



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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

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

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 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 Discussion Only**
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER Discussion Only**
- 3. ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR Approved 5-0**

Kathy Hall is elected board chair.
- 4. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIR Discussion Only**

Janet Beason elected vice-chair.
- 5. ELECTION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES Approved 5-0**
- 6. REVIEW OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
AND SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS Discussion Only**
- 7. RECREATION UPDATE Discussion Only**
- 8. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS. Discussion Only**
- 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS Discussion Only**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT Approved 5-0**



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AGENDA

1. ROLL CALL BY STAFF LIAISON

Present: Director Bryan Hughes, Dominic DeCono, Stacy Swainston, Janet Dayer, Boardmember Kathy Hall, Boardmember Glen Hein, Boardmember Janet Beason, Boardmember Marie Arellano, Boardmember Monique Ayers

Absent: Boardmember Michelle Molina, Boardmember Arrajanee Rivera, Boardmember Rivera.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Bryan introduced new board member Marie Arellano to the board. Boardmember Arellano mentioned she is honored to be a member of the advisory board. She has been apart of the community for over 20 years and have had children participate in Avondale recreational sports programs for a number of years and is excited to be with the board.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Bryan mentioned as part of the normal process for the beginning of each new calendar year that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board must elect a new board chair and vice chair. Boardmember Beason nominated Boardmember Hall to be Chairwoman and Boardmember Hein seconded the nomination.

Approved 5-0

Kathy Hall is elected board chair.

4. ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIR

Boardmember Hein nominated Boardmember Beason for Vice-Chair. Boardmember Ayers seconded the nomination.

Approved 5-0

Janet Beason elected vice-chair.

Board Members:

Monique Ayers
Marie Arellano
Janet Beason
Katherine Hall
Glen Hein

Michelle Molina
Arrajanee Rivera

Alternate:
Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor

5. ELECTION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Vice-Chair Beason

2nd: Boardmember Hein

Approved 5-0

Minutes for December 2020 board meeting approved.

6. REVIEW OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUESTS

Bryan started off by reminding the board of the budget memo and went into detail about both the department operating and capital improvement program budget for the current fiscal year, as well as the budget that was submitted for the FY21-22 budget. Bryan also discussed in detail the various CIP projects that are being worked on, which include the Agua Fria Trail, the Goodyear Farms Cemetery improvements, Neighborhood Park Enhancement (which Bryan mentioned was mainly for improvements this year at Donnie Hale Park), as well as fencing and restroom improvements at Festival Fields. The CIP projects also include fiber optic infrastructure at the community parks for WIFI upgrades and nearly \$4,000,000 for the development of Alamar Park.

Bryan then went into a bit of detail about the CIP budget for FY21-22, which include continued enhancements at Donnie Hale Park, asset replacement for Friendship Park, and continued improvements to Crystal Garden Trail improvements. Bryan also went into extended detail about the federal grants compliance project for new board members, which he summarized as money that'll be used to bring Parks back into compliance that have received Land, Water and Conservation Fund Grants. Bryan also went into detail about planning money that has been set aside in the budget to plan a possible expansion of Friendship Park.

Bryan then dived into the supplemental operating budget requests for FY21-22, which include adding operating cost funds for Alamar Park, additional funds for the landscaping maintenance, new funds for parks maintenance equipment and new funds for additional recreation programming. He also mentioned there will be future meetings with city officials to discuss the budget.

Vice-Chair Beason had a question about the source of funding for the budget, specifically where the revenues go and how the budget for the department gets funded. Bryan responded by saying that the department is funded primarily by the general fund, which is funded heavily by states sales tax and state shared revenue. Bryan also mentioned that the capital budget is also heavily funded by the general fund, but its also supplemented by grant money the City receives. Bryan mentioned that he believes the city is in strong fiscal shape even withstanding the concerns around Covid-19 and that the department will not have issues with funding its projects or programs.

