

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

3/08/2023

Meeting Date

4/12/2023

Date Minutes Were Approved



Lilly Lazo (Apr 14, 2023 12:51 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.



Rachelle Nunez (Apr 13, 2023 09:54 PDT)

Staff Liaison





**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:00 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: Chair Lilly Lazo, Vice Chair Stephanie Rodriguez, Board Member Marie Arellano, Board Member Janet Beason, Board Member Vannesa Cornejo, Board Member Mayra Espino, Board Member Cecilia Lopez

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

Absent: Boardmember Patti Nielson

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction of new and existing members and staff.

Bryan gives direction by having the board members go around the table and for each board member to share how long each member has been on the board and for the newest members to share what interested them in being a part of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Chair Lazo begins by sharing she has been an Avondale resident since 2017 and has been on the board since 2021. Vice Chair Rodriguez shares that she has been an Avondale resident since 2017 or 2018 and began as an alternate on the board since last year and transitioned to a full-time board member. Board Member Lopez shared she is a 24-year resident of Avondale and the reason for being a part of the board was inspired from being in the Citizen Leadership class and wanting to help in making a change. Board Member Cornejo shared she is also a 24-year Avondale resident and was interested in being a part of the board because of her love for the parks in the city. Board Member Beason has been a resident of Avondale since 2000 and she has been on the board since before Covid. Board Member Espino has lived in Avondale since 2011 and been on the board for one year. Board Member Arellano has been on the board since 2021 and she has lived in Avondale since 1999.

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will consider the approval of the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Board Member Marie Arellano

2nd: Vice Chair Stephanie Rodriguez

Approved: 7-0

Board Members:

Lilly Lazo, Chair
Stephanie Rodriguez, Vice Chair

Marie Arellano
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Vannesa Cornejo

Mayra Espino
Cecilia Lopez
Patti Nielson

Staff Liaisons:

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5. BOARD TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

The team building exercise introduced to the board was the question- Do you take advantage of Spring Training and what is your favorite team or stadium?

Board Member Cornejo began sharing by stating her favorite team being the Dodgers and followed with stating she has not attended any spring training games for the current season. Board Member Espino says that there is a love for baseball among her family and her favorite team is the D-Back's. She also stated that she has already attended a few spring training games with her favorite stadium being the Padres Stadium or Giants Stadium because their views are "breathtaking". Board Member Arellano shared that her entire family, her children and now grandchildren share the love of baseball. She has three favorite stadiums being the Diamondbacks Talking Stick, Colorado Rockies and Camelback Ranch. Board Member Cornejo mentions her favorite stadium is also the Camelback Ranch. Vice Chair Rodriguez shares that she does not take advantage of spring training games. She states that the only time she has attended was for a company event. She says that she does not have a favorite stadium and her favorite team is the Yankees. Board Member Beason follows by sharing that herself too, does not take advantage of the spring training games. She shares that she has never been to a spring training game but stated that she will go see the Diamondbacks. Bryan shares that he was able to check off Salt River Fields as that was his last spring training stadium that he has not visited since living in AZ. His favorite stadium is the Scottsdale Stadium. He shared that he enjoys the spring training season and can skip baseball until it hits the playoffs. Bryan stated that his favorite team is the Chicago White Sox because he grew up in Chicago. Board Member Lopez says she has never taken advantage of spring training and if she did, she would watch the Diamondbacks. Corey says he roots for the Diamondbacks being an Arizona Native. He states that he likes the Camelback Stadium but also enjoys the two Goodyear Ball parks for their cleanliness and simplicity. Stacy said she is more of a football fan and never has been a baseball fan and if she had to choose, her favorite team would be the Cubs because she is from Chicago and that Wrigley Field stadium is the most fun place she has ever been. Rachelle is not a baseball fan and stated she has been to one spring training game and enjoyed it. She further explains that she lives directly across from the Surprise Stadium and still has never been to a spring training game.

6. RECREATION PROGRAM PLAN

Overview of the Recreation Program Plan is shared by Stacy. She begins informing the board about the process of program planning and how it relates to the Rave recreation book. Stacy explains the surveys that will evaluate the current programming and needed improvements. She details the beginning process of how to plan for a new program. Stacy shares an excel sheet about the grouping of programs and how to calculate the needs for the participants and community.

Vice Chair Rodriguez asks for more clarification and Stacy clarifies that the excel will show what programs are excelling, if there are improvements needed and the direction encouraged in moving forward.

Stacy talks about the class format differences of group classes versus one-on-one.

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Board Member Beason asks, “what are the trends that are being seen?”

Stacy replies with “sports” being a big one on trend. Corey further shares that the success is being seen in the programming coming from classes or programs that we host at one of our facilities. He then uses the example of Pickleball and discusses the positive impact that has shown in the community and how it is growing. Corey explains, that at the moment, there is no specific indoor recreation center to host the special interest classes and how that creates a challenge in having consistency and successful classes. He also shares that in order to provide some programs or classes, we use other options such as contracting out with surrounding spaces that do host classes. Board Member Espino asks if using outdoor spaces will positively impact the classes and will help them run? Corey answers that the classes have not been running with putting the classes outdoors.

Vice Chair Rodriguez asks, if we cut back on programming to grow?

Stacy answers by further explaining the process and giving more examples of the colors of red, yellow and green represented on the Excel tracker. She gives an example of the up and down participation seen with the adult softball leagues and how using the Excel tracker to cut back on offering multiple leagues when only Tuesday night leagues have been running.

Chair Lazo mentions that she finds it interesting about what the community, specifically parents are wanting for programming for their child and if the team includes parents when it comes to programming, especially for teens, and if marketing is targeted to parents? Stacy replies that the purpose of marketing is targeted towards the parents. She further talks about not having a facility for teens to gather and build a bond with peers is what is holding back the teen programming. Bryan talks about Mountain View Community Center being a great fit for the teens and further discusses the challenges of programming for teens. Corey mentions that having nice electronics and good Wi-Fi will draw the teens over at the Community Center.

