

**Garner Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes - Monday – September 9, 2024**

White Deer Park Nature Center

A) Attendees:

- a. Committee Mbrs: Jeff Hicks, John Foster (excused), Don Searles. Helen Carter, Matt Pedone, Robert Gregory, Tim Stevens
- b. Town Staff: Colleen Bockhan (Parks Mgr), Megan Young (P&R Ops Mgr), Kayla Phillips (Events Coordinator)
- c. Ex-officio Members:
  - VFW – Bob Carter
  - AL – Terry Chatfield
  - DAV – Willis McCoy
  - Mayor’s Representative - Phil Matthews
- d. Guests: none

B) Call to Order 0902

- a. Minutes from June 10, 2024 meeting: Approved unanimously

C) Petitions and Comments from Public

- a. None

D) Reports from Standing Committees & Town Staff:

- a. Observances:
  - Memorial Day Observance
    - May 26, 2025, Monday, 0900 @ GVM. Foul Weather at Shelter 1.
    - Tours 0800-1100 (VFW, AL)
    - Hannah Quinlivan performed excellently
    - May 26, 2025. Phil Mathews MC, Mayor remarks, keynote?
  - Independence Day
    - Jul 3, 2024, Wednesday
    - Tours 1700-1930 (AL, VFW)
    - 10 Tours, 150 visitors. Most later than usual (started about 1820) due to change in parking.
  - Veterans Day

- Nov 11, 2024, Monday, 1100 @ ARBC (booked)
- Tours GVM @ LBP, 1000-1300 (VFW, AL)
- Music Garner Magnet HS 1030-1100, before and during ceremony
- Aversboro Elementary Choir being requested
- Escorts/Programs, Flags/Poppies (VFW, AL)
- MC: John Foster
- National Anthem
- Gold Star Families Day
  - Dec 14, 2024, 1000, GVM@LBP
  - PW – total of 8 wreaths for mounting
  - Use Optimist Tree for Gold Star decorations
- b. VFW/Aux - NTR
- c. AL/Aux/SAL/Riders - NTR
- d. DAV- NTR
- e. Wake County Veterans Committee (Veterans Day Parade).
  - Pending approval between Raleigh and Veterans Committee

E) Old Business:

- a. Memorial Bricks and Benches
  - 8 new installed, new total is 1168 as of Veterans Day
- b. Pathway Around Memorial
  - Town to angle east end for easier access, signage
  - 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. Proposed:
  1. 26 military active duty who have died in Garner
  2. Add Red, Blue, Gold Star meaning placard
  3. Add to LBP master plan
- d. Town Website Update the Committee page
  - Page updated

F) New Business:

- a. Documentary (interviews and explanation titled “PTSD: The Invisible Enemy” being finalized. Possible airing in Garner at GPAC in February 2025. Then to PBS for showing. Lead Tim Stevens and John Sherin.
- b. Sanchez Memorial. Needs landscaping to lower bushes, trim roses. Remove added flags and emblems and leave 6 ft US flag and Brass Placard.

- c. VA Clinic on NC 50 and Rand Road to open approximately March 2025. NC 50 to be widened from Arbor Green to Buffalo Road.

Meeting adjourned at 1002 hrs. Next meeting on December 9, 2024, 0900, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month (every third month), White Deer Park Nature Center.