



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.**

**Avondale City Hall – Sonoran Conference Room
11465 West Civic Center Drive, Avondale, Arizona 85323**

AGENDA

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

Present: Chairwoman Beason, Vice Chair Arrelano, Boardmember Rodriguez, Boardmember Vasquez

Absent: Boardmember Nielson, Boardmember Johnson, Boardmember Lazo, Boardmember Espino

Staff Present: Director Bryan Hughes, Assistant Director Corey Larriva, Recreation Supervisor Stacy Swainston, Senior Management Analyst Dominic DeCono, Customer Service Representative Rachelle Nunez

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

Prior to the approval of the minutes, Bryan introduced Rachelle Nunez the department's customer service representative. Rachelle introduced herself stating she gets many inquiries across the city and has been with the city for 8 months.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the May 11, 2022 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Vice Chair Arreallano

2nd: Chair Beason

4-0 Approved

4. BOARD TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

Bryan mentioned that this is the first meeting that Boardmember Rodriguez has been there for and asked her to go first. She has been an Avondale resident since 2017 and mentioned her favorite summer vacation memory was when she went to El Salvador and she experienced the tropical feel of the place. She mentioned she was there for quite a while but very much enjoyed it.

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Mayra Espino	Rose Vasquez
Valene Johnston	
Stephanie Rodriguez (Alternate)	

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Tom Street – Parks Supervisor



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Vice Chair Arellano mentioned her favorite memory was when she went to Seattle in 2018 to check out the air force base her husband stayed at. She mentioned she saw several sites and ended up going to San Francisco at some point, seeing many things.

Chair Beason mentioned her favorite memory was when she was living in Turkey with her husband when he was part of the Air Force, she traveled with her mom on several occasions to places such as Hong Kong, the United States and Switzerland in 1994. She eventually took a day trip to Germany, Litchenstein and other places and brought pictures to show the board and staff.

Boardmember Vasquez mentioned her favorite memory was in 2019 when her and husband went to Thailand, specifically one without any of her children and said she loved it.

Bryan mentioned his favorite one was when he was living in Illinois, his relative rented a cabin out and would go to north Wisconsin and spent significant time in the outdoors with his family.

Stacy mentioned her favorite vacation was 7 years ago when she went to Cedar Point with her mom and had a great time going to theme parks and riding rides.

Corey mentioned his wife and him had a great vacation for their honey moon in Maui and mentioned it was their first vacation by themselves and they mentioned how much they loved it.

Dominic mentioned his favorite trip was one he took last year with his wife to Universal Studios.

Rachelle mentioned her favorite memory was one summer they went to Disneyland when they had a hotel mixup with their dad, and went to the Hyatt Hotel and said she was blown away of how nice it was.

5. TRES RIOS NATURE AREA UPDATE

Bryan started off the update mentioning the City of Avondale has been working to create a better partnership with the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County to improve the Tres Rios Nature area along the Gila River in the southern part of the City. Bryan mentioned that Corey spearheaded going after a grant to help fund connecting trails and upgrading other parts of the facility. Corey mentioned that the goal of the grant was to help people get safe access from the parking lot of the main area down to the main nature area where the annual festival is held. Corey also mentioned that this is an opportunity for other partners to help sell other ideas for additional grants to help further improve the area.

Bryan mentioned that Tohono Ohno Nation has given the City of Avondale a \$55,000 grant already.

Chairwoman Beason asked how frequently the Tres Rios nature area is used. Bryan responded that it is a city asset and does have some activity down there. Parks and Recreation is working with Arizona Game and Fish to help develop a management

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maintenance plan to help make the trails more accessible. The goal from the city is establish the trail and help improve how the site is maintained.

Chair Beason asked if the city owns the land there, which Bryan mentioned that the city does not.

Corey mentioned that the area is sort of like the 'six corners' where even though the city doesn't own any land, its an opportunity to be a good partner and be very helpful.

Bryan mentioned it's a bit of a challenge for the city since there isn't any direct ownership, but the city wants to be helpful partner in improving the area and preserving the history. Bryan mentioned many things have been started over the years, but not much has been finished, and the intention is to finish these projects.

Corey mentioned one goal is to get more signage along the trails to help improve the connectivity of the site and make it safer.

6. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Stacy started off the update with a training the city held in association with the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association to train members of many communities on the intricacies of liquor licenses.

Stacy also highlighted the May recreation participation numbers, and mentioned that the summer will have all indoor programming at the Boys and Girls club since the summer heat is in full swing. Stacy then mentioned that there are 23 allocators have signed up for the fall and the department is average 291 hours per week just through allocations.

Stacy then mentioned the Memorial Day Ceremony hosted at the Civic Center, and she specifically stated that it was the best attendance of any ceremony since she started with the city. The event had flag folding, a candle lit ceremony and guest speakers with musicians providing honorary performances.

