



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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

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



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, September 9, 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**
3. Park Tours **Discussion Only**
4. Cost Recovery Policy **Discussion Only**
5. City Code Update – Parks and Recreation **Discussion Only**
6. Recreation Update **Discussion Only**
7. Parks Update **Discussion Only**
8. Reports from Board Members – Discussion Only **Discussion Only**
9. Future Agenda Items – Discussion Only **Discussion Only**
10. Adjournment **Approved**

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

Los miembros asistirán 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.

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1. Roll Call by Staff Liaison

Present: Assistant Director Miranda Gomez, Management Analyst Dominic DeCono, Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston

Members Present: Chair Oscar De Alba, Vice Chair Kathy Hall, Boardmember Janet Beason, Boardmember Arrajanee Rivera, Boardmember Glen Hein

Members Absent:

Boardmember Glenn Coleman, Boardmember Michelle Molina, Boardmember Arrajanee Rivera, Boardmember Ayers

2. Approval of Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hein

Chairman Oscar De Alba	Aye
Vice Chair Kathy Hall	Aye
Boardmember Janet Beason	Aye
Boardmember Arrajanee Rivera	Aye
Boardmember Glen Hein	Aye

3. Park Tours

Miranda mentioned that tours are starting up again for board members with things getting better with Covid-19. Boardmember Ayers previous took a tour with city staff and things went really well.

Board Members:

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

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Miranda Gomez – Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Coordinator

4. Cost Recovery Policy

Assistant Director Miranda started the conversation regarding the Cost Recovery and & Fee Policy update for the City of Avondale. She mentioned that cities have various philosophies regarding certain policies, specifically individual services versus subsidized services for more general public good. Miranda mentioned that the goal is to establish a philosophy that defines how and why the city is establishing fees and charges for programs versus arbitrary fees and charges for programs. Miranda mentioned that we would like to put together an ad hoc committee of members to help advise staff on what direction the philosophy should go regarding cost recovery. Miranda then reached out asked who is interested in helping. Boardmember Beason and Vice Chair Hall expressed interest in being part of the committee. Chair De Alba asked if we have had a policy or strategy in the past, but Miranda mentioned she hasn't seen a specific policy written down yet. Miranda made mention of various cost recovery strategies utilized in other cities for youth sports such as the City of Surprise and the City of Buckeye. Boardmember Hein asked why the city is reviewing this policy again after only approximately 18 months.

Miranda mentioned that Avondale's process is to always review fees annually, but this process would be to establish a philosophy, which staff does not currently have. She also mentioned that cities establish this philosophy to reduce the number of times that the city needs to do this process on yearly basis. Miranda also mentioned that we don't have some fees captured in our current fee schedule, an example she gave was the Goodyear Farms Cemetery.

5. City Code Update – Parks and Recreation

Miranda also mentioned that the city wants Park and Recreations to review our current parks code to research and compare to other cities code to see if there are gaps with Avondale's code. Miranda mentioned that staff believes that there are gaps in the code, but she wants to explore making them clearer for patrons and residents to know what they can and can't do at parks. Another example she mentioned was the use of alcohol at the parks. Currently, the city allows this under an alcohol permit for a field or ramada reservation. Miranda opened the conversation to the board to gain insight on what they feel the direction should be regarding some of these gaps and how to address these issues. Another issue mentioned was increased visibility of homelessness at parks.

Chairman De Alba mentioned he was willing to assist with this process.

6. Recreation Update

Stacy kicked off the recreation update by discussing the guidelines for the adult sport leagues, as well as the youth sports leagues. She mentioned that the guidelines included updated Covid-19 regulations, which includes no spectators for adult leagues and keeping events under 50 people or less. Youth sports will keep one spectator per child. Masks will not be required for participants in programs, but umpires will be wearing masks and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear one. Youth sports will include 15-minute gaps in games to allow players and coaches to exit the field to encourage forms of social distancing. Stacy mentioned that Avondale did research on other cities to review best practices on how to move forward

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with the seasons in the safest way possible. Chairman De Alba asked if we are requiring patrons to sign waivers for Covid-19. Stacy and Miranda both mentioned that there is no specific Covid-19 waiver, but the general liability waiver form that is signed when participants sign up covers Covid-19. Miranda also credited the recreation coordinators for their effort in creating the guidelines regarding Covid-19 that best suits adult and youth sports.

