

Garner Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2025

9:00am

Location: Garner Senior Center

Attendance: Tony DeRico, Sharon Verity, Joan Jackson, Michael Tew, Jeanie Lin, Ernestine Durham, Ernestine Ledbetter. Staff: Torrey Blackmar, Erica Arrington; Kathy Berhinger, Town Council

PRCR Committee Report:

Jo Cicci reported that social media discussions have arisen regarding the utilization of ball fields. There appears to be some confusion among partner groups concerning the scheduling and access for practices and games. Please note that construction at Yeargan Park is underway with an expected completion date in late 2026. The "Pennies for Parks" grant is supporting the installation of new grills at park shelters. Additionally, the tennis courts at South Garner Park will soon be reopened to the public following resurfacing and refurbishment efforts. A splash pad is planned for White Deer Park, and Requests for Proposals are currently being solicited for its development.

Council Update Kathy Berhinger reported that during the budget workshop, it was determined that there will be no increase in taxes. The primary line items for the proposed budget include the two major park projects, Yeargan and Meadowbrook. Mrs. Berhinger mentioned that Garner is highlighted in a national survey as one of the top ten fastest-growing cities in the United States. This recognition is beneficial for positive public relations. Additionally, progress is being made on public art installations. In addition to a prominent sculpture situated on the lot near Avery Street, several smaller projects are being developed throughout the community.

Nominations for FY 2025/26 Officers: Nominations were accepted for Chair, Co- Chair: Liaison for Advisory Committee. The committee voted: Sharon Verity, Chair; Jo Cicci- Co-Chair; Ernestine Durham- Liaison for Advisory Committee**Jo Cicci, former liaison, will transfer information to Ernestine Durham to represent at the next GPRAC meeting.

Review March and April monthly Reports:

Erica Arrington reviewed GSC monthly activity reports for March and April. Special events, overall attendance and number of new participant were highlighted.

Older Americans Act Cookout: Tony DeRico commended the hardworking committee for their dedication and the successful execution of the inaugural event. Approximately 15 sponsors generously contributed door prizes, and the Garner Police Department donated \$175 to assist with catering expenses. Despite the unforeseen need to relocate the event to the GSC gym due to inclement weather, attendance exceeded 100 participants. The entertainment, featuring the Ukulele Band – Silver Strummers – along with line dancing, received positive feedback from attendees. For future planning, it is recommended to reserve some food for late arrivals and to consider hosting the event indoors at the same location and time, following bingo at GSC.

GSCAC Concerns/Announcements: The committee agreed that they would provide ice cream to GSC participants on Friday, June 13-11:45am. (**This was later cancelled due to a scheduling conflict).

Meeting adjournment at 9:58am

Minutes Approved 7/18/25