Stacy then moved on to the aquatic center ground breaking ceremony taking place on the morning of June 9th, and invited members of the board to come and hear Bryan speak about the opening of the facility.

Boardmember Rodriguez asked if they get to wear hard hats, which Bryan said yes they could.

Stacy then upated the board that the next event is the Light up the Sky 4th Celebration which will be taking place on July 2nd, stating it will be run similar to the past year's celebration similar at the Barn at the Phoenix Raceway. Stacy then mentioned that there will be a booth at the event if the board members are interested.

Chair Beason asked if boardmembers can get in for free, which Stacy said unfortunately they cannot.

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7. BOARD PARK OBSERVATIONS – FRED CAMPBELL PARK

Boardmember Vasquez started off the update stating that she really liked the park and mentioned specifically that there was significantly more shade than the last park she visited. She mentioned there were no BBQ pits.

Boardmember Rodriguez mentioned that she'd like to see more seating under the shade and mentioned the ramada was in poor shape.

Chair Beason did mention that there was no table at the ramada, but did state that there is infact a grill there at the park. Chair Beason always called it 'the park behind Sonic'. Chair Beason then mentioned the swing item in the playground being in the sun was too hot to get on and the basketball court is pretty nice.

Chair Beason then stated she thought the park was a little old, but mentioned the playground equipment was a bit different than she had seen, and she did state there is a housing project right next to it that has not been updated in a long time.

Vice Chair Arellano mentioned that the court was a bit dated and the play structure was a bit dated as well. She also mentioned that the playground could use an access ramp for wheel chairs. She also mentioned it would be nice to add a picnic table under the ramada.

Vice Chair Arellano also mentioned that the park signage is already starting to fade, which surprised staff since they were installed back in 2020.

Bryan mentioned that the tables were removed because transient populations would sleep on the table and cause an unwelcome environment. Bryan also mentioned the basketball court was resurfaced back in 2018 and the park does have some good tree coverage. The surface being faded did make Bryan state that it could be an irrigation leak causing the damage and the department should look to address that.

In 2018, Bryan did mention that the park got updated lighting, although Boardmember Rodriguez when she mentioned that there was a broken light, which Bryan said the department will look into.

Bryan's last observation of the park was that it was actively used and the city is trying to find ways to program the facility.

Bryan did mention that the area has some challenges with those who live in the area, specifically some property owners not doing their part to make the area more attractive. The residents have stated they are mostly happy with the park's condition from the city standpoint, but there are still some opportunities for improvement.

Bryan then stated that he wanted to see a chain link fence put between Sonic and the park to help with litter containment between the park and the restaurant. Bryan mentioned the department will come back to the board for updates down the road.

Chair Beeason then asked if the water tank was gone from Mountain View Park, which Bryan stated yes but would catch up to that item in the next subject.

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Chair Beason asked what the history of the park was, which Bryan stated it was named after a former mayor of the community.

Corey mentioned that there used to be a substation near the park and city hall, and the park is one of the original facilities of the city.

8. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Corey started off the update that Bryan and him snuck off to Donnie Hale Park to get updates and stated that the park is nearly finished and it should be finished by the end of the month. Upgrades include a new playground, court resurfacing, new lighting, new ramadas, a refresh on the bathroom, upgrades to the walking path and the softball field. The park will also have new signage installed.

Boardmember Rodriguez asked if the futsal goals will be mounted, which Corey stated yes they will.

Corey then stated some more of the upgrades, including additional ramadas being added and upgrades to the bathroom facility.

Bryan did mention the park is having some electrical issues but will be opening soon.

Corey then moved on to the upgrades done at Friendship Park, which include upgrades to the signage, a playground structure being replaced and brand new plants installed around the dog park.

Corey mentioned that the playground is very popular in the evenings and the department did work to increase the amenities and added a fence to help improve the safety of the area, as well as more shade. The area should be open in approximately two weeks.

Corey then moved on to Mountain View Park stating that the water tank has since been removed, but the volleyball net has been replaced. Corey did make an observation that the playground has lived its life and is time to replace it when it can be. At the time of the observation, Public Works was helping improve the sidewalk around the park. Corey then mentioned that a plaza area will be built in place of the tank. While onsite, members of the community mentioned that the park needs a bathroom, which will be installed when the next project is completed. Corey also highlighted construction will be taking place next door to the park at the community center in a few weeks.

9. CANCELLATION OF JULY AND AUGUST BOARD MEETINGS

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider canceling the July 13 and August 10 meetings. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Vice Chair Arellano
2nd: Boardmember Vasquez

Approved 4-0

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10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Vice Chair Arellano
2nd: Boardmember Vasquez

Approved 4-0

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 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.

Janet Beason

Janet Beason (Oct 12, 2022 13:46 PDT)

Oct 12, 2022

Dominic DeCono

Dominic DeCono (Oct 12, 2022 13:55 PDT)

Oct 12, 2022

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