



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

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

**Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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, May 19, 2025 at the Garner Recreation Center. The Committee members in attendance were: Chair Matt Davis; Tim Montgomery; Dr. Pauletta Thompson; Hope Webber; Mark Wood; and Mon Peng Yueh. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Liaison Jo Cicci was present. Staff present were Maria Munoz-Blanco and Matt Beard.
- II. Call to Order

Chair Matt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- III. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Tim Montgomery
Second: Mon Peng Yueh
Motion passed unanimously
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (April 21, 2025)

Motion to approve: Mon Peng Yueh
Second: Tim Montgomery
Motion passed unanimously
- V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

None reported.
- VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

None reported.
- VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Liaison Jo Cicci presented a summary of the most recent meeting and activities of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC). She noted that Council Member Kathy Behringer attended the SCAC meeting and shared the following updates: Meadowbrook and Yeargan Parks are proceeding; the Town is rated among the Top 10 cities in the nation; she also cited Governor Stein's quote that people love NC, if you build it they will come, and even if they don't build it they still come. Ms. Cicci

DRAFT COPY FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS REVIEW

reported that GSC staff Erica Arrington noted there were 32 new members in March and 27 new members in April. Ms. Cicci also reported on the SCAC's Older Americans Month cookout event. The event was rained out at Lake Benson Park so it was moved to the Senior Center. They cooked out in the breezeway and then had the event in the gym. About 120 people attended. The Ukelele band performed as well as the line dancers, and there were numerous raffles. Next event will be hosted by the SCAC will be an ice cream social on June 13, 2025 as a thank you to the outgoing chair of the committee. Ms. Cicci also reported that nominations for Chair / Vice Chair were made effective July 1 - new chair is Sharon Verity, and Vice Chair Jo Cicci. The liaison to the PRCR Advisory Committee will be Ernestine Durham. The SCAC next meeting will be on July 18, 2025.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report/Department Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco presented highlights of the written monthly report distributed earlier, highlighting the upcoming Memorial Day event at Lake Benson Park and the success of the initial Friday Family Flicks.

Ms. Munoz-Blanco provided an update on the field reservation process, sharing a presentation prepared by PRCR Superintendent Zach Pritchard with data on the number of field reservation requests received (2,472) and that 96.5% were able to be filled. The presentation also included information about 5 groups that did not have alternate dates, but field space is still available on Fridays and Sundays. The presentation also included the percentages of recreation vs. travel uses, with 53.98% of field reservations are for recreation baseball/softball and 45.98% for travel baseball/softball. The presentation also shared the feedback received from the three organizations

Mon Peng Yueh noted that the distribution of space seems equitable. Hope Webber noted that they can see that the point system presented earlier came into play and was useful in making the determination. She noted that more transparency was helpful. Tim Montgomery noted the system seemed to make sense. He noted the feedback will be helpful as the Committee continues to have conversations on this subject.

Mr. Montgomery asked about the potential third season to accommodate wait lists in the youth volleyball and basketball leagues. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that this is pending budget approval and that staff believe the revenues from registration fees would cover expenses related to officials and scorekeepers.

Matt Beard presented three cases for the Committee's recommendation regarding parkland dedication or fee-in-lieu.

Subdivision: SB-24-008 Bagwell Farms

Mr. Beard described the project and noted that staff recommend fee in lieu, adding that the developer also prefers to pay fee in lieu instead of land dedication. Mr. Montgomery asked about recreation amenities in the development. Mr. Beard noted that the Planning Department has also noted the need for recreation options. Ms. Cicci asked about when the fee-in-lieu was established.

Motion to approve recommendation for fee-in-lieu: Tim Montgomery
Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson
Motion carried unanimously.

Special Use Permit: SUP-SP-23-05 Yeargan Rd Apartments

Mr. Beard described the project and noted that staff recommendation is fee-in-lieu. Tim Montgomery asked about the park search areas identified in the PRCR Comprehensive Master Plan. There was discussion about what happens in this area of Hwy 70 as growth happens. Hwy 70 has been mostly business, the Bluebird on 70 apartments were built across the street. That whole area was mainly commercial, now adding another 250+ apartments. Staff provided information about the UDO requirements for open space and active space. Hope Webber noted concerns about the aesthetic of the developments.

Motion to approve recommendation for fee-in-lieu: Hope Webber
Second: Mon Peng Yueh
Motion carried unanimously

Subdivision: SB-24-004 Mahlers Creek

Mr. Beard presented information regarding the development, providing details on the greenway easement option along Mahlers Creek and potential future connections. Clarification was provided regarding fee-in-lieu for parkland and the requirement of the Transportation Plan.

Motion to approve recommendation for fee-in-lieu: Tim Montgomery
Second: Mark Wood
Motion carried unanimously

b. Council Updates

Mr. Montgomery noted CM Singleton sent his regrets for not being able to attend tonight's meeting due to family illness.

c. Announcements

None reported.

IX. Other Business

- a. Nomination of Officers for the Term July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

Mr. Montgomery asked Chair Davis if he was interested in a second term; he agreed.

Motion by Tim Montgomery to nominate Matt Davis as Chair, and Dr. LaPonda Edmondson as Vice Chair.

Second by Dr. Thompson.

Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion of the terms of current members and the two vacant positions.

There was discussion of schedule conflicts for the June 16; 2025 meeting. Committee agreed to keep the meeting on that date and to ask Dr. Edmondson to chair the meeting.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Tim Montgomery

Second: Hope Webber

Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.