

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

06/29/2022

Meeting Date

08/31/2022

Date Minutes Were Approved

Jerome B Brownlee Jr
Jerome B Brownlee Jr (Sep 1, 2022 08:32 PDT)

Chair

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the accompanying document is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the aforementioned meeting. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Pauline Swenson
Pauline Swenson (Sep 1, 2022 07:12 PDT)

Staff Liaison





Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting
Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center, Avondale, AZ 85323
Aravaipa Conference Room
MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Jerome Brownlee, Jr., Hilary McKillip, Alternate Maxine White, Oliver Morrison, Michelle McMullen, Nellie Goetz, Fabian Prado, Dawn Gerundo

Commission Members Excused:

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Director Chris Lopez, City Clerk Marcella Carrillo, Parks & Recreation Director Bryan Hughes, Administrative Assistant Paula Swenson, Resource Assistant Alisa Chavez

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brownlee at 6:03 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of the February 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Morrison made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. McMullen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

3. Avondale Election, 2022

Ms. Carrillo described the responsibilities of the Clerk's Office: Records Management, Boards, Commissions, and Committees, City Council meetings, and Elections. All records are kept pursuant to state statutes as required by Arizona state law. They process memberships and support staff with Boards & Commissions assignments and any conflicts of interest that arise. They also compile the City Council packets and manage local elections. Ms. Carrillo explained that they do not process State elections. However, they do participate in local elections and have a booth at city hall for voting purposes during elections. August 2 is our next election date for Avondale. Ballots will be in the mail after July 4. Voters who are registered by July 4 are eligible to vote in the election. In Arizona, all voters can vote in the primary regardless of party, but you do have to pick a ballot as an independent voter. Our city information is located on the bottom of the County ballot. During the election on August 2, we have three open seats for Council members and have three persons to vote for: Tina Conde, Curtis Nielson, and Maxine White. There is no competition this year. Ms. White will be our newest Member; while the other Members have collected enough signatures to run for a second term. Members are eligible to serve two four-year terms. However, if they are appointed to fill a vacancy, they can still serve another two terms after the appointment. The city does not have elections in November as we do nationally since we do not have a primary or general election. In the upcoming election, we will have two propositions to vote on. Proposition 468 is the General Plan Update. A 'Yes' vote will adopt the Updated Avondale General Plan 2030 as approved by the Avondale City Council. A 'No' vote will reject the same plan. The 2030 Plan was developed to set the vision for future growth and development and is required to be updated every ten years. The plan has eight themes; each contains goals and policies identified by the community. As a city, we strive to meet our long-range planning goals to continue growth. The second proposition is 469, which is an expenditure limitation permanent adjustment. A 'Yes' vote with Proposition 469 will adjust the 1979-1980 base expenditure limitation for the City of Avondale. Arizona State Law requires us to ask the voters to spend the City's money. Since 1981, Avondale residents have voted in favor of "Home Rule", which gives the City local control over its own budget rather than using the state-imposed expenditure limitation formula that is based

off the City's 1979/1980 budget. If this proposition is approved, this would become a permanent adjustment to the current state-imposed expenditure limitation, and we would not need to continue to request approval every four years. This would not raise or impose taxes; nor would it allow the City to spend more than it has in available resources. It would simply give the city the authority to spend what we have available responsibly. A 'No' vote will reject the base expenditure limitation adjustment and the Home Rule Option would continue to be in effect for two more years. Future extensions of Home Rule would have to be approved by voters in subsequent elections. If you don't vote, it's considered an under-vote for Avondale. Ms. White inquired of election statistics from two years past. Ms. Carrillo will research and forward the information accordingly.

