GARLAND

# MINUTES

The Community Multicultural Commission of the City of Garland convened in regular session at 6:00 PM on March 19, 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 Pernell, Chair<br>Commission Member, Steven Flores<br>Commission Member, Rene Granado<br>Commission Member, Kymberlaine Banks<br>Commission Member, Merrill Balanciere<br>Commission Member, Arthur Gregg<br>Commission Member, Glenna Saygidia<br>Commission Member, Charles Leonard |
| Absent: | Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair<br>Moses Uvere, Commission Member<br>Jennifer Nguyen, Commission Member |
| Staff Present: | Oswaldo Rodriguez, Sanitation Operations Services Administrator<br>Darci Pickel, Public Information Coordinator |

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Prenell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### a. Consider Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2026 Meeting

Commission Member Banks made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Commission Member Gregg seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

## 3. 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.

## 4. 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Johnson of the 25th Anniversary Subcommittee, will provide a report from the January 15, 2026 Subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee Member Gregg provided a report summarizing the Subcommittee Meeting held earlier.

Key points included:

- 25th Anniversary Subcommittee met on March 19, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
- Discussion focused on potential 25th Anniversary Event planning.
- Consideration of a partnership with Project Unity – “Together We Dine.”
- Topics included:
    - Event structure (dinner + facilitated conversation)

- Marketing, sponsorships, and catering
- Need for budget development (not yet discussed)

Noted that Chair Johnson was not present for this report.

## 5. COMMISSION REPORT UPDATES, PAST AND FUTURE

Commission Members reported participation in various activities:

- Attendance at City Council meetings (general development updates noted).
- Participation in community clean-up events.
- Attendance at Fire & EMS Stakeholder meetings.

Additional discussion included:

- Fire & EMS Stakeholder Committee updates, including:
  - Proposed schedule change (24/48 to 24/72 shifts)
  - Potential EMS privatization
  - Possible financial/tax impact on residents
  - Encouragement for Commission Members to attend stakeholder meetings

## 6. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

### a. Project Unity Presentation on Together We Dine

*Charlene Edwards with Project Unity will give a presentation to the Commission on Together We Dine for the 25th Anniversary Celebration potential partnership.*

State Representative Rhetta Bowers and Charlene Edwards, Director of Programs and Events at Project Unity, provided a presentation to the Commission.

Presentation highlights:

- Program established in 2017 promoting deeper level questions that provoke intentional dialogue following community tensions.
- Structured 90-minute sessions with trained facilitators.
- Small group discussions (4–7 participants per table).

- Focus on:
  - Listening exercises
  - Guided questions (8–10 per topic)
  - Shared experiences and perspectives
  - Call to action and reflection
- Program supports:
  - Community connection across diverse backgrounds
  - Conversations on topics such as race, civility, and lived experiences
  - Partnerships with cities, schools, and organizations
- Impact noted:
  - Thousands of participants annually
  - Use in municipalities and educational settings

- Positive engagement outcomes

Discussion points:

- Opportunity for Garland to partner for the 25th Anniversary event.
- Planning sessions would be required.
- Chamber and staff may assist with logistics and refreshments.
- Partnership fee to be discussed further.

The Commission concluded that Charlene Edwards with Project Unity will return to a Subcommittee Meeting for further discussion.

**b. Website/Communication Update**

*Staff will present an update on improvements to the Community Multicultural Commission Website and QR code.*

Ms. Pickel updated the Commission Members on the redesigned Community Multicultural Commission page on the City of Garland website and new business cards with updated QR code.

Updates included:

- Website redesign and improved layout.
- QR code linking directly to CMC webpage.
- Updated meeting information and contact access.
- Added community resource links.

Discussion included:

- Suggestion to add Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).
- Consideration of adding resource links (e.g., Chamber directory).
- Clarification on limitations regarding promotion of private businesses.

**c. Kid's Talent Show Event Update**

*Commission Member Uvere will update the Commission on the upcoming Bussy Middle School Talent Show and Sellers Middle School Talent Show Events.*

Item tabled for next meeting due to absence of reporting member.

**d. Discussion on Garland's 4th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival**

*Discussion regarding planning, programming, partnerships, and community engagement efforts for Garland's 4th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival.*

Event is scheduled for May 16, 2026.

Discussion included:

- Participation by the Commission (table and/or parade)

- Need to confirm:
    - Event time
    - Participation expectations
    - Any associated costs

The Commission supports participation pending additional details, provided costs do not exceed $100.00.

## 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continue discussion of:

- Kid's Talent Show Event Updates.
- Project Unity partnership.
- Continued evaluation of event structure and partnership details.

## 8. ADJOURN

Commission Member Banks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission Member Gregg seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Chair Prenell adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

**Submitted By:**

_____

**CorSharra Prenell, Chair**

_____

**Darci Pickel, Public Information Coordinator**