

TOWN OF GARNER  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: April 17, 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 April 17, at 6pm at the Garner Senior Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Ernestine Durham called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. The committee members present were Chair Ernestine Durham, Mark Wood, Jay Ditenhafer, Hope Webber, and Autumn Beam. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Megan Young, Operations Superintendent, Amy Pridgen, Arts and Culture Superintendent, Todd Riddick, Recreation & Athletics Superintendent, and Katie Lockhart, Parks & Nature Superintendent. Garner Town Council Member Demian Dellinger was also in attendance.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
  - a. Chair Durham asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Hope motioned to approve the agenda and Jay Ditenhafer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the March Meeting Minutes:
  - a. Chair Durham asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Jay Ditenhafer, seconded by Autumn Beam. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
  - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
  - a. None.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
  - a. Charlie Pearce was not in attendance, but Todd Riddick shared several Garner Senior Center updates:
    - i. Nancy Hulbert, Recreation and Programs Assistant Manager, is retiring on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Public Input Session and Open House at GSC scheduled for May 8, 3-7pm. Planning meeting to be held next week.
    - iii. Council Member Dellinger noted there will be three open slots on the Senior Advisory Committee. Applications can be submitted on the Town's website.
7. Reports/Discussion Items:
  - a. Director and Department Reports: Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented the monthly report, along with additional updates.
    - i. Wake County Board of Commissioners approved the \$2,000,000 grant for Yeargan Park.
    - ii. Highlighted the Yeargan Park shelter concepts presented to Council.
    - iii. The community input meeting for the splash pad and playground projects at White Deer Park is scheduled for Tuesday, 5/9, 4:30-

6:30pm at White Deer Park Nature Center. Postcards will be mailed ahead of the meeting.

- iv. Requested the committee vote on a resolution to support the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) application for White Deer Park improvements. The committee voted unanimously in support.
- v. Requested the committee to vote on a support letter for Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG) Program application to address stream remediation/restoration at Meadowbrook Park. The committee voted unanimously in support.
- vi. Provided an overview of the department's operating budget, including expenses, revenue, expansion requests, multi-year requests, staffing needs, capital needs inventory, budget book overview, fee schedule revisions, and budget calendar.
- vii. The Council budget work session is scheduled for May 11. The second budget public hearing is scheduled for May 16.
  1. Chair Durham inquired as to whether Ms. Munoz-Blanco presents the budget to Council. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted Administration will present but Department Heads are available for questions.
  2. Chair Durham highlighted the need for staffing and focus on deferred maintenance of established parks and facilities.
    - a. Chair Durham shared concern about condition of restrooms at Lake Benson Park, particularly as it relates to the cleanliness of them.
    - b. Ms. Munoz-Blanco shared an overview of the work order process, Public Work's annual PFRM funding, and breakdown of responsibilities as it relates to Public Works role in parks maintenance.
  3. Chair Durham asked that staff send a reminder to the committee when PRCR is presenting to Town Council so the committee can attend in support.

b. Council Updates:

- i. Council Member Dellinger did not have updates to share.
- ii. Council Member Dellinger asked Amy Pridgen to share updates from the DGA Arts Committee.
  1. Ms. Pridgen shared DGA has funding to support a public art initiative. The committee is in preliminary planning stages for a summer concert series. There are plans for two summer concerts supported by DGA and one in September to celebrate GPAC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

c. Announcements:

- i. Chair Durham will not be able to attend the May meeting but does plan to attend the June meeting, which will be her last meeting before her term is over.

8. Other Business

- i. The committee participated in an interactive exercise to review the programming and arts and culture goals from the PRCR comprehensive Master Plan.

1. Prior to the interactive exercise, Ms. Munoz-Blanco provided an overview of Goals, Objectives, and Action Items for Programming and Arts and Culture.
2. The committee identified a lot of ongoing action items, and a mix of short, mid, and long-term across all goals.
3. Mark Wood suggested putting price tags on action items to provide the committee with a better understanding of what's realistic.
4. Council Member Dellinger shared the importance of keeping goals as part of the conversation, even if there isn't immediate funding.
5. Chair Durham suggested finding opportunities to charge for programs or services that are currently free.
  - a. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted the department is collecting data in a more robust way to identify what opportunities exist.

b. Adjournment

- i. With no further business, Chair Durham asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Hope Webber, seconded by Jay Ditenhafer. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.