



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

900 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Garner, NC 27529

Phone: 919-773-4442 • Email: [garnerprcr@garnernc.gov](mailto:garnerprcr@garnernc.gov)

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

**Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 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, March 17, 2025 at the Garner Recreation Center.
- II. Call to Order  
Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. Committee members present were: Vice Chair Edmondson, Mark Wood, and Hope Webber. PRCR staff in attendance were Maria Munoz-Blanco and Zach Pritchard. Assistant Town Manager Matt Poole was in attendance. While there was no quorum present, the Committee members present agreed to discuss the items on the agenda. Vice Chair Edmondson reviewed the agenda, no changes were made by Committee members.
- III. Approval of Agenda  
  
No action was taken.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 24, 2025; February 17, 2025)  
  
Two corrections were noted for the February meeting notes: Dr. Edmondson was not in attendance and Mr. Wood was in attendance. Staff noted that minutes would be corrected.  
  
No action was taken on approval of the minutes.
- V. Petitions and Comments from the Public  
  
Ms. Munoz-Blanco reported on a request from a representative of the Oak Park HOA for additional recreational amenities in this growing part of Garner. Committee members discussed whether HOAs present their projects to the Committee; staff reported that the Unified Development Ordinance has specific requirements for active and passive recreational space and that the Planning Department review process considers those requirements.
- VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments  
  
None reported.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Staff noted that Liaison Jo Cicci could not attend due to moving. Mr. Pritchard reported on the SCAC efforts to plan for the Older Americans Month picnic at Lake Benson Park.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report/Department Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco introduced Assistant Town Manager Matt Poole, who made brief remarks to the Committee.

A written report was sent with the meeting notice. Ms. Munoz-Blanco highlighted the Section 106 situation with Yeargan Park and the link with information for public input. There was discussion about the historic preservation process and the historic value of the houses on the property. Ms. Webber asked about the feasibility of using a portion of the property for a cooperative farm or community farm. Ms. Munoz-Blanco mentioned that the Town has a partnership with Garner Grows for a community garden at Thompson Park. She also noted that the topography of the areas of the Yeargan site that are not being used for the sports fields may not be best option for agriculture.

Mr. Pritchard presented the proposed Baseball and Softball Field Use Priority System. This system will be used to allocate field space to the various groups that are using Town-owned baseball and softball fields. He noted that there is a shortage of field space, which will be made more noticeable when the East Garner Middle School field is off-line for construction. A handout with the draft of the priority system was provided and Mr. Pritchard explained the approach and point scale. Ms. Webber suggested increasing the gap points to 3. Dr. Edmondson asked about the description of underserved. Committee members present were supportive of using the system to increase access to underserved groups.

Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that there will be a department agenda item on consent agenda on 03/18/25 to meet the requirements of a state statute for the design-build process. She also noted that the first budget presentation is scheduled for April 1.

b. Council Updates

No report.

c. Announcements

None made.

IX. Other Business

Dr. Edmondson asked about potential impact of changes in federal funding. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that no specific information has been provided, but there are concerns as grants processes are changed.

X. Adjourn

With no further business. Dr. Edmonson asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Ms. Webber, second by Mr. Wood.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.