

**Garner Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee**  
**January 17, 2025**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Committee Members: Tony DeRico, Jo Cicci, Michael Tew, Ernestine Durham, Ernestine Ledbetter, Joan Jackson, Sharon Verity ; Town Staff: Zach Pritchard, Torrey Blackmar, Erica Arrington, Councilmember Kathy Behringer

**Call to Order:** The meeting was convened at 9:00 AM by Chair Tony DeRico.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved with minor clerical amendments.

**PRCR Advisory Committee Report:**

Committee Liaison Jo Cicci provided an update from the November 18th meeting. Staff is currently engaged in the development of a policy for the splash pad, addressing operational aspects such as fees, budgetary considerations, and required oversight. Further discussions on this topic are anticipated. Budget development for PRCR is currently in progress. Superintendent Zach Pritchard reported that a flat budget will be maintained, with any additional funds directed towards operations at Yeorgan Park. A query was raised regarding the Dupree house located on the property; plans are in place for its relocation within the same site. Additionally, the athletics team is exploring the addition of a third youth basketball season, with plans for both youth and adult leagues.

**GSC Renovations Update:**

Superintendent Zach Pritchard delivered an overview of the proposed renovations. Significant changes include the installation of an ADA-compliant restroom, replacement of the HVAC system, and enhancements to attic access. The kitchen area will receive updates, including the removal of the vent hood. The design phase is expected to conclude by March-April 2025, with renovations projected to commence in mid-2026 and a potential closure of the facility estimated at 4-6 months. The relocation of activities to the GRC/ASRC poses challenges due to the summer camp schedule; therefore, alternative relocation options such as the Lion's Club will be explored. Joan Jackson noted that Marcella Albright serves as the contact for facility rentals at the Lion's Club. Office space will be modified due to the ADA restroom installation, leading to a consolidation of staff office areas, potentially incorporating the library as workspace.

**35th Anniversary of GSC:**

GSC Manager Torrey Blackmar announced that the Garner History Museum has expressed interest in hosting an exhibit to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the GSC in July. A week-long exhibit is planned, culminating in a reception on July 8, 2025. Torrey Blackmar will coordinate the collection of items for display, including recognition of the original community campaign donors.

**Council Report:**

Councilmember Kathy Behringer discussed her attendance at a recent meeting concerning code enforcement efforts aimed at addressing unsightly waste in residential areas, such as abandoned vehicles. There are ongoing initiatives to enhance the Garner Info app on the town website, enabling citizens to report neighborhood issues anonymously. The Town of Garner has also established an Affordable Housing Task Force to explore strategies for maintaining affordable housing levels within the community, with a forthcoming report to the Council anticipated.

**Activity Reports:**

Erica Arrington, Program Specialist, provided a summary of activities from November and December, highlighting key events.

**Older American's Month Picnic:**

Chair Tony DeRico led a discussion regarding the upcoming picnic scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Lake Benson Park. Committee members are requested to be available from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM for setup and cleanup. Responsibilities for the GSC and specific roles for committee members were discussed, including efforts to secure sponsors for prizes and giveaways. The PRCR Rec and Roll van will feature games, and refreshments will consist of hotdogs, chips, beverages, and desserts. Live music will be provided by the Silver Strummers Ukulele band. A special committee will convene to facilitate planning meetings over the coming months.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

\*\*Respectfully submitted by: Torrey Blackmar, GSC Manager