TOWN OF GARNER

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2022

Date and Time: Pursuant to the Bylaws governing the Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, a meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on October 17, at 6pm at the Garner Senior Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Ms. Durham called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The committee members present were Chair Ernestine Durham, Vice Hair Autumn Beam, Scott Bare, Matt Davis, Jay Ditenhafer, Tim Montgomery, Hope Webber, Mon Peng Yueh, and Tina Johnson, Senior Advisory Committee Liaison. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, and Elesha Burt, Administrative Support Specialist.

Committee introductions, including introduction of new member, Scott Bare.

1. Approval of the Agenda:
   1. Chair Durham asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Tim Montgomery motioned to approve the Agenda and Matt Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval of the September Meeting Minutes:
   1. Chair Durham asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2022 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approved made by Hope Webber, seconded by Autumn Beam. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
   1. Public has interest in more pickleball courts and skateboard park.
   2. Mr. Davis inquired about Sidewalk Project timeline. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that her understanding is that this is an NCDOT project and that she will ask the Engineering Department for information.
4. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
   1. No concerns
5. Senior Advisory Committee:
   1. Ms. Tina Johnson provided update on the September 16, 2022 meeting of the Senior Advisory Committee. Information shared from the SAC meeting includes: Torrey Blackmar is out through November and commended Nancy Hulbert for doing a great job keeping center going in Torrey’s absence. The Gardening for Life program continues with great success; activities have included guest lecturers speaking about preservation and composting; workshop making paper from plants; art journaling workshop; and a registered dietitian will be featured in November on a workshop about making family recipes healthier. Staff is working with the Public Works Department to get fencing around the garden to protect from animals. Health Fair was successful; 150 in attendance. Meals on Wheels is going great; 90 meals being served; 50 being delivered. Restaurants participating, Angie’s and Food Runners. Senior Center is rented every weekend through January 2023.
6. Reports/Discussion Items
   1. Director’s Reports: Ms. Muñoz-Blanco presented the monthly report:
      1. Copies of the PRCR Annual Report for fiscal year 2021-2022 & GPAC 2022-23 It’s Showtime presenting series season brochure were distributed to the Committee. First GPAC show is by North Carolina group Nu-Blu; comp tickets available for committee members interested in attending.
      2. Copies of the GRC Master Plan Update were distributed to the Committee. The report includes details of the planning process and recommendations. The recommended components to activate the GRC grounds are an inclusive playground, an adaptive climbing wall, and outdoor fitness equipment station. This update is due to eligibility requirements for a PARTF Accessibility for Parks grant and a resolution of support is requested from the PRCR Advisory Committee. The grant request will be for $323,520 with 20% match with 3 years to raise funds. Mr. Davis asked about the type of fitness equipment being considered; Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that it’ll be outdoor equipment, dependent upon grant, and that she will provide further information. Ms. Yueh asked about the placement of the playground; Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that staff considerations regarding shade at this location. There were questions about the portion of the site that has been marked for private mixed-use development and the parking lot changes.
      3. Reported on upcoming events, including Trick or Treat the Trails has 50 community groups signed up to participate in the event, which is back to pre-Covid numbers.
      4. Noted that PRCR staff at a conference in Greenville, NC where Rec-n-Roll is making an appearance.
      5. Mentioned upcoming Council agenda items, which include an update on the South Garner Greenway Extension and design consultant contracts for the White Deer Park inclusive playground and splash pad. There was discussion about South Garner Greenway Extension and the Buffaloe Road Bridge. The feasibility study recommends a boardwalk. Mr. Montgomery recommended that the crossing of the lake include a spot for fishing, such as what exists at the Yates Mill Park crossing. Another idea mentioned was a gazebo or benches to sit and view the sunset over Lake Benson. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that once a design consultant is on board for the development of construction documents, these ideas will be shared.
      6. Mr. Davis motioned to approve the Resolution of Support for the Garner Recreation Center Updated Master Plan and the application to the 2022 PARTF Accessibility for Parks Grant. Mr. Jay Ditenhafer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
   2. Council Updates:
      1. No council updates.
   3. Announcements:
      1. No announcements
7. Other Business
   * 1. Discussion about Historic Meadowbrook. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the dam is in need of repair and shows evidence of seepage. An engineering firm is being hired to address the condition of the dam.
     2. There was discussion of whether to hold the or cancel the December meeting. Consensus was to hold the meeting for a social gathering.
   1. Adjournment
      1. With no further business, Chair Durham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms Mon Peng Yueh made the motion, seconded by Ms. Beam. Motion carried unanimously.
      2. Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.