



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

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Town of Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes Date: April 21, 2025

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 Monday, April 21, 2025 at the Garner Recreation Center. Committee members in attendance were: Chair Matt Davis; Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson; Tim Montgomery; Dr. Pauletta Thompson; Hope Webber; and Mon Peng Yueh. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Liaison Jo Cicci was present. Council Member Gra Singleton was present. Staff present were Maria Munoz-Blanco, Zach Pritchard, and Catherine Dalton.

II. Call to Order

Chair Matt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Mon Peng Yueh

Second: Hope Webber

Motion passed unanimously

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 24, 2025; February 17, 2025; March 17, 2025)

Motion to approve: Tim Montgomery

Second: Dr. LaPonda Edmondson

Motion passed unanimously

V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

Tim Montgomery discussed the presentations by GSL and GBI to the Town Council at recent meetings. Pauletta Thompson noted that she had also seen comments on Next Door and social media. Mr. Montgomery mentioned that staff had presented a rubric to use for field assignments presented to the Committee at an earlier meeting. He shared historical background on GSL and GBI, noting that GSL primarily uses Town fields, GBI uses their own fields. There has been concern about access to the fields. He added that GSL said various things at their Council presentation, including that their contract was terminated. Chair Davis noted that he met with Zach Pritchard to understand the rubric. He noted that communication with the groups may not have been enough. Ms. Munoz-Blanco explained that the Program Partners Agreement is tied to the budget process and that GSL had not always had a contract in place. Mr.

Pritchard summarized the field booking process and conversations that have been held with the Program Partners.

Mr. Montgomery noted that the presentations to Council were negative. Mr. Pritchard shared that the booking process will be piloted this Fall so that we can test how the system works. He explained that of the 129 requests that have been received to date, 90 can be fulfilled easily and about 25 or so can be accommodated by making some adjustments. He mentioned that in Spring 2026, the construction at North Garner Middle School will cause a compression of field space, going from 7 available fields to 6 available fields. Council member Gra Singleton noted that the language used by staff describing the end date of the GSL agreement as a termination was a mistake. Chair Davis agreed with Mr. Singleton regarding the language used in the communication. Mr. Singleton asked if there was a possibility of renting other Wake County school fields in Garner. Mr. Pritchard noted that staff would follow up with the school system. There was also discussion about the use of Jackie Johns Sr. Community Park.

Mr. Montgomery discussed addressing the local / resident priority in the use of the sports fields. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the information to be collected will help staff acquire more precise information about resident / non-resident participation.

VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

Vice Chair Davis requested that the Committee receive the meeting minutes much sooner than a week before the meeting. He recommended receiving them a few days after the meeting is held. Staff agreed to send the minutes as soon as they are ready.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Liaison Jo Cicci reported on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held on March 21, 2025. She noted that Council Member Behringer was not in attendance so there wasn't an update from Council. She shared the program update, noting that there were 29 new members in January, and 18 new members in February. She added that the SCAC also discussed the plans on Older Americans Month, which is Wednesday, May 14 2025 at Lake Benson Park. A smaller committee will be ironing out details of donations for door prizes. The SCAC agreed that door prize winners who are not present would be directed to go to the Senior Center to pick up their prizes, which would be a good way for them to get to know the Center. She reported that the next SCAC meeting is on May 16, 2025. Chair Davis asked if donations for door prizes were needed; Ms. Cicci described the donations that have been received to date.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report/Department Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco presented highlights of the written report that was provided to the Committee. She introduced new staff member Catherine Dalton, who shared information about her background.

Council Member Singleton asked to share an update on the playground projects for Garner Rec Center and White Deer Park. Ms. Munoz-Blanco reported that the RFP for bids for the Garner Rec Center will be posted this week, and that the White Deer Project should also go for bid in the near future. She also reported that an RFP is posted for a recreation fee-in-lieu study and that more information will be shared with the Committee as that RFP moves forward.

b. Council Updates

Council member Singleton reported on the activity at the General Assembly, including bills introduced related to making changes in local governments extra territorial jurisdiction. He also noted that the legislation addressing the recreation fee in lieu has been challenged and changed in the past.

c. Announcements

Mr. Montgomery asked about appointments to vacancies in the Committee. Mr. Singleton said that the Town Council's Human Resources Committee is conducting interviews. Dr. Edmondson asked about the number of Committee members and whether that could be changed. There was a request to provide the list of Committee members and their date of appointments. Dr. Thompson mentioned whether the date and time of the monthly meeting may be an issue for attendance and whether that could be changed. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the number of Committee members is set in the Town Code, so that would require an ordinance change. The bylaws specify the date and time of the meetings and that could also be a change recommended by the Committee. Chair Davis asked that the list be provided with the meeting minutes.

IX. Other Business

None reported.

X. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Tim Montgomery

Second: Hope Webber

Motion carried unanimously.

Next PRCR Committee Meeting: May 19, 2025