

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: February 20, 2023

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 February 20, at 6pm at the Garner Senior Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Ernestine Durham called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. The committee members present were Chair Ernestine Durham, Scott Bare, Tim Montgomery, and Hope Webber. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Megan Young, Operations Superintendent, and Todd Riddick, Recreation & Athletics Superintendent.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
 - a. Ernestine Durham asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Hope motioned to approve the agenda and Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the January Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Chair Durham asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tim, seconded by Hope. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Ernestine asked about the canopy at the Lake Benson Park playground by shelter 1. Maria shared there's an insurance claim and once confirmation is received, Public Works maintenance staff will replace.
 - b. Council Member Dellinger shared a citizen reached out about weight limit for current kayaks at Lake Benson Boathouse. Maria said the team will research other options and route requests through the budget process.
 - c. Council Member Dellinger inquired about capacity for the Garner Recreation Center and projections based on growth of Garner. Council Member Dellinger noted the Character and Land Use (CLUE) updates may provide insight.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
 - a. Ernestine introduced Charlie Pearce and Charlie shared her background.
 - b. Charlie Pearce shared several Garner Senior Center updates:
 - i. Plans are in the works for the federal fund projects.
 - ii. Senior Games runs 2/1-6/13 and are looking for volunteers. More information at wcseniorgames.org
 - iii. Silver Arts Follies will be held at the Garner Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, March 22 at 4pm.
 - iv. St. Patrick's Bingo, Potluck, and trips are on the horizon.
 - v. Garden is now fenced, and this year the garden will be organic-only in partnership with Sweet Peas Urban Garden in Downtown Garner.
7. Reports/Discussion Items:
 - a. Director's Reports: Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented the monthly report, along with additional updates.

1. 2023 was designated as the Year of the Trail, which included a proclamation by Town Council, in addition to programming throughout the year.
2. Shelter concepts for Yeargan were presented to Town Council and staff have provided feedback to the design team based on Council's comments. Staff hope to bring revised concepts to the Advisory Committee in March.
3. The Town applied for \$2 million for Yeargan Park Phase 1 from Wake County Hospitality Tax Small Capital Funding program and presented the proposal February 15. Final decisions will be made on March 13 at the Board of Commissioners meeting.
4. The Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant application has moved from the State Office to the National Park Service for review.
5. Initial studies are underway at the Meadowbrook site as part of the dam/lake project.
6. Design work is underway for the South Garner Greenway and White Deer Park Inclusive Playground and Splashpad projects.
7. Next milestone for Yeargan Park is a traffic impact study.
8. Groundhog Day was very well attended despite the chilly rainy weather.
9. Valentine events were well attended and received, which included Shana Tucker at GPAC and the Sweetheart Dance at GRC.
10. The PRCR Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2020, but there was no timeline or funds associated with over 200 action items. The Department hopes to bring an update to Council later this year and has asked for the Committee's feedback to narrow the focus. Staff will host an exercise with the committee in March.
 - a. Tim asked clarity on how the Committee can help. Maria asked the Committee to help prioritize short and midterm action items. Ernestine and Tim suggested to communicate to the committee to plan for a longer meeting in March. The group also discussed breaking it up by theme over the next few meetings.
11. The first round of budget deadlines is Friday and Maria shared ideas for expansion requests to get additional feedback from the Committee. Requests options as follows:
 - a. Lake Benson Trail and Signage Assessment Plan
 - b. Security Cameras at PRCR buildings
 - A. Council Member Dellinger suggested quantifying damage to include as part of the request
 - c. Outdoor Program Expansion, including an LED screen for outdoor movies
 - d. Program and Operations, including contract services and staffing

- e. Van Replacement with a wheelchair accessible minibus. This request may end up going through the vehicle replacement process instead of an expansion requests.
 - A. Hope suggested fundraising with PTA.
 - B. Hope asked if there was an opportunity to partner with GoTriangle.
 - f. Staff are also looking closely at the timeline for Yeargan Park to determine what the needs are for fiscal year 2023-2024 and beyond.
 - 12. The Unified Development Code (UDO) has a role for the PRCR Advisory Committee as it relates to fee-in-lieu (chapter 8 of UDO) with subdivision plans. Someone from Development Services will present additional information as it relates to this role.
 - 13. There's an opportunity to apply for Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding specific to White Deer Park projects. The committee is in support of staff pursuing this funding and will provide a letter of support when needed.
 - b. Council Updates:
 - i. Council Member Dellinger shared several updates:
 - 1. Council retreat is February 23-24.
 - 2. Suggested to staff and the committee to be aggressive with CIP requests.
 - ii. Council Member Dellinger asked about the grants the department is applying for and the strategies and efficiencies specific to those processes. Maria noted there is some overlap with information needed depending on the purpose of the grants.
 - iii. Replying to a clarifying question from Tim, Council Member Dellinger shared additional insight from Town Council specific to the Yeargan Park shelter feedback and suggested the Committee watch the discussion from the Council meeting. Maria noted she has since shared additional concepts for Council for further feedback.
 - c. Announcements:
 - i. Character and Land Use Elements (CLUE) workshop on February 22 at the Garner Recreation Center, 12-6pm.
 - ii. Pedestrian Plan public meeting at White Deer Nature Center on March 9, 4:30-6:30pm.
8. Other Business
 - i. Ernestine asked for clarification from Town Council minutes regarding memorial benches. Maria clarified it was a requested action to accept the money raised so the Town can purchase memorial benches using the funds.
- b. Adjournment
 - i. With no further business, Chair Durham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim made the motion, seconded by Hope. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ii. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.