

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: March 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 March 20, at 6pm at the Garner Senior Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Ernestine Durham called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The committee members present were Chair Ernestine Durham, Scott Bare, Tim Montgomery, Jay Ditenhafer, Mark Wood, Mon Peng Yueh, Autumn Beam, and Matt Davis. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Megan Young, Operations Superintendent, Katie Lockhart, Parks and Nature Superintendent, and Todd Riddick, Recreation & Athletics Superintendent. Garner Town Council Member Demian Dellinger and Charlie Pearce, Senior Advisory Committee liaison were also in attendance.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
 - a. Ernestine Durham asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Autumn Beam motioned to approve the agenda and Mon Peng Yueh seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the February Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Chair Durham asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mon Peng Yueh, seconded by Mark Wood. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Chair Durham inquired about the rental process for Lake Benson Shelter 1. Katie Lockhart clarified it is first come, first serve, unless rented. Chair Durham shared there was a fitness class over the weekend in that area with a large number of attendees who were using the walking trail for their fitness class. Staff will reach out to the renter to clarify that the walking trail is not for fitness class use.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
 - a. Charlie Pearce shared several Garner Senior Center updates:
 - i. Tony and Charlie met with Congressman Wiley and suggested coffee with Congressman at GSC.
 - ii. Senior Advisory Committee will be hosting an open house on May 8 at GSC.
7. Reports/Discussion Items:
 - a. Director's Reports: Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented the monthly report, along with additional updates.
 1. The N.C Parks and Recreation Authority approved the department's PARTF-Accessibility for Parks grant program. This is a matching grant with \$80,000 as the match requirement.

2. The Wake County Small Capital Projects grant was recommended for \$2 million by the evaluation committee. Garner's project was top ranked. Next step is Board of Commissioners approval.
 3. Youth basketball and volleyball winter leagues had over 600 participants.
 4. Camp registrations are open.
 5. Recap and report of what the department submitted as part of the budget process. 4 expansion requests (limit) were submitted, along with multi-year requests.
 - a. Tim Montgomery asked for additional clarity on expansion requests and Maria Munoz-Blanco provided an overview.
 - b. Chair Durham asked how the committee could support the requests. Maria shared the requests were currently at the staff level.
 - c. Mon Peng Yueh inquired about annual maintenance budgets and Maria Munoz-Blanco noted that was part of Public Works. Chair Durham suggested inviting Forrest Jones, Public Works Director, to a future meeting for further discussion.
 - d. Autumn asked Council Member Dellinger about how the group could support the department and Council specific to budget requests. Council Member Dellinger suggested continuing to prioritize projects based on return on investment, capacity, and safety.
 6. Neighborhood review will be available at a future meeting.
- b. Council Updates:
- i. Council Member Dellinger shared several updates:
 1. Commended the team on recent grants.
 2. FY24 Budget is tight because of Garner's growth with limited opportunity for discretionary funds. Pay & class study is FY24 priority. Budget process for FY24 was revised and streamlined for staff.
 - a. Tim Montgomery asked for clarification in terms of what likely isn't going to be approved. Staff shared it's likely none of the expansion or multi-year requests will be approved.
 - b. Chair Durham asked about the Town's plan to purchase land and Council Member Dellinger shared the importance of aligning with the comp plan and areas of expected growth. Tim Montgomery reiterated the Town is behind on park and facility maintenance. Council Member Dellinger shared the likelihood of tax increases over the next few years, along with the need for additional Town staff and infrastructure to support growth.
- c. Announcements:
- i. None.

8. Other Business

- i. The committee participated in an interactive exercise to review the parkland goal from the PRCR comprehensive Master Plan.
 1. Maria Munoz-Blanco summarized the committee feedback from the exercise.
 - a. Parkland Goal 1 priorities: Meadowbrook and Yeargan Development, CIP projects, best practices
 - b. Parkland Goal 2 priorities: Developing greenway, feasibility study, UDO greenway acquisition language
 - c. Parkland Goal 3 priorities: expanding indoor recreation space, update maintenance plans, meet with Public Works regularly
 - d. Parkland Goal 4 priorities: park improvements, park connectivity, economic impact study, universal design, track participation and trends
 2. Mon Peng Yueh inquired about design and sustainability goals. Staff shared the sustainability is part of consideration for all projects and a lot of grant funders have sustainability requirements.
 3. Council Member Dellinger noted the committee labeled several parkland goal 1 UDO action items as medium-term, long-term, or do not pursue but shared developers can support park needs and goals. Tim Montgomery noted he labeled as short-term sharing the importance of placing responsibility on developers.
 4. Maria Munoz-Blanco shared the next meeting will focus on programming with the potential of adding a second topic area. Chair Durham asked the group for their opinion on review strategy for next meeting. The committee's preference is to have a brief discussion highlighting those that require funding first, followed by the dot exercise.

b. Adjournment

- i. With no further business, Chair Durham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Tim Montgomery, seconded by Mon Peng. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.