



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

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

**Meeting Minutes
Date: January 27, 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, January 27, 2025 at the Garner Recreation Center.

II. Call to Order

Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Committee members present were: Dr. LaPonda Edmondson; Tim Montgomery; Hope Webber; Mark Wood; Mon Peng Yueh; and Senior Advisory Committee Liaison Jo Cicci. Staff in attendance was Maria Munoz-Blanco

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Tim Montgomery
Second: Mon Peng Yueh
Motion passed unanimously

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (December 16, 2024)

A correction was noted to correct the name of Committee Member Mark Wood.

Motion to approve minutes as corrected: Mark Wood
Second: Mon Peng Yueh
Motion passed unanimously

V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

None reported

VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

Committee member Tim Montgomery noted that after reading the November 2024 meeting minutes, he was thinking about splash pads in general and did not remember having discussed the location of the splash pad at White Deer Park, considering the impact of this potential high impact amenity. He expressed concern about the high intensity use and its impact on the park and the neighboring properties. He noted that he had talked about this with Maria Munoz-Blanco right before the meeting. Ms Munoz-Blanco shared with the Committee that the Yeargan

and Meadowbrook master plans included splash pads, but for future phases, but that after the 2021 Bond Program was approved, there was interest in proceeding with a splash pad sooner rather than waiting for future phases and White Deer Park was determined as the location. She noted that she did not recall if this was discussed at the Committee, but there were presentations to Town Council.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Jo Cicci presented the report. The SCAC met on January 17, 2025. Ms Cicci summarized the report presented by Superintendent Zach Pritchard to the SCAC. The Senior Center will be undergoing renovations funded by a \$500,000 grant, focusing on restroom and fixture updates, office space, combining and updating the lounge and library. The Senior Center will close during renovations, and Meals on Wheels will need an alternate location. The facility is 35 years old so there will be an anniversary event in July with the theme "Look to the Future Preserve the Past." There will be an exhibit and name plates of supporters will be moved to a book. Ms Cicci also reported that Council Member Behringer, who serves as Council liaison to the SCAC, updated the Committee on how citizens can report code violations through the website, as well as reported on the activities of the Affordable Housing Task Force. Other topics included in Ms Cicci's report include the picnic at Lake Benson Park hosted by the SCAC coming up in May, and information on new members and program attendance at the Senior Center.

There was discussion of the purpose of the renovations and the adjustments that will be made to the kitchen.

Mr. Montgomery suggested looking at churches that may have warming kitchens as an option for the Meals on Wheels program while the Senior Center is closed for renovations. He also asked about the recognition to Anne Hudson from the time the Center opened and to be mindful of that when combining the library and lounge. Staff will look into the details of the recognition and report back.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report/Department Updates

A written report was provided to the Committee. Ms. Munoz-Blanco highlighted the issue of NC Department of Transportation comments regarding the Yeargan Park driveway.

Ms. Munoz-Blanco presented an update of the FY26 budget request submitted by the Department. She explained that in addition to the base budget, departments could submit up to 4 expansion requests and up to 8 multi-year requests. She provided information on the 4 expansion requests, which included Keeping Up with Inflation (\$75,600); Service Enhancements (\$411,298); Inclusive Recreation Services (\$128,780); and PRCR CRM Software (\$77,500). Information was also provided on four multi-year requests.

Ms. Munoz-Blanco also presented information on the Program Partners and how each group is supported by the Town. She noted that while she does not expect that there will be major changes in how these organizations are supported, there are some issues to address for the future for a more consistent approach to supporting the organizations through direct grants and in-kind support through the waiver of field rentals.

Mr. Montgomery shared background information on the development of the Program Partners. There was discussion about the differences between the groups, the value of what they do for the community. Hope Webber mentioned the importance of a standard contract and focusing on the service to the kids. Mon Peng Yueh recommended developing standards for the use of the facilities. Mr. Montgomery suggested that staff and the Committee work to develop standards. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that this will be brought back for further discussion with the Committee.

b. Council Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the Yeargan Park rezoning has been moved to the second meeting in February due to the weather cancellation of the January 21 Town Council meeting. Vice Chair Edmondson noted the other dates included in the report and asked staff to let the Committee know when their support is needed as part of the budget process.

c. Announcements

None reported.

IX. Other Business

None reported.

X. Adjourn

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

Motion to adjourn: Hope Webber

Second: Mon Peng Yueh

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.