

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: September 18, 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 September 18, at 6pm at the Garner Recreation Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Autumn Beam called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. The committee members present were Autumn Beam, Matt Davis, Pauletta Thompson, Hope Webber, and Mon Peng Yueh. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Katie Lockhart, Parks and Nature Superintendent, Todd Riddick, Recreation and Athletics Superintendent, Erica Arrington, Recreation Program Specialist, and Megan Young, Operations Superintendent. Garner Town Council Member Demian Dellinger was also in attendance.
2. Approval of the Agenda:
 - a. Chair Beam asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Hope motioned to approve the agenda and Mon Peng seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Chair Beam asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Matt, seconded by Mon Peng. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Committee and staff introductions were made.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
 - a. Jo Cicci, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee representative was not in attendance.
 - i. Todd updated the committee regarding the Senior Citizen Advisory meeting being rescheduled to September 22 and noted that there will be updates at the next meeting.
7. Reports/Discussion Items
 - a. Buffaloe Road Alignment of the South Garner Greenway Project Update
 - i. Presentation was made by Jon Blasco with WithersRavenel. Jon provided a project overview and included visuals of the proposed greenway. He shared an overview on properties that will be directly impacted and challenges the Lake Benson Boathouse and City of Raleigh water lines pose for the project.
 1. Matt inquired as to whether there were still plans to move the boathouse and Council Member Dellinger provided an overview of staff, committee, and Council discussions

regarding the boathouse. Jon shared the issues associated with the boathouse including grade of drive, location of the boathouse, and lack of ADA compliance.

2. Jon shared the greenway construction is anticipated to start next fall and expected to take a year to finish.
 3. Matt inquired about the potential of moving and closing the boathouse and Jon discussed what impacts that would have to project design.
 4. Jon noted that the City of Raleigh owns the property.
 5. Jon noted that they will be presenting the project to Council at the next Council work session.
 6. Mon Peng reiterated that when the boathouse is moved, the space could be used for stormwater controls.
 7. Matt inquired as to whether moving the boathouse would impact costs for this project. Maria shared the impervious surface limitations at Lake Benson Park when determining relocation options for the boathouse.
 8. Jon shared the concepts for the Thompson Road Park and South Garner greenway connection project.
 9. Jon noted Wake County also attended the public meeting to share details of their portion of the project.
 10. Maria shared Tim (committee member not in attendance) was interested in a space for fishing as part of the greenway project.
- b. Director and Department Reports: Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented the monthly report, along with additional updates.
- i. Maria introduced Erica Arrington, Recreation Program Specialist, to the committee. Erica shared her professional experience with the committee.
 - ii. Maria distributed the Planning Department staff report with the committee. The report includes project details for the SB-23-04 Clifford Road Subdivision Plan. The staff recommendation is that fee and lieu be approved.
 1. Matt asked for clarity on committee actions needed and Maria and Council Member Dellinger provided additional insight on the process and policies.
 2. Matt motioned to approve fee and lieu for this project, seconded by Pauletta. Motion carried unanimously.
 - iii. Staff and consultants received positive feedback at the greenway public meeting held at White Deer Park.
 - iv. Town Council approved the playground concept for Yeargan Park.
 - v. Playground resurfacing approved for Garner Rec Park which will occur this fall.
 - vi. PRCR was awarded a New Initiative grant by the National Recreation and Park Association (NCRPA) to further PRCR efforts to provide inclusive recreational opportunities for the community.

- vii. GPAC, in partnership with the Southeast Regional Library, kicked off the NEA Big Read, funded by a grant through the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest.
 - viii. The Strategic Plan has been drafted based on Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10 feedback. The Strategic Plan will be on Council consent agenda in October.
 - c. Council Updates:
 - 1. Council Member Dellinger thanked the staff for what has been presented to Council regarding the Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10 action/strategy items.
 - 2. Hope inquired about the 2023 Christmas Parade and Council Member Dellinger noted there was a committee hosting the parade.
 - d. Announcements:
 - i. None.
 - 8. Other Business
 - i. None.
 - b. Adjournment
 - i. With no further business, Chair Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Matt, seconded by Hope. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ii. Meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.