

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: October 16, 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 October 16, at 6pm at the Garner Recreation Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Autumn Beam called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. The committee members present were Autumn Beam, Matt Davis, Dr. Pauletta Thompson, Hope Webber, Tim Montgomery, Scott Bare, Mark Wood, Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, and Mon Peng Yueh. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Todd Riddick, Recreation and Athletics Superintendent, 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. Matt 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 September 18, 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tim, seconded by Mark. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Committee and staff introductions were made, and the committee welcomed new member Dr. LaPonda Edmondson.
 - b. Tim suggested another tour of PRCR facilities and parks. Maria noted staff would look at dates and connect with committee members to set-up.
 - c. Autumn noted she received a suggestion from the public for a tennis court reservation system. Maria mentioned staff would research through polling the community and will come back to the committee with a recommendation.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
 - a. Jo Cicci, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, shared updates from their most recent meeting:
 - i. Erica Arrington, full-time Recreation Program Specialist, started at GSC.
 - ii. Resources for Seniors updates:
 1. Open enrollment for Medicare is through December 7.
 2. The Health Fair at GSC was held on October 6.
 3. Caregiver series started October 3.

- iii. Ann Morgan has resigned her committee post.
- iv. Tony Derico, Committee Chair, shared that the Optimist Club will be hosting the Christmas Parade on December 2.
- v. The committee is planning to review bylaws.
- vi. Torrey presented July-August reports, including 67 new GSC members in July.
- vii. Two pickleball changes have been made: 1. Senior pickleball lessons are now being offered at GRC 2. Competitive and non-competitive pickleball play will change to one level of play.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

- a. Director and Department Reports: Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented highlights from the monthly report, along with additional updates.
 - i. South Garner Greenway Extension design consultant WithersRavenel presented the Buffalo Road alignment options at the September 26 Town Council work session. Part of that discussion included relocating the Lake Benson Boathouse.
 - ii. Two playground projects are experiencing delays due to stormwater requirements.
 - iii. Yeargan Park design process continues to move forward.
 - iv. Garner Recreational Park's playground surface will be upgraded this Fall to poured-in-place safety surface.
 - v. Bids for the Meadowbrook Park Dam project initial phase were received.
 - 1. Council Member Dellinger reminded the group of the opportunity to create a subcommittee for Meadowbrook Park.
 - vi. Pauletta inquired about grant processes and Maria shared that PRCR staff research and write grants, including collaborating with other departments.
 - 1. Tim praised staff efforts on the grants received over the last few years.
 - vii. Amy wrote and received an \$11,000 "Spark the Arts" grant from the North Carolina Arts Council. Grant funds will be used to support family arts programming through the GPAC PLAYhouse Series.
 - viii. PRCR is kicking off the new Adapted Recreation and Inclusion Services for Everyone (ARISE) with an open house on October 28 at GRC.
 - ix. Trick or Treat the Trails is set for October 31 at White Deer Park.
 - x. The Veterans Day Observance will be held on November 11, 10:30am at Aversboro Baptist Church.
 - xi. No Planning Department projects to bring to the committee. Maria provided an overview of the process and expects a public hearing for land dedication. Staff will share that date with the committee once it's announced.
 - xii. PRCR rolled out a new Brand Style Guide which Martha, Marketing Coordinator, will present at the next meeting.

xiii. Maria shared Council allocated Pennies for Parks funds and PRCR staff are working with Public Works to identify priorities. There will be an RFP to acquire updated park furnishings to refresh amenities within the park system. Maria also shared PRCR will be piloting Bigbelly trash cans, which have a larger capacity and compact trash. Maria noted PRCR is updating the signage plan and will bring it to the committee for review.

1. Council Member Dellinger shared additional background information on Pennies for Parks with plans to carry it forward year to year.

b. Council Updates:

1. The Christmas Parade is led by a citizen committee through the Optimist Club.

c. Announcements:

- i. Tim reminded the Committee of the upcoming municipal election.
 1. Staff shared Board of Elections utilizes Avery Street Recreation Center for early voting.

8. Other Business

- i. Chair Autumn noted the next meeting is scheduled for November 20, which is the week of Thanksgiving. There were no scheduling conflicts for the committee.
- ii. The January meeting will move from January 15 to January 22. January 15 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

b. Adjournment

- i. With no further business, Chair Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Hope, seconded by Matt. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. Meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.