

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: January 22, 2024

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 January 22 at 6pm at Garner Rec 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, Tim Montgomery, Scott Bare, Mark Wood, Hope Webber, Dr. Pauletta Thompson 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. Council Member Gra Singleton and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Liaison Jo Cicci were 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 Mark seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the December Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Chair Beam asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the December, 18 2023 meeting. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tim, seconded by Scott. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Matt inquired about the proper protocol for field use after rain events. Staff noted Public Works manages opening and closing gates and fields but would share committee concern with them. Tim reminded the group that some fields have signage for closures.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:
 - a. Jo Cicci, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee liaison, shared Garner Senior Center updates:
 - i. The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held on January 19.
 - ii. Council Member Berringer is the new Council liaison.
 - iii. Resources for Seniors provided upcoming projects and classes.
 - iv. Garner Senior Center open house results reviewed. Staff noted the goal was to have an open house once a year in May.
 1. Survey highlights included 95% overall satisfaction rating.
 2. The top 3 senior center events attended included fitness and arts and crafts classes and Meals-on-Wheels.
 - v. The goals of the committee are visibility, credibility, and relevance.

- vi. Staff member Erica Arrington provided senior center programming updates.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director and Department Reports:

- i. Director Maria Muñoz-Blanco presented on the items reflected in the Director's Report, along with additional updates:
 - 1. Council approved park furnishings vendor. Project funded by Penny for Parks.
 - 2. PRCR staff working with Communications Department on virtual tour of PRCR facilities. The first one added to the website was GRC.
 - 3. Maria shared how helpful it has been to have CMAR as an available resource for Yeargan Development.
 - a. Tim asked for clarification on what Phase 1 of Yeargan included and Maria provided further details on park amenities.
 - 4. The Groundhog Day event will be held at White Deer Park on February 2. Mayor Gupton will be on site to help Snerd (the groundhog) with the prediction.
- ii. Megan presented the PRCR FY25 budget overview, including details on base budget, expansion requests, and multiyear requests.
 - 1. Tim asked that the committee have time to review and discuss the budget further at the February meeting. Staff noted they'd keep the budget on the agenda for February.
 - 2. Tim also reiterated the importance of addressing wait lists, captured in one of the expansion requests.
 - 3. The committee discussed other opportunities for funding, like sponsorships. Staff shared current sponsorships efforts, including the Sponsorship Guide that is utilized as a resource.
- iii. Maria shared an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- iv. Maria shared an overview of the Bethel Green Master Plan and asked for committee feedback on Fee-in-Lieu and land dedication.
 - 1. Tim asked for clarity regarding dedication of land and amount of acreage.
 - a. Maria shared an overview and timing for committee feedback for the PRCR Advisory Committee.
 - 2. Matt noted the developer should be responsible for the neighborhood greenway amenity, but the Town should have future access to connect based on the master greenway plan. Matt suggested we not accept the responsibility to maintain the neighborhood's proposed private amenity.
 - 3. Maria shared she makes comments as part of the Town's Technical Review Committee. Maria noted she will share additional committee feedback with the review committee.

4. Mon Peng inquired as to what the requirements are for open space because plans show small sections of land as open space.
5. Matt asked when the fee was last increased, and Council Member Singleton shared there was a recent increase with potential of the fee to increase more in the future.
6. Maria summed up the committee's discussion regarding fee-in-lieu and land dedication.
7. Matt motioned the recommendation for the amenity to be HOA managed not Town maintained and would recommend fee-in-lieu. Tim seconded the motion. Motioned carried unanimously.

b. Council Updates:

1. Council Member Singleton shared updates including:
 - a. Recent and upcoming development proposals.
 - b. Upcoming planning retreat.
 - c. General overview of position needs across all departments.
 - d. Community growth and impacts on operations, including being at programming capacity for facilities, even with the Garner Recreation Center.
 - e. Ongoing remediation work for the Meadowbrook Dam.

c. Announcements:

1. None.

8. Other Business

- i. The committee asked staff to propose several tour date options in March and April for the committee to decide at the next meeting.

b. Adjournment

- i. With no further business, Chair Beam asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Matt, seconded by Tim. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.