Board Members:

Monique Ayers
Marie Arellano
Janet Beason
Katherine Hall
Glen Hein

Michelle Molina
Arrajane Rivera

Alternate:
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Boardmember Ayers wanted to ask about the activity that is planned for the replacement of the well over by Mountain View Park. She expressed concerns about putting in enclosed buildings due to the nature of current activities that take place there currently. Bryan followed up saying that the department will look into all matters before moving with any decision.

Chairwoman Kathy Hall had a question regarding Coldwater Springs Park and if the city will have to make it a park again. Bryan answered by saying that the City won't have to make that park a park again, but the City will have to construct an additional 10 acres of park elsewhere with the designation of park in perpetuity.

7. RECREATION UPDATE

Recreation Coordinator Stacy Swainston gave an update regarding the staffing for the recreation team. She mentioned Jamie Rogers will become the new Recreation Coordinator for Special Events.

Holiday Cheer decorating contest took place and the City engaged in Letters to Santa from the north pole.

The city has 23 allocations for long term field rentals (19 for youth, 4 for adult teams) for the upcoming season.

Softball tournaments continue to take place each weekend.

Youth sports team is starting up, and the softball leagues have 43 teams this year which is up from 38 in the fall.

The department is also starting Pickleball leagues and they have been very popular so far.

Stacy also mentioned that the department has launched its new recreation software CivicRec, and encouraged the board to check out the website.

Stacy also discussed how Covid-19 precautions are being taken for our softball leagues, which mean no spectators at this time. This also applies to our other sports leagues such as soccer.

Chairwoman Kathy Hall asked about the Gymnastics and Ninja Warrior class price increase, which Stacy responded that the price for residents is \$95 and for nonresidents is \$100. Stacy mentioned that this vendor has sold the program to a new vendor and they have changed the scope slightly.

Bryan also mentioned that the department was very festive about the Letters from the North Pole even though the public couldn't see them making the calls, the team wanted to get into the spirit of things.

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8. PARKS UPDATE

Bryan mentioned that the Agua Fria Trail Phase 1 has been completed running from the I-10 to Van Buren and that the Van Buren multi-use path will be completed in February. Bryan also mentioned that 5 cells in Crystal Garden are being improved currently. He also mentioned that fencing upgrades to separate Friendship Park from the trailer park are scheduled for later this year. Festival Fields is also under going upgrades around the softball fences as well as renovations to the restrooms. Bryan also mentioned that management associate Janet Dayer is helping organize a monthly clean up program in the space near where Tres Rios is.

Bryan also discussed that Alamar Park is currently under construction and will be scheduled to be completed in March 2022, as well as a project to seek public input for improvements at various Neighborhood Parks such Deconcini Park and Las Ligas Park. Bryan also highlighted that Janet has been with the department for two months and the department has been very happy to have her.

Chairwoman Kathy Hall had a question about a conversation about a hurt goose at Friendship Park that took place on the NextDoor app and wanted to know how the City handles it. Bryan mentioned that staff doesn't handle the animals, but outside organizations have assisted them if they can.

Boardmember Ayers also asked if the animals at the lakes, specifically the ducks, are owned by the City which Dominic responded that the City does not.

9. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

No reports were offered by the board.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bryan mentioned that the department will have a new Assistant Director Corey Larriva and he is excited for him to pick up where Miranda left off and help out on projects.

Chairwoman Kathy Hall asked if the department is following up on Vice Chair Beason's request for a board-member learning material guide, which Bryan mentioned Janet is currently working on. Bryan also mentioned that the department will also give Boardmember Arellano a tour sometime in the near future.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Vice Chair Beason

2nd: Boardmember Ayers

Approved 5-0. Meeting Adjourned.

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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Alternate:
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Staff Liaison Signature: *Dominic DeCono* **Date:** Feb 17, 2021
Dominic DeCono (Feb 17, 2021 13:45 MST)

Board Chair Signature: *Katherine Hall* **Date:** Feb 17, 2021
Katherine Hall (Feb 17, 2021 12:53 MST)

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