



September 11, 2023 7:00 PM
Town of Garner Planning Commission Minutes
Council Meeting Room
900 7th Avenue · Garner, North Carolina 27529

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

II. Roll Call

The Secretary called the roll for the meeting.

Members present: Jon Blasco, Chair; Phillip Jefferson, Vice Chair; Gina Avent; Ralph Carson; Jihan Hodges; Sherry Phillips; Michael Voiland

Staff in attendance: John Hodges, Assistant Town Manager, Terri Jones, Town Attorney, Jeff Triezenberg, Planning Director, Joe Linsky, Planner I

III. Invocation

Mr. Voiland led moment of reflection.

IV. Adoption of Agenda- Mr. Voiland made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Phillips and the vote to adopt the agenda was unanimous.

V. Minutes

Regular Meeting August 14, 2023 – Ms. Avent made a motion to approve the minutes with a clerical edit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carson and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

VI. Old/New Business

A. Garner Pedestrian Plan

Plan adoption request submitted by the Town of Garner Planning Department to adopt the 2023 Garner Pedestrian Plan, which serves to update and build upon the existing network of sidewalks to connect with transportation corridors, parks, schools, employment centers and other destinations throughout the community. The draft plan can be found online on the planning department website "here".

Staff/ Commission Discussion: Mr. Voiland noted that the pedestrian plan was well organized and well thought out. Mr. Carson asked what the current requirement is for

sidewalk installation in new subdivisions. He inquired about the sidewalks in the Hunter’s Mark subdivision. Mr. Triezenberg explained that the pedestrian plan focuses on collector streets or higher. Mr. Carson noted that newly approved developments that have not yet been built may create new gaps in the network not identified in the plan.

Mr. Jefferson noted that the document is well detailed and that aligns well with the UDO. He noted that it is important that where there are GO Raleigh stops there should also be accessible sidewalks. Mr. Triezenberg noted that there are additional funding opportunities for sidewalks adjacent to bus stops the Town can pursue.

Mr. Blasco noted that the map should be kept up to date with new developments as they get built and recommended creating an interactive online map. Mr. Blasco also recommended connecting Meadowbrook Park to the greenway to the north, connecting Yeargan Park to the greenway near 70, and connecting our greenway system to the Neuse River Trail to the northeast. He also noted that the typical sidepath section should include a variable width buffer based on the speed of the road. He noted that there are opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure to treat stormwater and public art within the pedestrian network. Mr. Blasco also recommended adding some information related to possible funding sources for the proposed projects. He questioned which side of the road the NC 50 multiuse path should be on and what tools would be used for plan evaluation and implementation.

RESULT:	Recommend to Town Council for adoption [UNANIMOUS]
Motion:	Mr. Voiland- I move to recommend the Pedestrian Plan to Town Council for approval, with the inclusion of the edits and comments discussed at this meeting.
Second:	Ms. Avent
VOTE:	Aye: Gina Avent; Jon Blasco; Ralph Carson; Jihan Hodges; Phillip Jefferson; Sherry Phillips; Michael Voiland
	Nay:

VII. Reports

- A. Planning Director** – Mr. Triezenberg gave an update on the ongoing CLUE effort and ongoing staffing updates in the department.
- B. Planning Commission-** Ms. Avent asked for an update on a previously approved project. Mr. Voiland gave an update on the VA Clinic. Mr. Carson asked if the slowdown in cases was an indication of a larger trend.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm