



## Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

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### Town of Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee

#### Meeting Minutes Date: December 16, 2024

- I. Date and Time: Pursuant to the Bylaws governing the Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee, a meeting of the Committee was held on December 16, 2024 at the Garner Recreation Center.
- II. Call to Order  
Chair Matt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Committee members present: Matt Davis, Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, Dr. Pauletta Thompson, Hope Webber, Mark Wood, Mon Peng Yueh, and Council Liaison Gra Singleton. Staff in attendance were Maria Munoz-Blanco and Zach Pritchard.
- III. Approval of Agenda  
  
Motion to approve: Hope Webber  
Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson  
Motion passed unanimously
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 18, 2024)  
  
Motion to approve: Hope Webber  
Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson  
Motion passed unanimously
- V. Petitions and Comments from the Public  
  
None reported.
- VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments  
  
None reported.
- VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update  
  
The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee did not meet in December.
- VIII. Reports/Discussion Items
  - a. Director's Report/Department Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco highlighted items in the Director's Report (handout provided).

FY26 Budget Discussion: Ms. Munoz-Blanco presented information on the Town's budget process and the preliminary plans for budget requests. Dr. Edmondson asked for clarification of the inflation request and whether staff salaries were included in that request. Ms. Munoz-Blanco clarified that costs related to staff are not included in the inflation request as those are calculated by the Budget Office and included in the base budget. Committee members were supportive of proposed plans. Recommendation from Chair Davis to print handouts on black-and-white to save funding.

Zach Pritchard presented information about the youth leagues; their growth during the past three years as noted in the waiting lists. A handout was provided. One option is to add a spring session for youth athletics, a shorter season compared to the regular winter and summer sessions. There would be an impact to the adult season. Chair Davis asked which option was preferred by staff. Dr. Edmondson asked about the impact of spring break on the revised schedule. Chair Davis suggested starting the pilot process. Council member Singleton noted that the waiting list situation is not going to go away due to Garner's continued growth and suggested that staff should go ahead and plan to add WCPSS rentals as part of the budget to address the waiting list. Hope Webber asked about if the children on the waiting list would have priority for the new spots. Mr. Pritchard noted that there would be marketing to the wait list. Dr. Thompson noted that one of the attractiveness of the Garner program is its low cost and good programming. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the fee schedule is also reviewed annually.

b. Council Updates

Council Member Singleton reported on the need to reroute the Veterans Memorial trail to avoid bicyclists and walkers. He noted that Council members are in agreement that this is needed to address pedestrian activity for respect of the memorial and those it honors.

c. Announcements

Dr. Thompson reported on the pedestrian and traffic issues around the White Oak area. There was discussion of the history of traffic challenges in the area, as well as how future development in the area may improve conditions.

Chair Davis noted that he will be out of Town at the January meeting, so Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson will chair the January meeting.

IX. Other Business

None reported.

X. Adjourn

With no further business, Chair Davis asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. LaPonda Edmondson

Second: Hope Webber

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Next PRCR Committee Meeting: January 27, 2024 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday due to MLK, Jr. Holiday)