



City of Avondale

Neighborhood and Family Services
Commission



[Link to Summary of Council Actions](#)



[Link to Meeting Minutes](#)



Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting
Online Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Summary of Action

A **Regular Meeting** of the Neighborhood and Family Services Commission of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened using the Zoom Cloud Meeting platform in open and public session at 6:14 p.m. All participants attended by phone or video.

Commission Members in Attendance: Vice Chair Wendy Dormer, John Raeder, Glenn Coleman, Jeffrey Rich, Gloria Solario, Alternate Jerome Brownlee

Commission Members Excused: Lisa Osborne, Chair Melissa Valdez

Commission Members Absent: Fabian Prado, Oliver Morrison, Alternate Michelle McMullen

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: NFS Director Chris Lopez, Neighborhood & Family Services Assistance Director Edith Baltierrez, Neighborhood Revitalization Manager Sandy Lopez, Family Services Manager Jerie Guajardo, City Clerk Marcella Carrillo, Administrative Assistance Paula Swenson

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| 1. Call to Order | 6:14 PM |
| 2. Review and Approval of the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes | Approved |
| 3. Staff Introductions | Discussed |
| 4. Family Services Update | Discussed |
| 5. Revitalization Update | Discussed |
| 6. New Resource Center Update | Discussed |
| 7. Future Agenda Items | Discussed |
| 8. Announcements | Discussed |
| 9. Call to the Public | None |
| 10. Adjournment | 6:36 PM |



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MEETING MINUTES

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1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wendy Dormer at 6:14 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of the February 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jeffrey Rich made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. John Raeder seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

3. Staff Introductions

Ms. Baltierrez introduced Ms. Jerie Guajardo. Ms. Guajardo joined the Neighborhood & Family Services department on March 30 as our new Family Services Manager. Her experience is working with children, youth, families and communities; and includes behavioral health, counseling, case management, education, program development and youth development. Ms. Guajardo comes to us from the Arizona Department of Economic Security. Ms. Guajardo manages our Family Services division which includes the Care1st Avondale Resource Center.

Ms. Baltierrez stated that the other two new employees were not available this evening for introductions.

4. Family Services Update

Ms. Guajardo provided an update on the Community Action Program CARES funds. Ms. Guajardo stated that from July 1, 2020 to yesterday, the City has prevented 826 households from being evicted from their homes by providing rental assistance in the amount of \$3,052,500. Ms. Guajardo explained that our

original award from this funding source was for 2.5 million dollars. However, we showed that there was more need in our communities that we serve and were awarded an addition \$500,000 to bring that amount to the current amount. We are pleased to be able to say that we exceeded the expectations of the funding for this program. The City was also provided \$579,000 for utilities assistance. We were able to assist 579 households with utility assistance and are now placing clients on a waitlist for assistance. Ms. Guajardo presented a chart that showed that 65% of the funding assisted Avondale residents, 29% percent of the funding assisted Goodyear residents, and 6% went to Litchfield Park residents.

5. Revitalization Update

Ms. Sandy Lopez provided an update on the Revitalization Façade Improvements. The vision included emphasis on community engagement, housing, economic development, neighborhood resources and health and wellness. The purpose of this program is to enhance the overall aesthetic of streets and neighborhood and to remove any exterior code violations. These efforts also included attracting new businesses and investments to the area and support business growth and success. Previous projects in this area included Avondale Auto, Michelle's Bridal, Avondale Old Town Reception Hall, Keepsake Trophy, and Kreative Cupcakes which is now the Pasta Factory. Ms. Lopez showed before and after photos of the four businesses and discussed their improvements:

- Southwest Property Management
- Alliance Notary Services
- Paleteria La Michoakana (Popsicle and ice cream shop)
- State Farm Agency

Many of the businesses had new doors and windows, new paint, new or improved building design, and signage. The emphasis was on attracting business, improving aesthetics, handicap access, and energy efficiency.

Mr. Coleman inquired if there was a match required of the businesses. Ms. Lopez stated that yes, a 25% match is required. This can be met in many ways to invest in their business. Mr. Raeder inquired how the businesses were selected. Ms. Lopez stated that the business applies for the program, needs to be able to meet their match requirement and own the building. The business must be in the revitalization area and not have had any assistance within the last five years. If the above is in place, we can most likely help them if funds are available to do so. Businesses were assisted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

6. New Resource Center Update

Mr. Chris Lopez stated the construction for the new Resource Center is expected to be complete by December 18. The new building is located at 995 E. Riley Dr., across the street from TJ's Restaurant. This building will be a 25,000 square foot facility that will serve residents with a cradle-to-crane emphasis (ages 0 to seniors). Staff transition to the building will begin December 18 and continue until January 11. Mr. Lopez requested that Members watch their email for invitations. Virtual tours will be made available along with a few limited capacity live tours. Social distancing and masks will be required.

7. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Lopez stated that future agenda items will have an election of Commission Officers, a presentation on the Specific Plan for Old Town, Cashion, and Las Ligas/Rio Vista Area and on the CDBG Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

8. Announcements

Mr. Lopez announced the virtual storytime event with Santa at the Resource Center on December 11; and the Toys and More event at the Resource Center on December 19, 2020.

9. Call to the Public

No members of the public were on the call.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Solario made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mr. Coleman. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Signature of approval:


Oliver Morrison (Mar 2, 2021 10:54 MST)

Mar 2, 2021

Commissioner Oliver Morrison

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Avondale City Hall – February 10, 2021