



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, November 10, 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

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR

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

Present: Chair Hall, Vice-Chair Beason, Boardmember Hein, Boardmember Lazo, Boardmember Nielson, Corey Larriva, Dominic DeCono, Stacy Swainston, Elizabeth Sangri-Moore, Stephanie Chavez-Dirzo, Kevin Kugler, Brian Snider, Tristan Black-Colla

Absent: Boardmember Vasquez, Boardmember Arellano, Boardmember Ayers

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Patti Nelson introduced herself to the board as this was her first meeting with the board. She is a retired registered nurse and has been present in the community for the past 3 years. She is very excited to be a member of the board. Stacy Swainston also introduced Elizabeth Sangri-Moore as the new recreation program overseeing special events. She previously worked with the public works department and before that the Arizona Diamondbacks for five years. She is excited to be with the team.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the October 13, 2021 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hein

Approved 5-0 with amendments.

Board Members:

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

Lilly Lazo
Rose Vasquez

Alternate:
Patti Nielson

Staff Liaisons:

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



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5. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION

Kevin Kugler with Michael Baker International provided a presentation regarding active transportation with the City of Avondale. The presentation was the first provided to the board. Kevin introduced himself and his other team members Brian Snider and Tristan Black Colla. Kevin mentioned that Brian will be leading the day to day operations on the plan.

Kevin introduced the project as one that will provide an inventory and gap analysis of existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. They will also provide cost estimates of the facilities needed to improve bicycle and and pedestrian facility types.

It was then mentioned the schedule will run through 2022 and hopefully be finalized in July 2022. This presentation will be the first of two meetings that will be done with the advisory board, with the second taking place sometime in June 2022, prior to final approval.

Kevin turned over the presentation to Brian Snider, who provided a scope of work and study of map of the presentation. He mentioned that the emphasis would be on the northside, but the goal is to help with the needs of the community now and the needs of the future. Brian mentioned that the team will be doing benchmarking, going over key areas of emphasis and ensuring all stakeholders are aware and that the community has the buy in.

Boardmember Hein made a comment regarding his experience biking from the Coldwater Springs neighborhood to 95th Avenue and McDowell Road. He said his experience was that he never felt very safe on this ride because of the inconsistency in lane markers and areas where one can bike. Brian and Kevin both agreed and were happy to hear the feedback regarding this plan.

Vice-Chair Beason mentioned that she lives in Crystal Gardens and made mention that Boardmember Hein would have several problems riding on certain parts near McDowell because there is limited sidewalk access along different parts of the road. Kevin was in agreement because he lives near the area.

Corey made mention that the feedback was very positive and that there will hopefully be options through this plan process of providing access routes for biking and pedestrian walk ways.

Boardmember Lazo made mention that she lives within 5 minutes from the I-10 and that she sees a lot of pedestrian traffic near the freeway, and stated that the youth have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. As a result, she mentioned that she is concerned about pedestrian access for youth to the parks, specifically the access that Festival Fields has to the community. Brian made mention that Michael Baker International will make efforts to advertise the planning efforts help get input from the youth and efforts made to connect the east and west side. Vice Chair Beason made mention that accessibility to the planned aquatics center by city hall will be key for future planning.

Boardmember Lazo recommended looking at Central Avenue near Western Avenue as an example of good planning. Brian then asked the board if there was any stakeholder group for trails or biking groups that Michael Baker International should know about. Boardmember Lazo mentioned that there is a bike park that might be of interest near the Estrella Foothills

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Marie Arellano	Alternate:
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Bike Park. Brian did agree that the group who created that might be a good resource to contact. Vice Chair Beason made mention that the members who participated in Cycle Avondale would be a good resource to talk to.

Corey thanked everyone for the presentation and made mention this will be key for helping for the community.

6. PRESENTATION FOR RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Stacy introduced Stephanie Chavez-Dirzo who gave a presentation regarding a scholarship for disadvantaged and impoverished families to sign up for recreation programming. Stephanie mentioned that she grew up in Avondale her whole life and that this project is aimed at directly helping the community in a way the City hasn't been able to before. The scholarship program will help target areas of Avondale that have low participation rates in programming, and will help get people interested in recreational activities who would otherwise not have access to them because of resource limitations. Stephanie said that assistance will be \$200 maximum per family per fiscal year (although exceptions can be made). The scholarship will be partnered with the nonprofit 'Friends of the Libraries, Parks and Recreation' because they have access to a 501(c)3 account.

Vice Chair Beason asked when the program will start, which Stacy said the plan will be to roll out on January 1st, 2022. Vice Chair Beason asked how the funds will be raised, which Stacy mentioned that sponsorships for events and general sponsorships were the main goal. Vice Chair Beason then asked if the department has a goal, which Stacy replied has not yet created a goal but the Friends of the Library had mentioned they plan to make a donation to jumpstart the program. Boardmember Lazo asked when the funding cycle will end, which Stacy said it will be based on the city's fiscal year.

Chair Hall asked if the event will be advertised to the community, to which Corey said yes it will be as it is part of the department's strategic plan. Boardmember Nielson mentioned that the program sounds amazing and is looking forward to seeing it implemented.

7. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chair Beason made mention she was very happy with the information quality coming forth from the meeting. Chair Hall did mention that she made it to Billy Moore Days and that the event was very fun for her grandkids and that the event was set up it, felt very safe.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items recommended.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Beason

2nd: Hein

Approved 5-0

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Janet Beason, Vice-Chair	Rose Vasquez
Monique Ayers	
Marie Arellano	Alternate:
Glen Hein	Patti Nielson

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Staff Liaison Signature: *Dominic DeCono* Dominic DeCono (Dec 20, 2021 15:44 MST) **Date:** Dec 20, 2021

Board Chair Signature: *Janet H. Beason* Janet H. Beason (Jan 19, 2022 09:23 MST) **Date:** Jan 19, 2022

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 participaran ya sea en persona o por medio de llamada Telefonica o por video. Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista u oido, o con necesidad de impresion grande o interprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad at 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos dias habiles antes de la junta.

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