



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.**

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

AGENDA

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

Present: Chair Janet Beason, Vice Chair Marie Arellano, Board Member Lily Lazo, Board Member Patti Nielson, Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez

Staff: Bryan Hughes, Corey Larriva, Dominic DeCono, Stacy Swainston, Rachelle Nunez

Absent: Board Member Mayra Espino, Board Member Rose Vazquez

Call to Order: 6:43 p.m.

Arrived in Late- Ron Corbin- City Manager

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

Ron Corbin begins by introducing himself and talks about his new residency with Alamar in Avondale. Ron Corbin thanks the Board for volunteering their time and dedication to the community.

Board Member Rodriguez asks Ron Corbin regarding his feelings about pickleball to which Ron Corbin answers that he is supportive of any type of activity that the community wants. And says he was offered a lesson but that he currently does not play pickleball. It is something that he is interested in once he gets the time.

Ron Corbin says that the City Council is strongly supportive of Parks and Recreation. He says being in the community with many resources that are dedicated to the Parks and Rec department is great.

Ron Corbin then gives praise to Bryan Hughes by saying that he has a great reputation as being a Parks and Recreation Director.

Board Member Lazo asks Ron what recreational or wellness activities does he enjoy to which Ron answers with that he is on a running kick and has a personal goal of running 1500 miles in the calendar year of 2022 and is up to 1450 miles. And at the time is dedicating time to his running goals. Ron adds that he is also into water sports, being on a boat and swimming are activities that he does enjoy. He says that his children were swimmers and that he was as referee at the pool for years and is very interested in the Aquatics Center.

Board Members:

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Marie Arellano, Vice-Chair
Mayra Espino
Stephanie Rodriguez
VACANT (Alternate)

Lilly Lazo
Patti Nielson
Rose Vasquez

Staff Liaisons:

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



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Ron says that he feels going into the restrooms at the public parks tells you a lot about the standards of the Parks. He says that he noticed that the community seems to appreciate if we get something good and new and there is a respect for the new spaces here in Avondale. He says the feedback from the police has been positive about the newly renovated Donnie Hale Park.

Dominic asks Ron what his biggest surprise is since arriving in Avondale to which Ron answers that there are not too many surprises with Parks and Rec. He mentions he did his research prior and that the Parks and Rec team are nicely staffed, and he noticed the awards received.

He continues by going into discussion that his biggest surprise is outside of Parks and Rec and is the lack of cooperation tackling the big problems with homelessness and fentanyl use. Ron Corbin discusses the collaborations done in his community when in Cottonwood was a regional effort to assist with the homelessness and fentanyl use. He said that he now sees the collaboration effort beginning on a regional scale here in the valley but was shocked that it was not as robust as he expected it to be.

Chair Beason explains that she has been here since 1977 and she feels that the West Side of the Valley seems to be the “stepchild” of the valley and that there is no working together here. Specifically, she mentions there is more focus elsewhere, like Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Mesa, and Tempe.

Ron Corbin discusses more about the amount of fentanyl driver arrests and says that it is a problem.

Corey states that the other drugs like meth are beginning to diminish because of fentanyl being a much more affordable drug.

Board Member Lazo asks if it is seen used among a lot of young people to which Ron Corbin answers that it is seen through all ages. He did say that he had a meeting with the Littleton Superintendent and that they had their first overdose with a 7th grader. Ron discusses that one fentanyl pill is very dangerous and deadly. He says that fentanyl is affecting all people of all ages and that it is a very sad situation.

Board Member Lazo asks that when there is talk about resources and healing the community from this addiction, what do those resources look like. Ron Corbin answers that the first thing is education and connecting with the schools and supplying the resources. Ron says that the government has the responsibility to create opportunity for connections which creates community. He discusses that being open, accessible, and creating non-profits for activities and having diverse recreational opportunities for all people to be a part of creates better choices and better alternatives for the community.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board will consider the approval of the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Board Members:

Janet Beason, Chair	Lilly Lazo
Marie Arellano, Vice-Chair	Patti Nielson
Mayra Espino	Rose Vasquez
Stephanie Rodriguez	
VACANT (Alternate)	

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Motion: Boardmember Patti Nielson
2nd: Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez

Approved 5-0 with corrections.

4. PARK AND FACILITY HOURS

Review of park and facility hours and proposed changes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Corey begins the presentation by discussing the three different types of parks Avondale has; community parks, neighborhood parks and pocket parks. Corey then details the hours of Avondale parks as well as the hours of parks for neighboring cities in the west valley. Corey shares that the department is proposing modifying the hours of all three park types. The department proposes to modify the park hours for pocket parks and neighborhood parks from 6am-9pm and modifying community park hours to 6am-10pm. All parks would open one hour later and close one hour earlier. Bryan adds that he believes the hour change will bring Avondale in alignment with our neighbor city parks and allow time to monitor and take care of any suspicious activity earlier in the night. Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez asks if this proposed change will be permanent. Bryan answered that this new time would be in place moving forward for the next few years.