4. Parks & Recreation Update

Mr. Hughes described the Parks & Recreation Department as one that provides safe places for all to play and connect in the community. The Parks & Recreation team strive to deliver dynamic recreation services, produce outstanding customer experiences and plan for growth and achievement. The city offers Avondale residents 50% discounts through the American Sports Centers with league registration at the Randall McDaniel Sports Complex as well as 20% through registration with our Parks & Recreation Programs. Mr. Hughes explained that park improvements and renovations are underway for Friendship and Donnie Hale Parks. We have upgraded and placed consistent signs throughout the parks. Much of the shrubs and bushes had washed away throughout the years but they, too have been replanted. Donnie Hale Park located in the Cashion neighborhood has almost been completely renovated with a refresh to the basketball courts and new playground area. We have installed a new Ramada and restored the restroom areas, added new picnic tables, LED lighting for energy efficiencies and new trash receptacles. We used grant and general funding to help stretch our dollars as much as we possible to refresh and renovate. Donnie Hale Park is listed 'at-risk' due to supply and demand issues with equipment. Once we receive the equipment, the project will be complete. The Community Center on 3rd Street in Old Town Avondale is being repurposed into a community recreation facility. The cost is coming in over budget, but we are working through the extra costs. We are looking for this center to be a gathering place for the community with various recreation activities and programs. We are installing a sand volleyball complex at The Blvd located outside the existing Randall McDaniel Sports Complex. We will be partnering with local high schools for tournament competitions. This will complement the other amenities in the area and apartment complex. The volleyball complex will be open during perimeter hours. A portion of this project will be supported through grant funding. Mr. Prado inquired how we will partner and connect to schools and students to market the new Parks & Recreation activities and opportunities. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Lopez stated that we are looking to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a few of the local high schools and will tap into our Marketing and Public Relations department for advertisement; and also through our Youth Services and Community Engagement division and Avondale Youth Advisory Commission. Ms. White asked how applications are processed for the Youth Advisory Commission. Mr. Lopez stated that they are reviewed on a rolling basis, and a big push is applied at beginning and end of the school year to capture interest. Alamar Park is a new 40-acre community park in Alamar. This park is located on El Mirage Road north of Broadway and will serve residents in Alamar and the surrounding communities. The amenities will include a sports field and courts, splash pad, amphitheater, dog parks, six ramadas and three playgrounds. Currently, we are 90% complete and are just waiting for a meter to be placed by SRP. We are hoping for a soft opening on Labor Day week. A few weeks ago, we broke ground on our Aquatic Center project and expect to have it completed by July 2023. The new center will include a competition pool with diving boards, play pool, basketball, bath houses with locker rooms and multi-purpose rooms along with other recreational features such as water slides, aquatic play units, or a lazy river. Among our other parks, facilities and trails projects are the Civic Center Park, Agua Fria Wetlands Design, Crystal Gardens Wetlands (recharge basins) Perimeter Improvements and the active Transportation Plan. We are working with our Public Works sustainability staff for these improvements to be as efficient as possible with trees for shades, etc. We are working with Engineering staff to ensure connectivity in the city for cycling, walking, shopping with safe trails and paths from Friendship Park to Festival Fields. Other programs are: Light Up the Sky celebration on July 2, Poppin' in the Park on September 17, Cycle Avondale is October 2 (year 4), and Billy Moore Days, October 13 through the 16 on Western Avenue. Mr. Hughes invited the Commission to follow the hashtag #ActiveAvondale on social media. Ms. McMullen inquired if grants were separate monies from general funds listed in the total amount of the project. Mr. Hughes stated that no, the total amount of the project included the use of both grant

and general funds. Ms. McKillip inquired of the parking lot issues at ASC and of its maintenance. Mr. Hughes stated that the city maintains the parking lot and is keeping an eye on the construction and light maintenance that is currently underway. Ms. White inquired how the city does outreach for the needs of equipment in the older neighborhoods and parks for the city. Mr. Hughes stated that there will be more open house forums in place now that we are able to do in-person attendances post-pandemic. These forums enable us to engage and receive feedback from residents to finalize improvements. This will include the areas that DeConcini and Las Ligas Parks are located in.

5. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Lopez stated this is an opportunity for Members to request updates for presentations from other departments and within our department. We have rescheduled Youth Services & Community Engagement to return at our next meeting and can talk about how we connect to the schools for students to engage in opportunities to join the Advisory Commission and to find out about other community programs and activities offered by the city. We are ready to introduce our new Homeless Services team. Code Enforcement would like to present in the future, as well. Mr. Brownlee requested that we have another update on the Area Specific Plan.

6. Announcements

Mr. Lopez stated that the Kids Summer Feeding Program is in place and will continue until August 5. We are collaborating with the County for the Summer Reading Program which is in place from June 1 until August 1. We have been implementing Lunch-n-Learn for families to participate in intentional multi-generational learning programming, and to receive a meal, provided by St. Mary's Food Bank. This multi-generational program comes with crafts, summer youth employment and social skill development.

7. Call to the Public

None

8. Adjournment

Mr. Prado made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mr. Morrison. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – August 31, 2022