



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
November 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, November 17, 2025, at the Garner Recreation Center. The Committee members in attendance were Chair Matt Davis, Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, Amanda McCloskey, Dr. Pauletta Thompson, Mark Wood, Mon Peng Yueh, and Senior Citizens Committee Liaison Ernestine Durham. Town staff present were PRCR Director Maria Munoz-Blanco, PRCR Superintendent - Athletics and Recreation Zach Pritchard, and Parks & Greenways Planning Manager 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: Dr. LaPonda Edmondson

Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson

Motion carried unanimously

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (September 15, 2025, October 20, 2025)

Motion to approve: Dr. Edmondson

Second: Dr. Thompson

Motion carried unanimously

V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

Maria Munoz-Blanco reported on requests received from members of the South Asian community about a Diwali event and badminton. She noted that staff are meeting with community members to learn more about their ideas.

VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

Dr. Thompson wanted to express her appreciation to Councilmember Gra Singleton for his follow-up after the September meeting discussion regarding Bryan Road traffic improvements. Dr. Thompson noted there been some progress with the improvements, so she wanted to thank Mr. Singleton for that.

Ernestine Durham noted that the pedestrian bridges at Lake Benson Park have been installed, making a noticeable improvement on the walk around the park.

Mr. Davis noted about that the alternate trail around the Veterans Memorial seems to be helping with the pedestrian and bicycle traffic over the Memorial.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Ms. Durham noted that the next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is on Friday, November 21. Mr. Pritchard added that the GSC will host a Thanksgiving celebration for the members on Thursday, November 20.

Mr. Davis asked about the process for appointments of Council Committee liaisons. Staff noted this is usually done at the December Council meeting and information will be shared with the Committee as soon as available.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

IX. Director's Report/Department Updates

- a. Committee Member Orientation: Ms. Munoz-Blanco presented the New Member Orientation. Printed copies of the presentation were provided.
- b. Highlights of Written Report: Ms. Munoz-Blanco pointed out the increase in the number of participants in the youth leagues, made possible with the additional budget allocated for this in FY26.

Mr. Davis asked about the field allocation process. Mr. Pritchard noted the process has gone well in its first cycle and a couple of items to update for the Spring field reservations.

Dr. Edmondson asked about attendance to the Trick-or-Treat the Trails this year. Committee members noted that the event attracts people not just from Garner, but from surrounding communities as well. Amanda McCloskey noted that she had attended Trick-or-Treat the Trails and it was a great event, with very unique experiences for children and parents.

Dr. Edmondson noted that the messaging on the Penny for Parks on social media has resulted in positive comments and encouraged continued communication efforts to highlight the impact of Penny for Parks.

c. Zoning Cases

Matt Beard presented the Thompson Townhomes project (SB-25-002) with developer request for fee-in-lieu.

Ms. McCloskey asked about opportunities to improve quality of greenways. Mr. Beard highlighted how the developer of this project is amenitizing next to the greenway with a fitness equipment area.

There was discussion of the greenway along Old Stage Road or along the back of the property near the creek, with consideration of residents' preference as well as the cost of permitting and maintaining greenways.

Motion: Motion to recommend Fee-in-Lieu made by Mon Peng Yueh

Second: Dr. Pauletta Thompson

Motion carried unanimously

d. Facility Tour

Mr. Pritchard and Garner Senior Center Manager Torrey Blackmar gave the Committee a tour of the Senior Center.

e. Council Updates

None reported.

f. Announcements

None reported.

X. Other Business

a. Committee Calendar 2026

Motion to approve: Dr. LaPonda Edmonson

Second: Mon Peng Yueh

Motion carried unanimously

Discussion of not holding a meeting on December 15, 2025 due to scheduling conflicts. Staff noted that the main topic for the December meeting is the FY27 budget. Dr. Edmondson suggested in consideration of the timing and schedule conflicts to make the December meeting a short meeting just about the budget. Committee agreed to host the meeting via Teams.

Motion to hold the December meeting via Teams made by Dr. Edmondson

Second: Dr. Thompson

Motion carried unanimously

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Edmondson

Second: Dr. Thompson

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next PRCR Committee Meeting: December 15, 2025 (via Teams)

**MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE 12/15/2025**