



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

 [**Link to Summary of Council Actions**](#)

 [**Link to Meeting Minutes**](#)



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

Online Meeting

Join the meeting: <https://avondaleaz.zoom.us/j/7773818863>

Using a Mobile Device? Download the Zoom Cloud Meeting App

Join the meeting with audio only: Call 301-715-8592 (meeting ID: 777-381-8863)

Agenda

1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

2. Approval of Minutes **Approved**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

3. Recreation and Quality of Life Fund Update **Discussion Only**

4. Parks Tours **Discussion Only**

5. Recreation Update **Discussion Only**

6. Parks Update **Discussion Only**

7. Reports from Board Members **Discussion Only**

8. Future Agenda Items **Discussion Only**

Alamar Park
Free Speech Zones at Parks

9. Adjournment **Approved**

Members will attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

Los miembros asistirán en persona o vía teleconferencia.

Individuals with special accessibility needs, including sight or hearing impaired, large print, or interpreter, should contact the City Clerk at 623-333-1200 or TDD 623-333-0010 at least two business days prior to the meeting.

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Board Members:

Oscar De Alba – Chair	Michelle Molina
Katherine Hall – Vice Chair	Arrajaneé Rivera
Glen Hein	Monique Ayers
Glenn Coleman	
Janet Beason	

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Miranda Gomez – Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Danielle Smith – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



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1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Present: Director Hughes, Management Analyst Dominic DeCono, Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston, **Board Char De Alba, Boardmember Ayers, Vice-Chair Hall, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Beason.** Quorum is present.

Absent: Glenn Coleman, Michelle Molina, Arrajanee Rivera

2. Approval of Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Error in Vice-Chair Hall, 4th year not first year

Motion: Boardmember Beason

2nd: Vice-Chair Hall

5 to 0 to approve minutes as corrected.

Chairman De Alba:	Aye
Vice-Chair Hall:	Aye
Boardmember Hein:	Aye
Boardmember Beason:	Aye
Boardmember Ayers:	Aye

3. Recreation and Quality of Life Fund Update

Director Hughes discussed the upcoming Recreation and Quality of Life Fund Initiative that is being considered by the City Council. He gave a presentation discussing the tax increase, sunset of initiative, estimated revenue generation and the projects it would go towards. He also went over the calendar timeframe of the process of the initiative of how it will be processed up until election day.

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Vice-Chair Hall asked what would the timeline be for implementing the projects. Director Hughes mentioned issuing Bonds as one option within 6-9 months. Possibly within 2 years an Aquatic Center could be built and within 2-3 years more things like trail improvements could also be implemented. Chairman De Alba asked what kind of revenue would be generated as a result of the programs. Director Hughes responded saying that it will depend on many factors such as the size of the facility, direction from staff, and other things. Chairman De Alba also asked about forecasting on total revenue generated by the sales tax initiative, which Director Hughes referenced the presentation given to the City Council, which is approximately \$85-90 million dollars over 25 years.

Boardmember Beason asked if the initiative has been previously proposed in 2018. Director Hughes mentioned that it was previously discussed, but never made it as far as the ballot. Vice Chair Hall asked what sort of publicity will this have and whether or not they will receive a copy of this presentation. Director Hughes mentioned that Dominic can send the presentation materials to the board members.

Boardmember Ayers asked if this will have a long term impact because of the possible tax increase and what will happen in regards to attracting new residents to Avondale. Director Hughes mentioned that this wasn't discussed by the City Council for consideration, but that it's possible it would be used as something to attract new residents.

4. Parks Tours

Director Hughes followed up from the previous meeting regarding possible future tours of the parks and wanted to give insight on what times would work best for the members. He also mentioned he wanted to take members 2-3 at a time. He mentioned he will ask for best available times for members when PDF presentation is sent out.

5. Recreation Update

Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston provided an update regarding sports seasons and tournaments that were canceled as a result of Covid-19. This includes softball tournaments, soccer seasons, and other various leisure classes. She mentioned that a scheduled movie night had been cancelled in March but was made up on Memorial Day week.

Coordinator Swainston also mentioned that special events CulturePOP, Kidsfest, Memorial Day Weekend Events and WaterPaloosa were canceled.

Since the Parks were reopened, softball tournaments have been incredibly popular and we have maxed out capacity for multiple tournaments. She also mentioned youth sports classes will be opening for fall and sign ups have already started and multiple leisure courses such as dance and archery classes have started in June already.

