



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6:30
P.M.**

Online Meeting

Join the meeting: <https://avondaleaz.zoom.us/j/7773818863>

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AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

1. ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON

Present Staff: Bryan Hughes, Corey Larriva, Dominic DeCono, Stacy Swainston

Present Boardmembers: Chairwoman Hall, Vice-Chair Beason, Boardmember Arellano, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Ayers, Boardmember Vasquez

Board members Absent: Boardmember Nielson

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

(Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rose Vasquez provided an introduction to the board stating that she came to Avondale from Prescott and wanted to be apart of the community. She wanted to be part of the picture and part of the solution. She is also a grant writer and a consultant.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the June 9, 2021 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Boardmember Hein

2nd: Vice-Chair Beason

Passed 6-0

5. GRANTS UPDATE

Bryan started the update by updating the board on the status of grants the City of Avondale had received recently. The first grant was the land water conservation grant for more than \$577,000 and also mentioned the team is pursuing a tourism grant for more than \$185,000.

MAG assistance design grant for underpass at MC 85 at Buckeye Road at the Underpass at Lower Buckeye Road for \$47,500 was successfully achieved.

Bryan also mentioned that team is seeking a \$1,000,000 grant for the Civic Center Park that will be

constructed in the future.

6. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Stacy Swainston provided the recreation update with the recreation programming for fall 2021. This included youth soccer leagues (over 180 participants which are the most ever for Avondale). Pickleball and Adult softball has also started. Programming has also started in the City with Craft classes and many other options.

Stacy also kicked off the events that are taking place, which are Billy Moore Days, Cycle Avondale and Creepin' Cruise. Both Creepin' Cruise and Cycle Avondale will be taking place at Phoenix Raceway. Creepin' Cruise was very successful last year, and the city is planning on expanding it this year.

Additionally the Avondale Championship Open at the Wigwam golf resort will be upcoming in November, as well as the November 11th Vet Run hosted by Estrella Mountain Community College.

Finally, Stacy mentioned that WinterFest will be taking place on December 4th.

Boardmember Lazo had a question about what Billy Moore Days is about. Stacy answered that Billy Moore Days is about Avondale's founder Billy Moore and provided some historical facts regarding his history such as the general store he owned called Coldwater.

Boardmember Lazo also had a follow up question if there have been any talks regarding 'settlers' in the area. This was based on the past year regarding the social conversation regarding systemic racism in the history of the United States. Assistant Director Corey Larriva responded this event is more about the fact that it celebrates the City of Avondale is celebrating its roots of becoming a City and the history behind that, as well as how far the City has come in its growth.

Boardmember Ayers mentioned she has gone to the event 17 years and stated the event is cultural in nature and that Avondale residents have celebrated it more as a western story, which incorporates all elements including the celebration of Native American and Hispanic culture. Corey also mentioned the event is also a fundraiser for local organizations that give back to the community.

Boardmember Hein mentioned that we shouldn't criticize the past by today's standards.

Boardmember Vasquez mentioned that she agreed with Boardmember Lazo that how Avondale was founded isn't necessarily true in how it was founded based on the extended history of Arizona. Vice Chair Beason mentioned that maybe it could be incumbent on members of the Board to find the extended history of Avondale and see if there is more that can be included.

7. INTRODUCTION TO AVONDALE AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT

Bryan mentioned that on July 5th, the City Council approved the budget and steps to move forward with the construction of an aquatic center in Avondale. He shared a presentation regarding the process, potential concepts, planned programming and future aspects that will be included with the site.

It was asked about how much space the City had, which Bryan said we had 10 usable acres. Bryan mentioned what the budget would be.

Boardmember Arellano mentioned that she is very excited about aquatic center coming and mentioned specifically the lazy river and the play structures. Bryan also mentioned that adding the competition pools will be exciting. Vice Chair Beason mentioned that adding the pools for instruction courses was a great addition to the community and a great opportunity to try and reduce the number of drownings.

Vice Chair Beason asked if the community will have the opportunity to choose what items will be built

with the pool based on the budget, to which Bryan said yes. Corey also mentioned that there is a consultant being included to help advise on what maintenance operations will cost for each feature, which will help the City determine what is the best value for the community.

Bryan did mention that it is being designed as a pool with a heater to be run year-round, but its not necessarily guaranteed. Vice Chair Beason asked what the going rate is for residents to use the facility, to which he stated was \$3 per child and \$5 per adult in his previous community, however that is definitely still up in the air at the moment. He also said the City Council will be providing direction on the affordability of the facility to the community. Both Bryan and Corey encouraged the board to provide feedback back to staff on what they want to see at the pool. Vice Chair Beason mentioned she didn't realize these different options for pools were available and wanted access to the presentation, which Bryan said the department will share with the board.

8. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Bryan mentioned that Alamar Community Park is about 60% complete and is on track to open on April 1st, 2022. Facilities and turf are being installed currently. Civic Center Plaza park is at approximately 30% design but is moving along.

Bryan also mentioned that the community center is being renovated and redesigned. Its currently at 30% at design and a contractor is being selected in the near future. Bryan then mentioned the Agua Fria wetlands project is also underway. The Crystal Gardens pathway renovations project is also underway and the Donnie Hale Park improvements project is about to commence. There are improvements underway at Friendship Park both on the signage and the playgrounds. The last project Bryan mentioned the multi-modal transportation plan is also in the process of starting, which is being worked on in coordination with a consultant with plans to get a comprehensive plan finished in May 2022.

Board Chairwoman Hall asked if active transportation included the trail on Van Buren. It was suggested by Chairwoman Hall to possibly put in an additional walking path on the trail between Avondale Blvd and the Agua Fria River, to which Boardmember Hein stated is possible but certainly tricky. Bryan mentioned this will be shared with the design team.

Boardmember Vasquez asked if the team was collecting data on pedestrian and crash statistics, to which replied the team is.

9. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmember Hein mentioned he talked with the manager of the MyPlace Hotel. He stated that this individual wanted to connect more with the City to coordinate on advertising Parks and Recreation events and attractions, to which Corey said that an effort to collaborate with the individual was being worked on by the team.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Bryan mentioned that there will be an update for an Active Avondale Scholarship for the department to use next month. Bryan also mentioned that an additional item more down the road will be an updated cost recovery model working with both the parks and recreation advisory board and the city council.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Boardmember Hein
2nd: Vice-Chair Beason

Passed 5-0

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

Los miembros asistirán en persona o vía telefónica o por video. 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: *Dominic DeCono* Dominic DeCono (Dec 6, 2021 10:21 MST) **Date:** Dec 6, 2021

Board Chair Signature: *Katherine Hall* Katherine Hall (Dec 6, 2021 14:17 MST) **Date:** Dec 6, 2021