



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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

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



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, April 14, 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)

Summary of Actions

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL BY STAFF LIAISON**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **Approved Minutes 6-0**
The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.
- 4. FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ENHANCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CENTER
REPURPOSING PUBLIC INPUT** **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**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT** **Approved 5-0**

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.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

Board Members:

Katherine Hall, Chair	Michelle Molina
Janet Beason, Vice-Chair	Arrajane Rivera
Monique Ayers	
Marie Arellano	
Glen Hein	Alternate:
	Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Corey Larriva, Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, April 14, 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. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL BY STAFF LIAISON

Present: Chair Hall, Vice Chair Beason, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Arellano, Boardmember Ayers, Boardmember Lazo, Director Bryan Hughes, Assistant Director Corey Larriva, Recreation Supervisor Stacy Swainston, Management Associate Janet Dayer, Recreation Intern Mickelle Veliz, Management Analyst Dominic DeCono

Absent: Boardmember Molina, Boardmember Rivera

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hall

Approved 6-0

**4. FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS ENHANCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CENTER
REPURPOSING PUBLIC INPUT**

Janet Dayer informed the board we reached 130 responses for the survey. She introduced Mickelle Veliz, who provided a presentation to the staff and board regarding the feedback for the community center repurposing survey. Mickelle mentioned survey results from specific sites such as Las Ligas Park. Wi-Fi in the park was specifically mentioned as something that is highly desired. At Deconcini Park the highest result was to add more shade at the park. The most popular result for the community center result was wishes to see a game room as well as more activities focused on kids. The highest survey result for best way to reach the community was more posts from social media.

Boardmember Lazo asked if there were any steps or if there was an action plan to move forward on from the survey. Bryan mentioned that the results will help determine funding decisions for major capital improvement projects and they provide more focus on those primary areas. Bryan also mentioned

Board Members:

Katherine Hall, Chair
Janet Beason, Vice-Chair
Monique Ayers
Marie Arellano
Glen Hein

Michelle Molina
Arrajane Rivera

Alternate:
Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Corey Larriva, Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



Aspiring. Achieving. Accelerating

that we have an architect on contract to help understand the facility better and start construction in the fall. Bryan did mention that only one other neighborhood park would be able to receive funding in the next fiscal year, and the survey results will help determine that. Bryan also made mention that the City is trying access grant funding to help expand the scope of the project, specifically at Donnie Hale. He also made mention of partnership projects to add things like natural shade, specifically trees at no extra cost to the City with SRP.

Boardmember Lazo provided a follow up comment with the hope of building more parks in the future. She asked if there is going to be any attempt to review the survey process moving forward to help better understand the community. Bryan did say that the department absolutely would make more efforts in the future, but also did say that the Covid-19 pandemic played a specific role in limiting the number of responses as well.

Chair Hall thanked staff for providing the report.

5. RECREATION UPDATE

Stacy Swainston provided a presentation of the recreation activities from the past month, starting with updates regarding the youth soccer class and along with the over special interest classes. She made mention there is a significant waitlist for many programs as well, which means there has been significant growth within the department.

Stacy also provided an update regarding eSports, which is taking place at City Hall and made mention that the most recent event had 22 participants. She then moved on to Pickleball league updates, which she indicated the program has grown substantially. Stacy then discussed the Pitch, Hit & Run program update as well as the family fishing derby, which have both seen expanded participation.

Stacy then moved on to the Eggstravaganza event results, which had multiple times that it ran to reduce Covid-19 risk. The survey results from the event provided very satisfied participants.

Stacy's next update included the results from KidsFest, which was run for the first time by the City staff and it was an absolute success. The next event will be Avondale Fiesta on Western Ave.

Chair Hall asked if there will be rides at the event, which Stacy mentioned there will be. Chair Hall made mention that she was able to participate for the Easter events, which she made mention the kids had a great time and thought the organization was good.

