



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 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 Beason, Boardmember Nielson, Boardmember Vasquez, Boardmember Lazo, Boardmember Ayers

Staff Present: Director Bryan Hughes, Assistant Director Corey Larriva, Senior Management Analyst Dominic DeCono, Recreation Supervisor Stacy Swainston

Absent: Boardmember Johnston, Vice-Chair Arellano

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Boardmember Johnston was not present. Chair Beason mentioned she wanted all members on the board to state a new fact about them each time which she stated she had been living in Avondale 22 years. Boardmember Ayers said she was living in Avondale for 18 years. Boardmember Lazo she was living in Avondale for 4 years. Boardmember Vasquez said she had been living in the City for 4 years as well. Boardmember Nielson said she had been living in Avondale for 3 years.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Boardmember Nielson

2nd: Boardmember Ayers

Approval 5-0

Board Members:

Janet Beason, Chair	Lilly Lazo
Marie Arellano, Vice-Chair	Patti Nielson
Monique Ayers	Rose Vasquez
Valene Johnston	

Alternate: VACANT

Staff Liaisons:

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

5. AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE

Director Bryan Hughes started with an update regarding the Aquatics Center to the board by sharing a presentation with a video. The video included a rendering visual of the site including amenities, entrance, office space and many other features. Bryan reminded the board that the facility will be built near the Civic Center Complex.

Bryan then discussed different elements of the project, specifically some of the goals such as offering swim classes, lap swimming, event rentals, scuba diving and being a family gathering place. Bryan then showed some site renderings which included water slides, a lazy river, competition pool, a zero-depth entry pool and other features.

Bryan then mentioned that the competition pool will have 10 lanes which is a unique feature since most competition pools have only 8 lanes. The two extra lanes will have a shallower depth to allow for swim lessons.

Chair Beason asked what a zero-depth entry pool meant, which Bryan explained is that it is an extremely shallow pool that is only 3 feet deep at its deepest and is only a few inches deep at its entry point.

Bryan then went in depth with a few other building assets which included multipurpose rooms, offices, entry points where money is taken to allow entry and a first aid station. He also mentioned there will be a bath house for both men and women.

The board expressed excitement after the video and Bryan mentioned that the city is excited and will be working through the budget component of it.

Boardmember Nielson said she appreciated the fly through video and getting the overhead visualization. Chair Beason then asked what the cost of the facility would be, which Bryan stated the City had \$16 million budgeted, but the costs do keep rising with the overall increased construction costs.

Boardmember Ayers asked if there will be a fee for residents to use the pool which Bryan did mention there will be but that hasn't been decided yet. Bryan also did mention that management and the City Council emphasized making this facility affordable for people to use it and that will be heavily considered for what fees are set for usage.

Chair Beason mentioned that she remembered there would be a scholarship created to help people participate at the pool to which Bryan said it would. Bryan also mentioned the Michael Phelps foundation is available to offer financial assistance to help residents participate if they qualify.

Boardmember Lazo asked where the facility would be located at again, to which Bryan said the closest major crossroads would be Avondale Blvd and Van Buren, and it would be behind the Civic Center Plaza and the proposed Civic Center Park.

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6. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Stacy kicked off the recreation and special events update and started with the number of participants involved in youth soccer leagues, adult softball leagues, adult pickleball doubles groups and the OTL Tournament being held with the number of teams involved. Stacy did mention that some of the participants tend to sign up later and the department will be working to try to make that process a bit a better in the fall.

Stacy then discussed the OTL Tournament taking place on Saturday, February 12th at Friendship Park. Chair Beason asked if the team could explain what OTL is. Bryan explained mentioned there is a court you plan on that has grass that is 55 ft wide and a batter hits at the front to try and hit the ball 55 ft over the line to score runs. There is little running involved so it is playable for all ages. Stacy mentioned that the classes based on participation have never been more popular.

