



Garner Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

900 7th Avenue • Garner, NC 27529

Phone: 919-773-4442 • Email: garnerprcr@garnernc.gov

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

**MEETING MINUTES
December 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, December 15, 2025. This was a hybrid meeting, with members joining via Teams or in-person at the Garner Recreation Center. The Committee members in attendance were Chair Matt Davis, Vice Chair Dr. LaPonda Edmondson, Cameron Hayes, Amanda McCloskey, Tim Montgomery, Mark Wood, Mon Peng Yueh, Senior Citizens Committee Liaison Ernestine Durham, and Council Liaison Kelvin Stallings. Town staff present were PRCR Director Maria Munoz-Blanco.

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 carried unanimously

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 17, 2025)

Motion to approve: Mon Peng Yueh

Second: Dr. LaPonda Edmondson

Motion carried unanimously

V. Petitions and Comments from the Public

Mr. Douglas Ball spoke in support of developing mountain biking trails in the Garner park system. He noted mountain biking trails would be an asset to the community, bringing a good crowd, with the potential for economic development. He said that he had met with PRCR Director Maria Munoz-Blanco who shared information on the future Meadowbrook Park trails. He advocated bringing mountain biking trails to Yeargan Park, possibly in Phase 2 or even to incorporate as a place holder in Phase 1 until a future phase is developed. He spoke about the possibility of making this a joint venture with mountain biking clubs and the potential low cost of upkeep since mountain biking clubs schedule volunteer maintenance days for other trails. He said he is advocating to make this come to life sooner rather than later. He spoke about Clayton's new mountain bike trails and the person who helped bring those into reality.

Committee member Mon Peng Yueh asked for more detail on mountain bike trails compared to other trails. Mr. Ball explained that in Clayton, these are single track that are shared with hikers. Walking trails through the woods but wider, that take advantage of the topography to support the mountain biking sport, usually four to five miles into the woods. He said the ones in Clayton are well done, that a person like him who is in his 60s can still ride without a problem. He noted that compared to mountain biking trails, the pump tracks don't stay popular for long, and the cost of maintenance is higher because of erosion.

Dr. Edmondson asked about the benefit of having these trails at Yeargan Park. Mr. Ball explained that this could bring economic development to downtown.

Amanda McCloskey asked if the trails would also be open to motorized bicycles. Mr. Ball replied that typically not, that usually the trails are scheduled to go in one direction certain days to accommodate both walkers and cyclists. This is done through signage.

Ms. McCloskey asked about names of the groups that provide maintenance and to bring those names to the Committee. Mr. Ball suggested that groups be invited to a future meeting to explain how other towns have added mountain bike trails to their parks.

VI. Committee Members Concerns/Comments

Ms. McCloskey asked about the bridge at Jaycee Park and whether that was its final stage. She added that there is an opportunity to creatively paint the bridges and there was discussion about bringing this to the future Arts Committee.

VII. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Update

Ms. Durham noted that the next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is on Friday, December 18.

VIII. Reports/Discussion Items

a. Director's Report/Department Updates

Ms. Munoz-Blanco made a presentation on the FY27 budget request (copy of the presentation was emailed to the Committee).

Chair Matt Davis asked about the budget for rerouting of the Veterans Memorial trail. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that the project would be for more than just the temporary rerouting that is currently in place.

Mr. Montgomery asked about the youth leagues and the waiting lists, and how the third season may be helping with alleviating this problem. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that there are more youth involved in the leagues, but that there is also growing interest so waiting lists are still a challenge and that staff is maximizing the use of the space as much as we can.

Ms. McCloskey asked about the approval of Penny for Parks. Ms. Munoz-Blanco noted that Town Council approves the allocation of the penny with the operating budget annually.

Dr. Edmondson asked for detail on the increase in the base budget due to personnel costs. Ms. Munoz-Blanco added that staff is working with the Budget Office to determine if there are duplicate salaries as the increase from year-to-year seems rather high.

Mr. Montgomery asked for staff to keep the Committee updated on these discussions.

IX. Council Updates

Council Member Stallings reported on the Town Council's December 2 meeting, which was the first meeting for the new council. He noted that there is a full agenda for the December 16 meeting. He encouraged the Committee members to reach out to him as the new liaison to parks. Chair Davis noted that it is vital to see the Council member liaison at the Committee meetings.

X. Announcements

Dr. Edmondson added that if there is an opportunity for artwork related to the Jaycee Park Pedestrian bridge, to look at all the new pedestrian bridges collectively.

Ms. Durham wished all Committee members a Merry Christmas.

XI. Other Business

None reported.

XII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Edmondson

Second: Mong Peng Yueh

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next PRCR Committee Meeting: January 26, 2026 (in person)

Minutes approved at the PRCR Advisory Committee 02/16/2025 meeting.