring.

4. ADJOURN

Chair Dutton adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Submitted By:

/s/ Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Carissa Dutton, Chair
/s/ Courtney Vanover, Deputy City Secretary