For special events, Coordinator Swainston mentioned that more movie night events are planned to be scheduled. She also discussed various events like Avondale Cup, Cycle Avondale and Billy Moore Days are being worked on and are still planned to take place later in 2020.

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Coordinator Swainston also discussed various end of FY statistics for the recreation side of the department, with the overall theme of programming have a dramatic increase in participants, as well as increased number of teams in adult softball, field allocation rentals and additional classes being offered such as archery classes. Coordinator Swainston opened up the board for questions.

Vice Chair Hall asked a question regarding the 4th of July event Waterpalooza, which Coordinator Swainston mentioned that the event was canceled. Boardmember Ayers asked how the events are advertised outside of the magazine 'The Rave'. Coordinator Swainston mentioned we also advertise the events through newspaper ads, open houses in school, social media posting and updates on the city website.

Director Hughes also mentioned that the department is also exploring a new user software for program sign ups. This software will also include options of asking how individuals found out about programs they signed up for.

Chairman De Alba asked about the softball leagues, specifically about the registration rates, which Coordinator Swainston mentioned that we have reached the maximum number of teams available for sign up.

6. Parks Update

Director Hughes mentioned that there was an issue regarding with the turf installation at Festival Fields, so the parks team had to reseed the grass where there were issues, but it is being addressed. Chairman De Alba asked a question regarding field conditions and long-term field rentals. Specifically, regarding the field conditions as a result of the type of sport being played on the field. Coordinator Swainston mentioned that the fields go through 'rest periods' after multiple weekends of use in order to allow the fields to recover from various activities. Director Hughes mentioned that the fields are generally in good condition as a result of the pandemic, but activity will be picking up and there is a plan in place to keep them in good condition.

Director Hughes also mentioned updates at other locations, specifically lighting issues at Dessie Lorenz Park, which the lights are being fixed. He also mentioned shade canopies are also being installed within the next few weeks. Director Hughes also touched on the parks rules signs project which is also going on currently.

Boardmember Hein asked if the lighting issue at Dessie Lorenz Park was a vandalism issue, which Director Hughes confirmed was. Hein asked a follow up question if there were additional police or park ranger presence there, which Director Hughes mentioned there was, as well as additional improvements of the installment of the wiring to help prevent that.

Boardmember Ayers also mentioned that the Dessie Lorenz Park seemed as if the park was always in transition without a lot of completed projects. Director Hughes agreed and is hopeful that the improvement projects will make it appear much better.

Vice Chair Hall asked about the Van Buren underpass pictures and inquired what they were about. Director Hughes discussed this is part of two projects being worked on for multi-use paths on Van Buren road as well as on the levy going along the Agua Fria River as part of a

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larger goal to extend trails from Friendship Park to Festival Fields. The underpass clean up was part of that project and it was completed by parks staff.

Boardmember Hein mentioned there is a gate that has been installed along the trail on the southside of the Van Buren. Director Hughes mentioned that the gate was incorrectly installed by the HOA but will allow the gate to stand until the completion of the multi-use path trails.

The HOA had discussed security concerns along the trail without the gate, but Director Hughes mentioned that Parks, Police and other entities of the city government will be actively working with the neighborhoods to make sure the areas are safe and secure along the trails.

Director Hughes also mentioned the trails projects do have funding for the current projects happening and that if the quality of life initiative passes there will be additional future funding.

7. Reports from Board Members – Discussion Only

Vice Chair Hall mentioned she took her family to Festival Fields the previous week and that things went well.

8. Future Agenda Items – Discussion Only

Alamar Park
Free Speech Zones at Parks

Director Hughes discussed a future update regarding Alamar Park as well as free speech zones at the parks, which are commonly asked about things during election years. Director Hughes mentioned a recommendation of providing designated free speech zone locations at each park, which is a solution that the City of Peoria has initiated.

Director Hughes also mentioned that Assistant Director Miranda Gomez will be starting with the department on June 15th.

Vice-Chair Hall asked if the naming of Alamar Park was put on hold, which Director Hughes mentioned that will be added

9. Adjournment

Motion: Boardmember Beason

2nd: Boardmember Hein

5 to 0 approved to adjourn

Chairman De Alba:	Aye
Vice-Chair Hall:	Aye
Boardmember Hein:	Aye
Boardmember Beason:	Aye
Boardmember Ayers:	Aye

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