


Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

June 26, 2024

Meeting Date

November 13, 2024

Date Minutes Were Approved


Fabian Prado (Dec 11, 2024 20:19 MST)

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.


Mayra Garibo-Davila (Dec 5, 2024 11:00 MST)

Staff Liaison





Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center, 995 E. Riley Drive

Aravaipa Conference Room

Avondale, AZ 85323

Physical Access to the Aravaipa Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Dawn Gerundo, Eddie James, Shari Weise, Oliver Morrison, Michelle McMullen

Commission Members Absent: Pearlette Ramos (Excused), Fabian Prado (unexcused), Jerome Brownlee Jr. (unexcused)

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, City of Avondale Housing & Community Development Manager Regina Marette, City of Avondale Housing & Community Development Management Analyst Alexia Grady, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibodavila, Administrative Assistant Yvonne Bravo, Administrative Assistant Alisa Chavez, Civitas Consultant Kyle Jenkins, Civitas Director of Operations Spencer Christian

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Oliver Morrison at 6:04 p.m.

Note from the Clerk: Items were discussed in the following Order: Agenda Item 1; Agenda Item 3; Agenda Item 2.

2. Review and Approval of the March 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Weise 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. Community Needs Assessment:

Spencer Christian, a consultant from Civitas, delivered a presentation on the objective to develop a 5-year Strategic Plan for the City as mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Christian stated the input from the community played a vital role in identifying the needs of the community and its residents. Mr. Christian also indicated outreach objectives would encompass conducting hearings, organizing public meetings, and distributing surveys.

Ms. McMullen asked if the data was limited to reports from previous years in order to predict the distribution of future funding. Mr. Christian stated that the ongoing growth of the City was factored in as well.

Mr. James inquired about the method used to calculate the growth percentage for the City. Mr. Christian explained, the population data from the Census over the past decade would be used to estimate new growth in future years. Mr. Christian also stated other variables, including the quantity of planned new construction homes, would be taken into account.

Ms. McMullen inquired about the eligibility of child-care as an option. Mr. Christian confirmed that, yes, some funds would be eligible for use in child-care programs.

Mrs. Weise inquired about the duration of the HUD survey, mentioning that she had received it through an email blast. Mr. Christian informed the survey would remain accessible through March 2025, after which the collected data would be integrated into the report.

Following the conclusion of item #3, at 6:29 PM, Ms. Marette, Ms. Grady, and the speakers departed from the meeting.

4. FY2025 Contributions Assistance Program Update:

Ms. Baltierrez delivered an update on the Contributions Assistance Program. A total of \$200,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds was designated for this program, with 49 organizations submitting funding requests totaling \$623,154. Ms. Baltierrez indicated following the review process, the Council Subcommittee recommended funding for 32 organizations which will be presented to the full City Council for funding approval at the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2024. Ms. Baltierrez also added the award ceremony was scheduled to take place at the City of Avondale Council Chambers on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, commencing at 5:00 PM.

Mr. James inquired about the possibility of media attendance at the award ceremony. Ms. Baltierrez indicated that details regarding the award ceremony would be disseminated through a press release and various social media platforms in order to keep the public informed.

6. Future Agenda Items

- Public safety
- Senior Services Division Update
- Parks & Recreation Update per Mrs. Weise's request, including progress made in terms of Americans with Disability Act improvements.
- AZ Complete Health Resource Center Update per Ms. Gerundo's request, including an overview of the services available.

7. Announcements

Ms. Baltierrez provided information on the following projects and events:

- Avondale Teen Employment and Mentorship Program Update: A total of 21 young individuals were participating in different departments, including the Resource Center, to gain valuable work experience.
- Adelante Women, Infants and Children hosted a Back to School Bash in Goodyear for students in grades K-12. Attendees enjoyed complimentary backpacks and school supplies, accessed community resources, indulged in snacks, and had the chance to win prizes. Event took place on Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at 13471 W. Cornerstone Blvd, Goodyear AZ 85395.
- The City of Avondale has organized the Light up the Sky Event on Thursday, July 4, 2024 at the Phoenix Raceway. The gates opened at 6 PM with a firework show at 8:25 PM.
- The First Things First team arranged a daily Lunch N' Learn session at the Resource Center. Children under 18 enjoyed lunch and participated in interactive social emotional learning activities. This program was offered Monday to Saturday until July 26, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.
- Ms. Gerundo informed that the literacy hub at Lattie Coor Elementary had a highly successful summer program, which not only provided meals, but also tutoring where 20 families participated. Services were extended to Pendergast and Littleton. Furthermore, an impressive number of 8000 books were distributed as part of this initiative.
- The Resource Center is currently offering heat relief services to the public. These services are available during regular business hours throughout the week, and from 10 AM to 4 PM on weekends and holidays.
- Ms. Gerundo added that a new Artificial Intelligence application has become available for finding heat relief sites in the vicinity of the participant's current location.

8. Call to the Public

None

9. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Weise. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – September 25, 2024.