

**Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes - Monday - June 10, 2024**

White Deer Park Nature Center
Minutes by Helen Carter

A) Attendees:

- a. Committee Mbrs: Jeff Hicks, John Foster (Chair), Don Searles, Helen Carter, Matt Pedone, Robert Gregory, Tim Stevens (excused)
- b. Town Staff: Colleen Bockhahn (Parks Mgr), Megan Young (P&R Ops Superintendent), Kayla Phillips (Events Coordinator)
- c. Ex-officio Members:
 - VFW - Bob Carter
 - AL - Terry Chatfield
 - DAV - absent
 - Mayor's Representative - Phil Matthews
- d. Guests: Bill Piper

B) Call to Order 0900

- a. Minutes from March 11, 2024 meeting: Approved unanimously

C) Petitions and Comments from Public

- a. None

D) Reports from Standing Committees & Town Staff:

- a. Observances:
 - Salute to the Troops - Tim Stevens
 - March 2025
 - Memorial Day Observance
 - May 27, 2024, Monday, 0900. Foul weather location utilized
 - Tours 0800-2100 (VFW, AL) (75, 200 visitors)
 - Hannah Quinlivan performed excellently
 - May 26, 2025. Phil Mathews MC, Mayor remarks, keynote TBD
 - Independence Day
 - Jul 3, 2024, Wednesday
 - Tours 1700-1930 (AL, VFW)
 - PW: Tents & Tables (2), chairs (12), water
 - Kids play area moved south towards large playground
 - Veterans Day

- Nov 11, 2024, Monday, 1100 @ ARBC (booked)
- Tours GVM @ LBP, 0900-1230 (VFW, AL)
- Music Garner Magnet HS 1030-1100, before and during ceremony
- Aversboro Elementary Choir being requested
- Escorts/Programs (VFW, AL)
- MC: John Foster
- Keynote: TBD - Committee to confirm with Kayla
- Gold Star Families Day
 - Dec 14, 2024, 1000, GVM@LBP
 - Tim Stevens contacting Wreathes Across America about Educational Trailer availability.
- b. VFW/Aux - Montlawn Memorial Day service completed @ 1100
- c. AL/Aux/SAL/Riders -
 - SAL potluck 6/29 @ 1700-1900 @ VFW. All invited
 - Riders Adopt-a-Highway 6/15 on Garner Road
- d. DAV- NTR
- e. Wake County Veterans Committee (Veterans Day Parade).
 - Plan being submitted to Raleigh City Council this week to allow vehicles. Parade held Saturday before Veterans Day at Capitol.

E) Old Business:

- a. Memorial Bricks and Benches
 - Sales cutoff July 15, 2024 for installation pre-Veterans Day
- b. Pathway Around Memorial
 - Possible gravel/crushed run around memorial pre-Master Plan. TBD.
 - To incorporate into Lake Benson Park master plan which is under development by Town
- c. Placing a plaque to Military members who died in Garner but are not from here (multiple plane crashes). Tim Stevens. Pending.
- d. Memorial Event(s) Ideas, NTR
- e. Town Website Update the Committee page
 - Requested updates to be sent to Colleen (Jeff)

F) New Business:

- a. Additional Plaques for Blue Star, White Star, Red Star families
 - Idea tables. Can be looked at as explanation panels at entrance or in vicinity of Memorial as part of Master Plan.
 - Other ideas for explanation/training?

Meeting adjourned at 0936. Next meeting on September 9, 2024, 0900, 2nd Monday of the month (every third month), White Deer Park Nature Center.