Stacy mentioned we are filling positions in the department. Specifically, the department recently hired two Recreation Programmers (Matt Macer and Skyler Thomas) as well as more Recreation Assistants to run various programs. The department recently ran a football tournament and several private and city run softball tournaments are taking place in the next few weeks. Adult softball will be running Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and she also mentioned youth soccer will be starting up soon as well. She mentioned that there will be approximately 12 teams for soccer between the 3 age groups.

Stacy also discussed leisure activities in addition to sports courses, as well as upcoming special events such as the neighborhood movie night taking place on Saturday, September 12th, the first ever Fishing Derby for Avondale as well as the second annual Cycle Avondale bicycle event, which take place in October. Stacy also mentioned that the department has been boosting the social media profile of these events as well as posts made in the RAVE magazine.

Boardmember Hein inquired about the department's marketing strategies, specifically he mentioned possibly talking to the manager at Caballa's for marketing the Fishing Derby. Miranda mentioned that targeted marketing on radio and print advertisements are expensive and are hard to justify for smaller events such as the Fishing Derby, but they are something that will be used for larger events. Staff thanked the board for their suggestions to expand marketing events and mentioned they will incorporate their suggestions in their strategies moving forward.

Stacy also mentioned that Billy Moore Days will be going virtual. Stacy also gave Miranda a shout out for a complete revamp of the department website that looks better and is more efficient. Dominic seconded these thoughts and added that higher quality pictures and more amenities will be added to the website soon too. Vice Chair Hall mentioned that her most recent experience signing up her own grandchildren was much easier than in the past.

Miranda also mentioned that the department is looking to expand the number of programs offered by the city and this will be done by polling staff and members of the advisory board. She also mentioned that once that has been completed, the department will be opening up polling to residents to get their input.

7. Parks Update

Miranda started the report by mentioned that Festival Fields won the award for best facility of 2019-2020 from APRA. She also mentioned that Stacy served as the chair of the most recent APRA conference and was able to pivot from an in-person conference to a virtual conference and it was done very well.

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Miranda mentioned that the majority of new park rules signs have been installed this past month, as well as the Agua Fria trail path under the I-10, which is nearing completion.

A new bench memorial had been installed at Friendship Park, which will be the last bench memorial at the Friendship Park, as well upgrades at Crystal Gardens along the walking paths. Boardmember Beason mentioned that she was curious if all of the trails would be improved, which Miranda and Dominic both confirmed would be happening.

Miranda also mentioned that City Council approved the name suggested by the advisory board for the Alamar Community Park.

8. Reports from Board Members – Discussion Only

Boardmember Hein mentioned that he attended the Coldwater Springs HOA meeting, specifically regarding the trail on the Agua Fria Trail south of Van Buren. Safety was a serious concern and he hoped that city council would be taking the issue seriously. Miranda mentioned that they will circle back on that item.

Vice Chair Hall made mention that she visited Doc Rhodes Park and mentioned that all the Palm Trees were dead. Miranda made mention that Parks staff would follow up on that and address it immediately.

9. Future Agenda Items – Discussion Only

Specific Area Plan – Cashion, Las Ligas, and Historic Avondale
Free Speech Zones at Parks

Miranda mentioned that the city is working on specific plans for Donnie Hale (Cashion Park) Las Ligas Park and Historic Avondale and how to address specific park boundaries and updates to them.

Miranda also mentioned that free speech zones is something that will likely be addressed in the city code that allows folks to discuss topics in specific areas that aren't impeding other activities. Boardmember Hein mentioned that he feels that Free Speech Zones could be branded differently.

Miranda mentioned that staff will follow up on the palm trees and other various items. Boardmember Beason mentioned possibly adding new agenda items after the tours.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hein

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Chairman Oscar De Alba	Aye
Vice Chair Kathy Hall	Aye
Boardmember Janet Beason	Aye
Boardmember Arrajaneé Rivera	Aye
Boardmember Glen Hein	Aye

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