Corey then addresses the board stating there will be a budget impact regarding park rules signage at the parks that will have to be updated to reflect the new times.

Board Member Nielson asked if someone has a permit to stay past normal park hours and if the police department are aware, can that party be there? Corey answered that there is a committee who oversee special events for the city and all departments are aware of any permits.

Board Member Nielson asked how the Park Ranger Program is involved, to which Bryan Hughes says that there will be a Park Ranger scheduled to talk with the board for the meeting in January.

Board Member Lazo expresses that the hours are good for safety and she hopes that Parks and Recreation can be a community partner to help people experiencing homelessness. Bryan briefly talks about the services provided by NFS to provide opportunities for the homeless in Avondale. Corey then further explains that the hours being shorter will allow more opportunities for assistance to help the homeless community. Board Member Rodriguez states she appreciated Board Member Lazo's comment and explains the importance on the assistance for homeless and for fentanyl education.

The board then agrees to take a vote regarding the proposal of new park hours.

Motion - Board Member Patti Nelson
2nd - Chair Janet Beason

Approved 5-0 to modify Park and Facility Hours

5. COMMUNITY CENTER NAMING

Board Members:

Janet Beason, Chair	Lilly Lazo
Marie Arellano, Vice-Chair	Patti Nielson
Mayra Espino	Rose Vasquez
Stephanie Rodriguez	
VACANT (Alternate)	

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The Board will consider naming options for the community center currently being renovated. The Board will take appropriate action.

Bryan Hughes introduces the resource center being renovated at Mountain View Park. He then shows the slide listing the name options for renaming the newly renovated space.

Bryan shares that the original name of the facility was Avondale Community Center when it was dedicated in 1979. Corey gives more details about the name Harrison and its historic reference as it is an option for the name of the new center. Board Member Patti Nielson likes the name, Mountain View Recreation Center. Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez thinks the name should stay Avondale Community Center because it will be more recognizable. Board Member Lily Lazo states that she is favored to the Agua Fria in the name.

Bryan concludes that the re-naming of the community center conversation will continue at next months board meeting with more options for the board to discuss.

6. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Stacy hands out copies of the most recent issue of the Rave was and informs the board of the upcoming events. Stacy says most fall seasons and programs have ended and that the classes and sports will pick up again in January and February. She also stated she will have more updates following those events.

Corey asks the board for any feedback from the community on what more can we offer. Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez requests that the City puts on a Chocolate Affair like Glendale's Chocolate Affair.

Chair Janet Beason compliments the Rave and how comprehensive it is.

Board Member Patti Nielson agrees with Chair Janet Beason and also shares compliments of the Rave.

7. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Corey starts off talking about the 25 new trees at Fred Campbell Park and that the program allowed for kids to plant a tree. Corey said that he witnessed a little kid that was very proud that he planted 2 trees.

Corey then highlights that the Parks Lead Steven Castillo has received his Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) certification. Board Member Rodriguez asks if the certification needs to be retaken to which Bryan Hughes said that yes, he will need to be recertified every 3 years.

8. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TIME

Board Members:

Janet Beason, Chair
Marie Arellano, Vice-Chair
Mayra Espino
Stephanie Rodriguez
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The Board will consider changing the meeting time for meetings beginning in 2023. The Board will take appropriate action.

Prior to starting this topic, Corey congratulates Chair Janet Beason for completing the 2022 Avondale Citizens Academy.

Bryan introduces this topic by addressing that it was brought up in a previous board meeting about moving the start time of the board meetings and presents three start options for board meetings moving forward; 5:30pm, 6:00pm or staying at the 6:30pm time slot.

Chair Janet Beason mentions that she acknowledges the late start of 6:30pm. Chair Beason asks if all advisory teams are this interactive and Bryan Hughes says that they are not, and that he appreciates the board we have and how engaged they are. After brief discussion, it is proposed by the group to adjust the board meeting start time to 6:00pm because it works best for all participants.

Prior to voting, Bryan Hughes congratulates Chair Janet Beason and Stephanie Rodriguez for being appointed for the next term.

The board then moves to vote on moving the board meeting start time to 6:00pm beginning January 2023.

Motion: Boardmember Rodriguez
2nd: Vice Chair Marie Arellano

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Vice Chair Marie Arellano
2nd: Board Member Lily Lazo

Adjourned 7:55pm

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.

02/01/2023

02/01/2023

Lilly Lazo (Feb 1, 2023 15:37 MST)

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December 2022 Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2023-02-01

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