

Town of Garner
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Date: September 30, 2019

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 September 30, 2019 at 6pm.

Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm. The committee members present were: Bob Deaton- Chair, Althea Boone, Chris O'Connor, Bryon Wade, Hope Webber, Tina Johnson – Senior Advisory Committee Liaison, Town Council Liaison- Elmo Vance. Committee Members absent: Ernestine Durham, Cassandra Liles. Staff members present: Sonya Shaw- Director, Rob Smith-Assistant Director and Hana Miller- Recreation Leader II.

New Member Introductions:

- a. Dr. Shaw introduced Hope Webber.

Approval of the September Agenda:

- a. Mr. Vance made a motion to approve the agenda.
- b. The Agenda were unanimously approved by the committee.

Approval of the May Meeting Minutes:

- a. Mr. O'Conner motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Boone seconded the motion.
- b. The Minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

Petitions and Comments from the Public: None

Committee Members Concerns/Comments:

- a. Mr. Deaton noted the value of the committee meeting for the comprehensive plan.
- b. Mr. Vance noted he was appointed the role of new Council Liaison for the committee.

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee:

- a. Ms. Johnson informed the committee that the Garner Senior Center recertification process was complete, and we were once again a Center of Excellence. She also commented that the new recreation software has improved customer service and that requests for weekday rentals at the senior center have increased.

Reports/Discussion Items:

a) Garner Recreation Center Update

- a. Dr. Shaw informed the committee that there was no update on the opening of the recreation center. She noted that the building was making progress and roadwork between Montague Street and Highway 70 had begun.

b) PRCR Comprehensive Plan Update (McAdams)

- a. Dr. Shaw informed the committee that McAdams has been working on the comprehensive plan for the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department since the beginning of the year.
- b. The McAdam team informed the committee that they have gathered input from the community, committee members, focus groups and a statistically valid survey. They discussed the different planning elements put into the plan which include the parks department itself, programs, organization of service, operations & finance and culture/arts. They informed the committee that the most desired amenities included paved greenways, natural trails, and a splashpad. It was also noted that the most desired programs included outdoor festivals, fitness and environmental education. According to the Priority Rating (PIR) the top interest was adding an indoor aquatics center. They stated that Dr. Shaw and Mr. Smith will be reviewing the report.
- c. Dr. Shaw asked the committee for questions or surprises. Mr. Deaton asked if there would be an open house for the public to see the plan. Mr. O'Connor noted the interest in adding a splashpad. Ms. Boone commented on adding bike lanes on the roads. Ms. Johnson commented that some parks are not ADA compliant and increasing accessibility will increase activity for children with special needs. Dr. Shaw noted the ADA plan.

c) Input session for Meadowbrook and Yeargan Properties (McAdams)

a. Meadowbrook Park

- i. The McAdams team provided an overview of Meadowbrook Park. It was noted that the due diligence phase was nearly complete and given the historical designation, a historian was consulted on what can be done with the park. Mr. Vance questioned the implications, and Dr. Shaw noted potential additional steps.
- ii. Committee members participated in several input gathering activities.

b. Yeargan Park

- i. The McAdams team provided an overview of the Yeargan property and noted they had begun the due diligence process. Mr. Deaton suggested adding multiple characteristics into the park. Ms. Weber suggested that the Meadowbrook property should be created like Dorothy Dix park. Mr. Deaton noted to consider crafting parks to residential needs since both properties will be created around their homes. Mr. Vance noted that capturing the history through providing activities will create memories for participants. Mr. O'Connor stated that each park should offer amenities that are not seen at other Garner parks. Ms. Weber commented that modern amenities will add to the real estate of park location.
- ii. Dr. Shaw concluded that there is a lot of potential in both Meadowbrook and Yeargan properties.

d) Miscellaneous/ Announcements

- a. Mr. Smith announced the launch of the new registration software, RecDesk. He also announced that Dr. Shaw was installed as president of the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association at their annual conference.

e) Adjournment

- a. Mr. Deaton motioned to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Boone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.