



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

**Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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, September 15, 2025 at the Garner Recreation Center. The Committee members in attendance were: Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson serving as presiding officer; Cameron Hayes; Amanda McCloskey; Tim Montgomery; Dr. Pauletta Thompson; Mon Peng Yueh, and Senior Citizens Committee Liaison Ernestine Durham. Council Liaison Gran Singleton was present. Town Staff present were Assistant Town Manager Matt Poole, Town Attorney Terri Jones, and PRCR Director Maria Munoz-Blanco.
- II. Call to Order
Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The Vice Chair welcomed the new members and asked for all the Committee members present to introduce themselves.
- III. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve: Tim Montgomery
Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson
Motion passed unanimously
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (June 16, 2025)
Motion to approve: Tim Montgomery
Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson
Motion passed unanimously
- V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

None Reported
- VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

Tim Montgomery noted that as mentioned at the last meeting and as included in the minutes from the June meeting, the Committee discussed the orientation for new members and a tour of the park facilities. He said he would like to discuss this request and set a time frame. Dr. Edmondson noted that last year's tour was very helpful to get to know the new parks. There was a question about the Town orientation for boards and committees held in July and if it was recorded. Mr. Montgomery noted that orientation was done in the past at a regular meeting and for the park tours it was usually done on a weekend. He suggested that since it's already September almost October, to put up a few dates and see what the majority wants to

do, maybe start through an email to identify a couple of days in October. Amanda McCloskey noted that she liked the idea of a weekend to view the parks and to review the orientation together at the meeting. The Committee's consensus was to do the orientation at the October meeting for the full Committee so all can benefit from it and for staff to advise on the dates for the tour of the parks.

Dr. Thompson noted that as a citizen and parent, she wanted to share that the PRCR summer camp was amazing. She noted that the camp flowed very well, staff was very welcoming, and the children enjoyed the camp.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Ernestine Durham noted that she had missed the PRCR Advisory Committee meetings and that this was the best committee. She reported that the Senior Advisory Committee doesn't have a lot going on right now, the attendance numbers were down in terms of people attending in June likely because of the summer, Meals on Wheels still providing services. She noted that with new members the Senior Advisory Committee has all positions filled and that the Committee is very pleased with this. The next meeting is on Friday morning so she will report next month. The Senior Citizens Committee meets every other month. She also shared information about the open house and the survey that was done, feedback was overall good, very useful.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report

Maria Munoz-Blanco presented highlights of the Director's Report/Department Updates that was distributed to the Committee. Highlights included the receipt of bids for the site work at the White Deer Park playground, videos of the construction ongoing at Yeargan Park, an update on projects completed with Penny for Parks, the status of registration for programs, and the upcoming retirement of Jack Baldwin, who will be recognized by Town Council on October 21.

Mr. Montgomery noted the advocacy of the Committee was essential to secure funding for the Penny for Parks program and that a big part of the Committee's work is to advocate for parks.

Ms Munoz-Blanco provided a brief update on Meadowbrook. She noted that the first steps to be undertaken to develop an entrance to the park from Hebron Church Road rather than from Country Club Drive. She added that the early development components would be entrance road, parking, disc golf, mountain biking, and driving range options.

Ms. Durham asked about Country Club Drive and the history of the ownership of the road by the Country Club prior to the development of the neighborhood. She asked if there was a decision as to who owns the road. Town Attorney Terri Jones provided background information on the ownership. She noted that there has been extensive research but nothing conclusive, may require further legal clarification. Assistant Town Manager Poole noted that

the entrance needs to be at Hebron Church and that Engineering staff is in discussions with NCDOT on how to best approach the road work.

Ms. McCloskey asked about how the historic nature of the property would be recognized. Ms. Munoz-Blanco provided a brief overview of the park's entry in the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Durham asked about the historic components markets in the original master plan. Mr. Poole added that the Town will be meeting with the Friends of Meadowbrook to discuss fundraising opportunities.

Dr. Edmondson mentioned how valuable last year's tour was to see the Meadowbrook site and appreciate its beauty.

Tim Montgomery mentioned that the Town Parks Department has had wonderful staff over the years and that he has known Jack Baldwin for many years, worked with him as a parent, as a coach, as a friend, as a member of the PRCR. Mr. Baldwin has dedicated 28 years to serving the community. He's a good fellow, will be missed. He noted that the Committee may want to discuss in the future perhaps naming to honor someone who has served so many years.

b. Zoning Cases

There were no zoning cases to present this month.

c. Council Updates

Council Member Singleton noted that the Town Council wants to move forward with Meadowbrook, it will be good to get it open so people can use it. He noted that there is significant development of new homes in the area. He also noted the improvements that are being made with Penny for Parks. He asked about the South Garner Park Playground replacement. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the playground replacement is scheduled for the week of September 22. He shared information about the development of the Lake Benson Park playground and how the older equipment from Lake Benson Playground was moved to South Garner Park. He provided background on other playgrounds in the park system and the need to update them, including Greenbrier and White Deer Park. There was consensus in the committee that playgrounds have come a long way and are a very popular amenity at the parks.

IX. Announcements

X. None reported.

XI. Other Business

Town Attorney Jones reported that the Legal Services Department is working on a Code Revision project. She noted that the Parks & Recreation Ordinance was last revised in 2022, but that there are other older ones that will be addressed first in the revision project. She gave as examples the golf cart ordinance, traffic control ordinance, and animal control

ordinances. There was discussion about chickens in neighborhoods and potential changes to the ordinance.

Dr. Thompson asked about Bryan Road traffic and pedestrian issues. Attorney Jones noted that Bryan Road is a state-maintained road and follows state rules for speed limits. Attorney Jones noted that Police may have options for enforcement.

Ms. Durham asked about golf carts. Attorney Jones noted that there is a request to operate golf cart on the streets and that is what the ordinance update would address.

Attorney Jones shared that there is portal page on the Town's webpage for comments and feedback on the code revision project.

Mr. Hayes asked about the increase in chickens. Mr. Singleton noted that there is a request to increase the number of chickens, but no interest in allowing roosters in Town limits.

There was a question about the sidewalk along Bryan / Ackerman and if that project has that been bid. Attorney Jones noted that project will be bid in the near future.

Ms. McCloskey asked about interest in a downtown Garner farmers market and if this would be something that the PRCR Advisory Committee would advocate. Mr. Singleton provided some background on past attempts to develop a farmers market but how difficult that has been given the close proximity to the State Farmers Market.

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Tim Montgomery

Second: Pauletta Thompson

Motion passed unanimously.

Next PRCR Committee Meeting: October 20, 2025