



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 9, 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

Staff Present: Director Bryan Hughes, Assistant Director Corey Larriva, Management Associate Janet Dayer, Recreation Coordinator Matt Macer, Management Analyst Dominic DeCono

Boardmembers present: Chair Kathy Hall, Vice Chair Janet Beason, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Lazo, Boardmember Arellano, Boardmember Lazo, Boardmember Ayers

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the April 14, 2021 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hein

Approved 7-0

4. GRANTS UPDATE

Bryan started with an update to the grant application to the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant for the renovation project at Donnie Hale. The grant was awarded and the City of Avondale accepted it at the most recent City Council meeting for \$577,000. Project is expected to start in the next few months and be completed around November 2021. Corey then jumped in and gave a status update for two grant applications in progress: one with Tohono Odom and for safety and outdoor education related to trails. These include items like new signs and equipment to help with cleaning the environment. Grant would be worth \$55,000 if it is awarded. The other grant Corey mentioned is with the Arizona Tourism Authority to help fund sand volleyball courts that would be installed behind the American Sports Center. The department has received two letters of support from local high schools stating there is a need for these. The grant would be worth \$250,000 if awarded.

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.

Chair Hall had a question regarding Tres Rios and the permit process there, which Bryan mentioned there is a monthly access permit that is free, but the Avondale access point is through the base and meridian point and is further west than the City of Phoenix entry point.

5. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Matt Macer stepped in for Stacy to provide the recreation update for the meeting. Macer mentioned that we had an overnight fastpitch women's tournament, but it went very well. Macer mentioned that there will be a second overnight tournament coming within the next week and there will be a red, white and blue tournament that is run by the City of Avondale at the end of June.

Macer then touched on eSports, which he said there are more video games being introduced to the participants. Specifically 'Just Dance' and it has been very popular with the younger children. Tuesday softball recently wrapped up and the plan is that the leagues will wrap up until August after the most recent leagues finish.

Macer also mentioned that the pickleball classes have been very popular in their first season of introduction, which he mentioned the department is hoping the free classes will springboard participants to join the beginners class. He then discussed the Canvas art exhibition, which is a 5 week art deadline for participants to complete art to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Avondale. Macer also mentioned that the Movie Night in the Park event was a success and that the Tres Rios clean up activity taking place on June 19th is expected to have high participation. Macer then mentioned that Avondale hosted a significant Memorial Day celebration with high participation, including the Mayor.

Macer then discussed the Light up the Sky 4th of July Celebration, which will be taking place at Phoenix Raceway with a 25 minute fireworks show, VIP tickets in the entertainment venue offered by Phoenix Raceway as well as food and drinks. Macer's last item was the Avondale Fiesta event hosted in late April, which was incredibly successful and high participation and received tons of positive feedback.

Board Chair Hall asked about the Light up the Sky event regarding whether it would be drive in event, to which Corey answered said there is an exclusive event in the VIP section, but general attendance can be done as a tailgate in the general parking area. Corey mentioned that the VIP section also includes a kids zone where the adults can enjoy adult activities and the kids can enjoy kids activities.

Boardmember Lazo mentioned that the larger events are a great way to promote local sponsors, which Corey agreed with 100% and the City is trying to be strategic with these events doing just that. Boardmember Lazo also asked about the Sunday farmers market event, which she wanted to know if its led by our team or someone else. Corey mentioned that its hosted by an outside event vendor called Determined Events in the amiptheater at the Civic Center. Corey mentioned its been hosted every Sunday for about 3 or 4 months and has said its been very successful, with adjusted summer hours (typically from 6-9). Corey did mention they will likely go back to normal hours starting in August.

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Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



6. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Bryan mentioned that Tom and the Parks team have been doing maintenance over at Friendship Park including turf lasering, adding seed and fertilization. Additionally, the team is currently trying to bring back field 2 at Friendship Park, which will take time because it doesn't have any lights or turf, but the team is working to do that. Bryan believes it will be back by the end of the Summer.

At Donnie Hale Park, the project will start sometime in July and the park will be closed for programming until the renovations are completed. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for it as well.

At Dessie Lorenz Park, two additional shade canopies were installed and have given a more finished look to the area. Doc Rhodes Park had a facelift as well, where there was significant trimming, stump removal and new trees were planted. Additionally, the hand rails and gazebo were painted, and there were new lights added.

The Van Buren MUP has been completed and the department has officially taken over the maintenance of the site, as well the Agua Fria trail that extends north up to the I-10. The department is currently working on a project to get the trail extended up to Friendship Park.

There is currently work being done along the Coldwater Springs trail to update the plantlife and give that area a facelift. Additionally, the department is trying to acquire grant money to help extend a long trail that runs from Friendship Park all the way down to Festival Fields.

The Parks staff completed a clean up at the Goodyear Farms Cemetery on June 9th and Bryan wrapped up with an update regarding designs for the old community center near Mountain View Park, but its in the works to get completed sometime over the next 15 months.

Bryan also added the splashpads are now on every day from 8am to 8pm. Corey also mentioned that there was a photo shoot at the splashpad over at Festival Fields. Lots of fun happening at the sites. Boardmember Lazo had a question about if there has been a group event held at Doc Rhodes Park and the downtown area, which Bryan responded saying the City did do Avondale Fiesta recently and that Avondale's signature event Billy Moore Days will be held in October. Bryan also mentioned that the department is working with Economic Development to host additional smaller events down there on a weekly or monthly basis to help promote the businesses down there.

Vice Chair Beason asked if there had previously done at Phoenix Raceway, which Corey confirmed had been there in the past, but this year will be coming back to Phoenix Raceway in a larger event than done in years past.

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7. CANCELLATION OF JULY AND AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider canceling the July 14 and August 11 meetings. The Board will take appropriate action.

Bryan mentioned that there is action to be taken to cancel the next two meetings, but to come back in person for the September meeting.

Motion Beason

2nd: Hein

Approved 7-0

8. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Hall mentioned that her great grandchildren visited Las Ligas Park recently (ages of children are 6-8) but believed it was a 'baby park' so they went over to another park but they had a good time at both places.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bryan mentioned there will likely be a lot of good information come September, but none for him at this time.

Corey did jump in to mention that July is national Parks and Recreation month, as well as the updated fees and charges schedule was adopted by the City Council. As part of the campaign for the Van Buren MUP, Board Chair Kathy Hall participated on promotional videos and Corey wanted to thank her for her participation.

Bryan also mentioned that Dominic achieved his Certified Parks and Recreation Professional certification in May. The board and team are looking forward to meeting in person in September.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Beason

2nd: Arellano

Approved 7-0

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 Secretaría de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junta.

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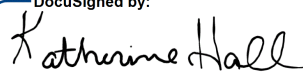
Staff Liaison Signature:

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Board Chair Signature:

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Date: 10/18/2021

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