

# Accessibility for the impaired at the Palomar College Governing Board meetings

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Hello Governing Board members,

A fellow faculty member informed me that Trustee Hensch asked for improvements in the accessibility of the Governing Board meetings so that hearing and visually impaired people like myself can follow along.

Thank you Nancy Ann for making that request. I wanted to follow up and share that the City of San Marcos has a set-up that allows a hearing impaired person such as myself to follow the meeting well. In the San Marcos Council chambers, there are several video cameras, including one facing the podium and one (or possibly more) facing the dais. The meetings are filmed and the camera cuts to whomever is speaking at that time so that the speaker's face (and lips) are clearly visible. The video is livestreamed and also posted on the City's website for transparency and accessibility. The City also has a video of the meeting playing outside the council chambers on a TV. Often, I will go just outside the chambers and watch the meeting from there.

For an example of how the City of San Marcos records their City Council meetings, you can go to this website: <https://www.san-marcos.net/your-government/agendas-minutes/city-council-agendas>

I've attached a screenshot of where to click once you are on this page. In fact, if you look at yesterday's video, you kind find me speaking at about 25:00 into the 4 hour video (I was a busy speaker last night). But my point being that I could follow almost all of the other speakers too, and therefore the dialogue of this public meeting was accessible to me.

Again, I extend a heartfelt thanks to Nancy Ann for making the request to improve accessibility. Please let me know if my experiences can be of any more guidance.

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