Stacy then moved to the Poppin' in the Park update that recently took place on February 5th at Festival Fields to view the movie Secret Life of Pets. Stacy mentioned that that it was a drive-in event and had over 40 cars. Stacy then moved onto the Tres Rios Nature Festival taking place on February 26th and 27th at the Base & Meridian area along the Gila River by Phoenix Raceway. The event will have outdoor activities like hiking, canoeing, zip-lining, fishing, various entertainment shows and other free family-friendly activities. There will also be a beer garden and other food trucks available.

Chair Beason asked where the event is, and Stacy mentioned it is right next to Phoenix Raceway on Avondale Blvd and people will be able to park at Phoenix Raceway. Stacy mentioned the City has made around \$19,000 in sponsorship funds and exhibitors fees.

Boardmember Ayers stated that the City has really done a good job making the event fun for teenagers and

7. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Corey stated that he will be providing the update for the board this month. Corey mentioned the department wanted to have more visuals shown in this update as opposed to a verbal update given in the past. Corey started with an update on Alamar Park, which he stated more amenities had been recently erected and the project was both on time and on budget. Corey also mentioned there will be a fitness court at the park which makes Avondale only the second in the state.

Corey then moved on to the Community Center Renovation project taking place at the old Senior Center occupied by the Neighborhood Family Services Department. The center is over by Mountain View Park and the project is on time, on budget with an expected opening date of November 2022.

The next project mentioned was the Donnie Hale Park renovation that is underway. Construction is currently taking place. Boardmember Nielson quickly asked as to follow up from Alamar Park what a fitness court is, which Corey mentioned it is a more complete fitness experience that caters toward fitness classes, workout circuits and is an outdoor gym.

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Boardmember Ayers then followed up with a question regarding the reason to have two community centers with the resource center recently built and now with the renovation of the community center. Corey explained that the center will be an expansion of services that are more family and kid oriented.

Corey then moved on to the Crystal Gardens Trail Improvements Project which is nearly complete. This project includes upgrading the walking path in the Crystal Gardens neighborhood by adding river rock, soft surface walking paths and adding desert landscaping. This will also make the area more water efficient.

Corey then mentioned the Blvd Park Avenue Plaza Project that is now complete, but the project was over budget and did run late. Corey did mention that this adds several fountains, a koi fishpond, pedestrian bridges, landscape improvements, a splashpad and other beautiful new features. This will set the stage for the future development of the BLVD district.

Corey then mentioned the sand volleyball court construction taking place behind the American Sports Center. The project is slightly over budget, but it is on time and is expected to be completed by December 2022. The sand volleyball courts will have a restroom facility and will have competition sand and allow for facility rentals, tournaments and other forms of programming.

Corey then mentioned that there are several upgrades taking place at Friendship Park and will be completed by June 2022. Boardmember Nielson mentioned that the construction of Alamar Park will likely take some traffic away from Friendship Park which Corey mentioned is a possibility.

Bryan then finished the presentation by discussing capital projects that don't have a lot of pictures on things such as the multi-modal trail system, the Agua Fria wetlands design study, the Civic Center Park, Wi-Fi connectivity in the parks and the operation to be compliant with the Federal Grants.

8. REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Boardmember Ayers mentioned that she had a colleague who is a group home manager that stated families from Phoenix came out to the Poppin' in the Park. Chair Beason mentioned that there were several events coming to which staff talked about the Better Blocks event coming up in old town Avondale. It is not a city event; it is a special event being hosted by Microsoft to help with placemaking in the community. It gives local merchants an opportunity to show what they can do, and it is a concept being done in multiple places across the country.

Chair Beason suggested focusing on a park for each meeting going forward for boardmembers to take a drive by and learn more about. Bryan stated that can be done and maybe added as a new item called 'Park Feedback'. Chair Beason stated that she is very appreciative of the reports being provided by staff and thinks they are very informative and very helpful.

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9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Boardmember Nielson
2nd: Boardmember Ayers

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 participaran ya sea en persona o por medio de llamada Telefonica o por vídeo. 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.

Janet H Beason
Janet H Beason (Apr 22, 2022 06:54 PDT)

Apr 22, 2022

Dominic DeCono
Dominic DeCono (Apr 19, 2022 13:51 PDT)

Apr 19, 2022

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