

TOWN OF GARNER
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Date: April 15, 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 April 15, 2024 at the Garner Recreation Center.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: In the absence of Chair and Vice Chair, Tim Montgomery called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. The committee members present were Tim Montgomery, Mark Wood, Hope Webber, Dr. Pauletta Thompson, Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, and Scott Bare. Town Council liaison Gra Singleton was also in attendance. Staff members present were Maria Muñoz-Blanco, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Katie Lockhart, Parks and Recreation Superintendent (Parks and Nature), and Megan Young, Parks and Recreation Superintendent (Operations).
2. Approval of the Agenda:
 - a. Mr. Montgomery asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Webber motioned to approve the agenda and Mr. Bare seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of the December Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Mr. Montgomery asked for any changes or a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2024 and March 18, 2024 meetings. No changes were noted. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Bare. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Petitions and Comments from the Public:
 - a. None.
5. Committee Members Concerns/Comments:
 - a. Mr. Bare shared that he enjoyed the PRCR Advisory Committee tour and shared an overview of the tour for those that couldn't attend. Dr. Thompson and Dr. Edmondson also shared their appreciation of the tour. Committee members shared how the tour provided insight into rentable PRCR spaces and Council Member Singleton shared some of Avery Street Recreation Center's history. Mr. Montgomery suggested the committee take a tour at least once a year.
 - b. Mr. Montgomery shared that the Garner Road development [Park at Garner Station] that was presented to the Committee at a prior meeting was approved by Town Council. He expressed concern about the loss of parkland and inquired about next steps as it involves review by the State and National Parks organizations. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco shared an overview of the process and noted that she had drafted the initial document to be sent to State Parks and that the document is currently being reviewed by internal Town of Garner departments.
6. Senior Advisory Committee:

- a. Ms. Cicci, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee liaison, was not in attendance. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco shared programming updates, including tomorrow's field trip to the NC Zoo.

7. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director and Department Reports:

- i. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco shared what's new in the Director's Report, including PRCR performance measures that were submitted as part of the FY25 budget process.
 - 1. Mr. Montgomery inquired about the status of the athletic leagues and wait lists. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco reminded the committee that part of the budget requests included program expansions to provide additional capacity for athletic leagues.
- ii. Ms. Lockhart presented on the White Deer Park inclusive playground, which will also be presented at the Town Council meeting tomorrow. The presentation included a project timeline, overview of public input, the latest plan and renderings, a fly through video, and cost estimate.
 - 1. Ms. Webber inquired about the potential of food trucks and Ms. Lockart noted the Town's ordinance does not allow selling on public property, except during programs and events.
 - 2. Dr. Thompson noted her appreciation of the public input meetings and incorporating that feedback.
 - 3. Ms. Webber inquired about braille signs, shade structures, and additional swings. Ms. Lockhart shared the outcome of braille research completed as part of another project, the potential of nature shade from trees, and that the swing structure includes an additional bay along with use zone impacts from swings.
 - 4. Dr. Thompson inquired about water fountains with a bottle filler and Ms. Munoz-Blanco shared there would be that type of fountain near the playground, in addition to staff working with Public Works on creating consistency with fountains throughout the PRCR park system.
 - 5. Dr. Edmondson suggested the department consider a community-built playground, like Kaboom. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco noted Garner Rec Park was a Kaboom build.
 - 6. Council Member Singleton asked about the splash pad process and status. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco shared an update specific to design build.
- iii. Ms. Muñoz-Blanco provided an overview of three projects (Bryan Road Subdivision, Vail Assemblage, and Clifford Road Subdivision) for committee discussion and input for fee and lieu or land dedication. The committee discussed the projects at the last committee meeting, but there was no quorum.

1. The committee agreed with staff recommendation of fee in lieu for Clifford Road Subdivision (SB-23-04). Mr. Montgomery asked for a motion to approve committee recommendation for fee in lieu. Motion to approve made by Dr. Edmondson, seconded by Mr. Bare.
2. The committee agreed with staff recommendation of fee in lieu for Bryan Road Subdivision (SB-24-001). Mr. Montgomery asked for a motion to approve committee recommendation for fee in lieu. Motion to approve by Mr. Bare, seconded by Dr. Thompson.
3. For the Vail Assemblage project (CA-MP-24-001), the committee discussed the options for this project and the desirability to pursue land dedication to develop future greenways. There was discussion that this site may be on the future Mahlers Creek greenway corridor. The committee agreed on a recommendation for land dedication if it is useful for the Mahler's Creek Greenway, and if not to pursue fee-in-lieu. The committee also requested this project be brought back to the committee later in the process when more information is available or if plans change. Mr. Montgomery asked for a motion to approve the committee recommendation. Motion to approve by Mr. Bare, seconded by Ms. Webber.

b. Council Updates:

1. Council Member Singleton suggested the committee tune into tomorrow's Town Council meeting. He also shared that there are a lot of developments under review.
 - a. Dr. Edmondson inquired about the homeless population on NCDOT right of way. Council Member Singleton shared an update.

c. Announcements:

1. None.

8. Other Business

1. None.

b. Adjournment

- i. With no further business, Mr. Montgomery asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Ms. Webber, seconded by Mr. Bare. Motion carried unanimously.
- ii. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.