

Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes - Monday – March 11, 2024

White Deer Park Nature Center

A) Attendees:

- a. Committee Members: Jeff Hicks, John Foster (Chair), Tim Stevens, Don Searles, Helen Carter
- b. Town Staff: Colleen Bockhahn (Parks Manager), Megan Young (PRCR Superintendent), Kayla Phillips (Events Coordinator)
- c. Ex-officio Members:
 - VFW - absent
 - AL - absent
 - DAV - absent
 - Council Representative - Phil Matthews
- Visitors: none

B) Call to Order 0904

- a. Minutes from December 4, 2023 meeting: Approved

C) Petitions and Comments from Public

- a. None

D) Reports from Standing Committees & Town Staff:

- a. Observances:
 - Salute to the Troops – Tim Stevens
 - March 10, 2024. Aversboro Rd Baptist Church, 4-6 PM, 200 attendees
 - Memorial Day Observance
 - May 27, 2024, Monday, 0900
 - GVM @LBP (foul weather at Large Gazebo)
 - Tours 0800-1100 (VFW, AL), BSA – escorts/programs
 - Keynote Speaker – Tim Stevens contact
 - PW: stage, porta-potty, signage
 - Independence Day
 - Jul 3, 2024, Wednesday
 - Tours 1700-1930
 - PW: Tents & Tables (2), chairs (12), water
 - Veterans Day
 - Nov 11, 2024, Monday, 1100 @ARBC
 - Tours GVM @LBP, 0900-1230 (VFW, AL)
 - Music Garner Magnet HS 1030-1100, during ceremony)

- Aversboro Elementary Choir
- Escorts/Programs (VFW, AL)
- MC: John Foster
- Keynote:
- Gold Star Families Day
 - Dec 14, 2024, 1000, GVM@LBP
 - Tim Stevens contacting Wreaths Across America about Educational Trailer availability.
- b. VFW/Aux - NTR
- c. AL/Aux/SAL/Riders - NTR
- d. DAV- NTR

E) Old Business:

- a. Memorial Bricks and Benches
 - Sales cutoff July 15, 2024 for installation pre-Veterans Day
- b. Pathway Around Memorial
 - Approved motion unanimously to forward to Town for design/implementation of bypass path around northwest side of memorial
 - June 10 Mtg to provide location suggestion (John)
 - To incorporate into Lake Benson Park master plan which is under development by Town
- c. Global War on Terrorism Veterans Breakfast
 - Two held at Big Ed's on Timber. Turnout low. May not continue (Tim)
- d. Veterans Day Parade
 - Wake County Veterans Organization has not finalized location
 - Garner has an application process if the desire is for it to be located in Garner

F) New Business:

- a. Memorial Event(s) Ideas
 - Harley Owners Group planning recurring visits
 - Flying a POW/MIA flag at GVM on Memorial Day and Veterans Day (approved by Phil Mathews).
 - Clear with PW
 - Supply flagpole key to VFW/AL (Jeff).
 - VFW/AL to supply flag, connection to halyard fittings, store, raise and remove flag
- b. Placing a plaque to Military members who died in Garner but are not from here (multiple plane crashes). Tim Stevens.
- c. Lake Benson Master Plan
 - Bypass path for Veterans Memorial

- Gazebo and Bathroom between entrance and Memorial
- d. Memorial Contracting Process (2010-2013)
 - Megan will put PRC Director in touch with Jeff
- e. Town Website Update the Committee page
 - Requested updates to be sent to Colleen (Jeff)

Meeting adjourned at 0954. Next meeting on June 10, 2024, 0900, 2nd Monday of the month (every third month), White Deer Park Nature Center