Vice Chair Rodriguez asks if the Excel rubrics for programming can be used for future Pickleball tournaments and if that is long term planning and what that decision looks like. Stacy replies with discussing the growth of pickleball and that having a tournament is something that has been in discussion and would likely be seen in the future.

Corey explains the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) strategic plan and how that coincides with the data related to the programming. Stacy further discusses the programming and how important it is for the team to guide the problem that is trending. Corey adds to the other component of programming being marketing and details the marketing platforms used and how it benefits the community.

Vice Chair Rodriguez asks about the registration process and coalition with programming, suggesting that be an assignment for another meeting. Stacy gives a short description about the CivicRec programming used for registration and she believes that would be a great topic for a following meeting. Stacy ends this agenda item by sharing that her team is always open for new programming ideas.

7. RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

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Stacy talks about the upcoming events. She discusses that the registration for Eggstravaganza had some issues and will be fixed for next time. She shares that if a family shows up no one will be turned away.

Board Member Lopez mentions how she loved the Tres Rios Nature Festival event and shares her experience with kayaking.

Stacy talks about the Family Campout event and how it is growing in popularity with this year being the second annual year being hosted and projects the growth to continue.

Board Member Beason asked about the outcome in attendance for the Tres Rios event?

Stacy shares the attendance for the Tres Rios event being 10,000 people and further discusses the success of that event.

8. BOARD PARK OBSERVATIONS – FRIENDSHIP PARK AMENITIES

Board Member Beason began by sharing her Friendship Park visit and said she started at the dog park. She stated that she did not differentiate between the size of dogs. She further discusses about the sidewalk pathways and how it ends and not continuing and that can be misleading according to the signage insinuating that there is a trailhead. She talks about the large size of the soccer fields and then she realized that she went to the wrong field that was given for the assignment. She then visited the Tennis Courts and noticed that there were people playing at the tennis courts. Bryan addresses the comment about the trailhead and says that there will be a trailhead in the future, thus why the signage is there. And suggests that maybe in the meantime that sign can be covered.

Board Member Lopez says the dog park needs shade. She said that tennis courts flooring was in good shape. Board Member Lopez explains that she visited the field 3 not ball field 3 that was part of the assignment. She further questions what the expectations are when completing the assignment observations?

Corey answers by clarifying and discussing the process and intentions for the observations.

Board Member Espino says she read the instructions wrong and observed the wrong field. She continued with sharing her dog park observation needing some attention as far as weeds, and the upkeep. She said there should be a doggy bag station on the pathway outside of the dog park.

Chair Lazo talks about the importance of being active with your dog at the dog park. She said she noticed that there are big roots from the tree, and she did not feel it to be safe. She noticed that there needs to be more shade in the large dog park space. She liked the dog dish being shaded with a canopy. Chair Lazo asked what that first section is along with the dog park? Bryan replies that one section is used for rotation when upkeeping one section of dog park there will always be on space open for use.

Board Member Arellano says she was happy to go and review softball field 3. She thinks there should be a canopy and shade. She talks about the bumpy and rocky pathway being unsafe. She mentions the other ball fields also needs some attention, adding that shade is needed to ball field 1 and to add bleachers to ball field 2. Board Member Arellano suggest adding a hitting cage. She continues her suggestions of adding a picnic table, shade and some more

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doggy bag station. She said adding another ball field would be nice to have a central location with more ball fields.

Vice Chair Rodriguez asks how many ball fields are at Festival Fields Park? Corey mentions the amount being 6 ball fields at Festival and details the ball fields at all parks.

Vice Chair Rodriguez continues discussing her observation taken place prior to the meeting. She mentions the love for the signage. She suggests having some signage to point to ball field 3. And she said adding shade would be good. Vice Chair Rodriguez noticed the dog park was very busy. She would like to see a long path constructed to play fetch with her dog. She said she noticed the tennis courts were empty and the basketball courts were heavily used. Vice Chair Rodriguez mentions the potential seen for the open space near the tennis courts. She further discusses the parking lot and flow being difficult.

Bryan thanks the board for the feedback. He says the spaces used by the community will be reviewed. Bryan discusses the dog park not being efficient and further explains the goal being to renovate the dog park at Friendship Park. Bryan talks about the future ball field 1 and 2 improvements. And explains how ball field 3 has not received the same improvements foreseen for ball field 1 and 2. Bryan references the overview map of the three ball fields at Friendship Park and would like to improve and make the ball fields cohesive. Corey talks about ball field 3 is one of the only deep fields and how that is beneficial for the older age group of little leagues. Bryan talks about the open space near the tennis court being planned for future pickleball courts and adding up to 12 pickleball courts at Friendship Parks.

9. PARKS AND PROJECTS UPDATE

Corey begins by talking about the replenishment projects happening in several locations. He said there were 26 planters surrounding the American Sports Center (ASC) and the purpose being to refresh the space. He talks about the other location being on Western Ave and their replenishment improvements that happen 2x a year. He continues that Mountain View is still in planning and trying to improve that park in coordination with the Mountain View Community Center (MVCC) opening. Bryan wants to bring attention that there is no over seeding in winter and now greener grass will begin to be seen at the parks. Bryan briefly discusses that Avondale is in stage 1 drought and that being water conscious is important when upkeeping and maintenance at the parks. Bryan suggests to the Board about having the sustainability officer come to a future meeting and talk about the sustainability and how it relates to Parks and Recreation.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Board Member Arellano

2nd: Board Member Beason

Approved 7-0

7:22pm

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