



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Lilly Lazo, Chair

Stephanie Rodriguez, Vice Chair

Janet Beason, Board Member | LaChrisha Dourisseau, Board Member

Cecilia Lopez, Board Member | Patti Nielson, Board Member

Amy Soucinek, Board Member | Timothy Kroll, Alternate Member

Parks & Recreation Department

Corey Larriva, Director

Stacy Swainston, Assistant Director

Dominic DeCono, Senior Management Analyst

Brittany Garcia, Administrative Assistant

City Hall – Mesquite Conference Room

11465 West Civic Center Drive

Avondale, AZ 85323



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Notice & Agenda
Wednesday, November 13, 2024

MESQUITE CONFERENCE ROOM | 11465 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE | AVONDALE, AZ 85323

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR AT 6:05pm

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

Present: Chair Lilly Lazo, Board Member Amy Soucinek, Board Member Anthony Kroll, Board Member Janet Beason, Board Member LaChrisha Dourisseau, Board Member Stephanie Rodriguez, Board Member Cecilia Lopez

Staff Present: Corey Larriva, Brittany Garcia, Stacy Swainston, Stephanie Flood

2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board will consider the approval of the October 2, 2024, meeting minutes.

Board Member Patti Nielson mentions that the minutes should be clearer and sent out sooner.

Motion: Janet Beason motions to approve meeting minutes

2nd: Patti Nielson seconds

Approved 8-0

4. TEAM BUILDING

The Board and Staff will be provided with a short quiz that is all about Avondale. This quiz will include questions about the city's history and facilities.

The Board has 45 seconds to answer a 10 question quiz on random facts about the City of Avondale.

Patti Nielson, Stephanie Rodriguez, and Amy Soucinek win a "trophy" for getting the most questions correct. Stacy Swainston goes into detail about the Avondazzle Dash (a question on the quiz) and the Board is happy to hear that there is a big race event so close to the holiday.

The board mentions that sometimes the Rave magazine is a bit difficult to come across, and Stephanie Flood lets everyone know that the Rave is always available at the libraries.

The Board brings up that there is a want for the yearly calendars that have the city events listed on them.

Corey Larriva agrees to bring the calendars to the December meeting.

5. LIBRARY UPDATE

Stephanie Flood shares some updates and statistics that they have found at the libraries. For example, there have been over 128,000 patrons this year. This is shown through the increase in library card sign ups. There were over 4,700 library card sign ups this year. Both libraries have been "Fine Free" since 2023. This has

been a great way to keep people attending the libraries, because they are no longer afraid of going to the library and getting dinged for being a few days late.

The Sam Garcia Library has gotten a few new renovations, but there have been some issues with lighting, but once that is fixed there will be an Open House Event.

The libraries now offer an excel online high school diploma program that is funded by the state. It is completely free and only for those who are 21 years and older.

In-Reach Max allows our libraries to share books with 13 other libraries. If you don't see a specific book at one of our local libraries, you are able to request it and it will get sent to your library.

The libraries have also been partnering with different businesses in the community for their programs. They have done storytime at Krispy Kreme and activities at Mini-Figs.

Lastly, there are new "Teen Book Boxes". It is a secret mystery box that teens (and soon tweens) can take that have some personalized books and items based on their interests.

Cecilia Lopez asks if the Teens have to return the boxes and Stephanie clarifies that they keep the items, but return the actual box.

Amy Soucinek suggests partnering with highschools and seeing if this is something parents can sign their kids up for.

The Civic Center Library also has a program that is strictly geared towards getting Teens into volunteering. Amy Soucinek recommends reaching out to high school counselors so they can discuss it with their students, especially for those high school seniors.

Corey Larriva discusses that the library is such a great resource center. You can check out seeds, sport equipment, babysitting items, and even get free tickets to Phoenix experiences.

6. PARKS, RECREATION & LIBRARIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Corey Larriva states that the official presentation of the Master Plan Update will be on November 18th. Corey makes it a point that there are still edits being made and it is not finalized. Staff is looking to get more suggestions for the update from the Board.

Janet Beason mentions that the Berry Dunn associates who visited put together a really good report. The Board also mentions how nice it is to see so many statistics.

Janet asks if Avondale is doing anything with affordable housing. Corey is aware of an affordable housing initiative, but he will get back to Janet regarding that once he has more information.

The packet given at the meeting is the most recent, but the version being posted on Monday will be the one to go based on.

Tim asks when this Master Plan goes into effect. Corey answers that this is 10 year plan, but as life happens and different things come about, there will be adjustments. The last Master Plan was in 2017, but due to accomplishments with that previous version, there was a need for a new one. Even with this Master Plan, as the staff was reviewing it, they noticed that some items have already been accomplished.

7. BOARD MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

The Board and Staff may provide brief comments on current events and issues. This item is for information only. Items requiring discussion, deliberation or legal action must be placed on a future Advisory Board meeting agenda.

LaChrisha asks if Brittany received the email in regard to the AI meeting minute taker, and Brittany says she will test it out at the December meeting.

The next meeting in December will be a potluck, and Brittany will be sending out an excel sheet for signups.

Thanksgiving Week will be the testing of the Christmas Lights. The lights will go on officially on Thanksgiving, except for the Christmas Tree which will go on at Winterfest. The Board is happy to see the lights out front for the visibility.

Winterfest is December 7th, 5-7pm, if you are interested in volunteering, please let Stacy or Brittany know.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Janet Beason motions to adjourn

2nd: Patti Nielson seconds motion

Approved 8-0

Meeting Adjourned at 6:57pm

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 Council Meeting.

"Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo discapacidad visual o auditiva, letra grande, o interprete, deben de comunicarse con la Secretaria de la Ciudad al 623-333-1200 o TDD 623-333-0010 cuando menos dos días hábiles antes de la junt

Lilly Lazo
Lilly Lazo (Dec 12, 2024 09:57 MST)

12/12/2024

Brittany Garcia

12/12/2024