City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Link to Summary of Council Actions

Link to Meeting Minutes

Avondale
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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, July 8, 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. **Introduction of Miranda Gomez, Assistant Director** **Discussion Only**

3. **Approval of Minutes** **Approved**

   The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the June 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

4. **Recreation Update** **Discussion Only**

5. **Parks Update** **Discussion Only**

6. **Reports from Board Members – Discussion Only** **Discussion Only**

7. **Future Agenda Items – Discussion Only** **Discussion Only**

   Alamar Park
   Cost Recovery Policy
   Free Speech Zones at Parks
   Recreation and Quality of Life Fund
   Parks Tours

8. **Adjournment** **Approved**

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

Los miembros asistiran en person o via 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.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oido, o con necesidad de impresion grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos dias habiles antes de la junta.

Board Members:
Oscar De Alba – Chair
Katherine Hall – Vice Chair
Glen Hein
Glenn Coleman
Janet Beason
Michelle Molina
Arrajanee Rivera
Monique Ayers

Staff Liaisons:
Bryan Hughes – Director
Miranda Gomez – Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst

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Agenda

1. **Roll Call by Staff Liaison**

   Present: Director Hughes, Assistant Director Gomez, Management Analyst Dominic DeCono, Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston. Boardmember Beason, Chairman De Alba, Vice Chair Hall, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Coleman. Quorum present.

2. **Introduction of Miranda Gomez, Assistant Director**

   Director Hughes introduced new Assistant Director Miranda Gomez, who started with the department on June 15th. Miranda discussed that she is excited to be with Avondale. She also mentioned that she previously worked with the City of Surprise and most recently the City of Buckeye, mostly overseeing areas of recreation and accreditation. She was welcomed by the entire Board. Director Hughes also mentioned that Assistant Director Gomez also grew up and went to school in Avondale.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

   The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the June 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

   Motion: Hall
   2nd: Hein

Chair De Alba	Aye
Vice Chair Hall	Aye
Boardmember Beason	Aye
Boardmember Coleman	Aye
Boardmember Hein	Aye

4. **Recreation Update**

   Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston discussed the most recent recreation update, which included the various softball tournaments in June and July. However, due to the increase in Covid-19 cases locally, all tournaments, field rentals and ramada rentals were cancelled. Some teams decided to keep a credit to play in the fall and there are tournaments scheduled for August, as well as regular programming such as Flag Football and Soccer. Coordinator Swainston also mentioned that there

will be more Leisure Classes for all ages, as well as regularly scheduled special events like Billy Moore Days. New events were also added to the calendar such as a Fish Derby and Car Show, as well as movie nights on the second Saturday of each month through the month of December. Coordinator Swainston also mentioned that July is National Parks and Recreation Month, which included an employee highlight on the department's social media pages, as well as weekly photo competitions listed on the city website. Chair De Alba asked if a car show will take place, which Coordinator Swainston confirmed is a new event to Avondale. Boardmember Coleman asked about the Fish Derby and what will be part of the event, which Director Hughes mentioned it will likely take place on a Saturday morning at the new Festival Field lake. The lake will be stocked with fish from Arizona Game & Fish, as well as possible Father/Son or Father/Daughter camp-out at the park. The goal is to bring a new form of fun and highlight the park. Coordinator Swainston mentioned that some sizable fish were caught at the lake. Vice Chair Hall asked about if archery classes will continue, which Coordinator Swainston confirmed will be brought back in the fall. Until then they have been canceled. Boardmember Hein asked what happened with the fees taken from the cancelled classes, which Coordinator Swainston confirmed that patrons were either refunded or given credit for future events. Director Hughes mentioned that Analyst DeCono provided an end of the year revenue report to staff that indicated that all major revenues for the department exceeded projections.

5. Parks Update

Director Hughes provided a Parks update, which included upgrades over at Dessie Lorenz Park. This included a new shade structure, as well as replacements to the lights. Director Hughes also mentioned that the turf at Festival Field is looking better after a previous issue where Bermuda grass didn't grow as expected. Director Hughes also mentioned that Park rules signs were supposed to be delivered before the end of June, but Covid-19 created an issue with manufacturing. However, signs will be delivered within 3-4 weeks at all parks. Director Hughes also mentioned that all palm trees at the parks have now been trimmed and that Parks staff will meet with Crystal Gardens HOA to go over ongoing maintenance and capital improvement projects.

Director Hughes also mentioned other various CIP projects. This included ongoing work on both the Agua Fria and Van Buren Multi-Use Path projects. He mentioned that Agua Fria will be completed before the end of the calendar year, and the Van Buren portion of the trail will likely finish in Spring 2021. Hughes also mentioned upgrades with Donnie Hale Park will begin upgrades in the near future, likely sometime in October. Vice Chair Hall asked about work taking place at Goodyear Farms Cemetery. Director Hughes mentioned that work is expected to be completed within the next 2 weeks.

6. Reports from Board Members – Discussion Only

No members had any reports, but Vice Chair Hall had a question regarding why the Civic Center Library was closed. Director Hughes mentioned that it was closed due to health related issues, but it should reopen on Monday 7/13.

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7. Future Agenda Items – Discussion Only

Alamar Park
Cost Recovery Policy
Free Speech Zones at Parks
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Parks Tours

Director Hughes discussed future related items that the Board will discuss, including resuming Park Tours at in September or October. Director Hughes was pleased to report that everyone was excited and happy about the tours that did take place, and that staff is looking forward to more reports in the future.

Director Hughes also mentioned that the board would need to review certain parts of the city code, specifically areas for improvement and parks rules. He mentioned that the city would be presenting these items to the City Council on July 27th. He also discussed there will be new staff added in the near future to bolster existing services and add new ones.

8. Adjournment

Motion Beason
2nd: Coleman

Chair De Alba	Aye
Vice Chair Hall	Aye
Boardmember Beason	Aye
Boardmember Coleman	Aye
Boardmember Hein	Aye

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