Boardmember Lazo asked if we are able to do monthly clean ups at Tres Rios, which she did mention that is happening now currently. Bryan also mentioned that the business community has reached out with an interest to participate in the event.

Boardmember Ayers asked about what opportunities are available for teenagers able to participate in the Tres Rios clean up activities. She made mention of a specific longer term solution that could connect with partners like high schools to help make more activities like Tres Rios clean up activities possible. Janet did make mention that the department will be increasing its efforts to get higher participation in not just that event, but similar ones like it.

Board Members:

Katherine Hall, Chair	Michelle Molina
Janet Beason, Vice-Chair	Arrajane Rivera
Monique Ayers	
Marie Arellano	Alternate:
Glen Hein	Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Corey Larriva, Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



Aspiring. Achieving. Accelerating

Bryan did make mention that the department can make more effort to reach the teenage level group.

Vice Chair Beason made mention that high school kids are looking for service hours and that opportunities that the city could provide would be a great opportunity, with which staff absolutely agreed on.

6. PARKS UPDATE

Bryan provided an update to the board, who first mentioned that the Bermuda grass is starting to come back and parks staff are spending extra time on field maintenance. He also made mention that Corey met with parks staff to establish a new maintenance schedule to help not just the staff, but improve the fields as well.

Bryan also discussed the Festival Field improvement projects, which includes restroom renovations at field upgrades, and they are both nearing completion. Bryan also discussed that the Crystal Gardens project is nearly completion as well. Bryan then discussed that the progress at Alamar Community Park is moving along at a very nice pace.

Bryan then discussed that the City did a groundbreaking for the BLVD lake which will include a koi pond and a small splash pad. Its an effort by the city to boost attention in that area. Bryan then made mention that the City is working on opening videos for the Van Buren Multi-Use Path and will be open to the public within a week. The Coldwater Springs trail maintenance has recently been turned over to the city as well. Boardmember Hein asked about a lot of dirt being moved over by Friendship Park and the I-10, which Bryan made mention that they were doing clean up of the basin but that he would look into that.

The Donnie Hale Park revitalization project is also ongoing, and the City is currently just waiting on grant approval money. This was Bryan's final update.

7. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Beason praised the Boardmember books that were created recently and she also mentioned that she got to attend to the Crystal Gardens yearly HOA meeting. She mentioned that she understood those meetings can be hard but she thanked the City and how much she appreciated what the City does. Corey made mentioned that he appreciated Vice Chair Beason's compliments. Bryan also made mention that the City has a great relationship with the HOA board.

Boardmember Hein also thanked Bryan for answering questions he had regarding manager concerns and was thankful for the quick responses from the department. Chair Hall also thanked the department for the activities done by the City at KidsFest and made mention that she had been going to the event for years and has seen steady improvement.

Corey had one final update, which he wanted to make sure boardmembers received their boardmember gifts from the City Clerk's Office. He also told them if they needed assistance getting them, the department was willing to help out.

Board Members:

Katherine Hall, Chair	Michelle Molina
Janet Beason, Vice-Chair	Arrajane Rivera
Monique Ayers	
Marie Arellano	Alternate:
Glen Hein	Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Corey Larriva, Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bryan asked the board if they want to consider a break similar to the City Council schedule with no meetings in July or August and posed it as an action item at the next meeting. Bryan also mentioned the usual updates will be made available, as well finalized updates regarding the budget for FY22.

Vice Chair Beason made mentioned she appreciated the recreation and parks updates.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Vice Chair Beason
2nd Boardmember Hein

5-0 Approved.

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.

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

Staff Liaison Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board Chair Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Board Members:

Katherine Hall, Chair
Janet Beason, Vice-Chair
Monique Ayers
Marie Arellano
Glen Hein

Michelle Molina
Arrajaneé Rivera

Alternate:
Lilly Lazo

Staff Liaisons:

Bryan Hughes – Director
Corey Larriva, Assistant Director
Dominic DeCono – Management Analyst
Stacy Swainston – Recreation Supervisor
Tom Street – Parks Supervisor