



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 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, December 11, 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

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

Present: Chair Lilly Lazo, Board Member Janet Beason, Board Member Cecilia Lopez, Board Member Patti Nielson, Board Member Timothy Kroll

Staff Present: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Zach Martins

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 November 13, 2024, meeting minutes.

Motion: Janet Beason motions to approve the November 13th meeting minutes.

2nd: Patti Nielson seconds

Approved 5-0

4. SPORTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Zach Martins presents to the Board an update on the City's sports programs.

The Fall Youth Soccer League has just wrapped up and the city had a total of 256 players/21 teams. We received a rating of 4.6 out of 5 in our reviews. Zach announces that we have just received a sponsorship from Avondale Toyota to help cover uniform costs.

The Adult Softball League also recently wrapped up with 16 teams. The winter league is open for registration and will begin in January.

Active Outdoor Day was a free event that allows young children to try out archery, axe throwing, fishing, and crafts. It was a great way to introduce young kids to different activities. The Outdoor Grant allowed staff to become certified to teach some of these activities.

The new sand volleyball courts allowed the City to have a coed sand volleyball league. Vice Mayor Nielson asks how the public is aware of these leagues. Zach replies that they are very active on the various social medias and even are a part of different Facebook sport groups to advertise the sports. Patti Nielson mentions how exciting and neat it was to see the sand volleyball courts get put up so quickly. Zach mentions that we just wrapped up youth volleyball classes in the sand courts as well.

The Fall Pickleball Leagues also just wrapped up. We had 8 total leagues with 121 participants, and the intro to pickleball leagues had 19 participants. We received a 4.2/5 rating. Tim Kroll asks why we received that rating and Zach mentions that most negative ratings were due to rules and the scoring of the leagues.

There are multiple winter programming events that will be taking place in the upcoming months. Itty Bitty Open is a toddler "golf" event. Hoot N Hustle is a 5k/10k that runs through Agua Fria. The sport leagues will also be beginning as well.

Zach asks the Board if they have any questions. Janet Beason asks if they have to pay to get coaches for all the leagues. Zach says all the coaches are volunteers and we are grateful for them. Tim Kroll asks if there is a designated person who does the stats. Staff says the park staff will be the ones taking care of the stats.

Lily Lazo asks if we are looking into other adult sports. Zach says we are trying to really push for the sand volleyball leagues and we are now going to be hosting runs such as 5ks and 10ks. Timothy asks if there have been any interests in the adaptive sports. Zach says that we have attempted an event, however we did not have a huge showing. Corey mentions that we would never turn anyone away at our events and we try to make all events accessible.

Patti Nielson asks if there are any aquatic updates. Corey says we are closed during the January and February months due to some construction. Following these two months, the aquatic center will be open year round. The pool is heated, so the weather is a nonissue. Corey mentions that we are currently hiring for aquatics staff and we are hiring as young as 15 years old. Water polo will be coming to the center and we have some schools that will utilize the pool as well for swim practice. Tim Kroll has asked if there has been an inquiry for scuba training. Corey says no, but we would be interested and able if it comes about.

5. PARK PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT (DECONCINI PARK, FRIENDSHIP PARK IMPROVEMENTS, CIVIC CENTER PARK)

Corey Larriva shows the board some active projects happening in Avondale.

Civic Center Park is underway and the grading is currently complete. The playground proposal is officially approved and the equipment has been ordered. There will be a playground structure and a lot of open space. The sidewalks will also wrap completely around. Tim Kroll asks if there is a bike lane and Corey answers that there is on the aquatics side of the street.

DeConcini Park has had its basketball courts resurfaced. There are three new ramadas now at the park. These new ramadas will be useful for the children that attend the Boys and Girls Club. There will also be an area that is specifically meant for 14+ aged teens. It will be similar to a ninja obstacle course. There will also be an adaptive playground that will feature multiple ramps and also a swing that will allow those in a wheelchair to enjoy swinging. The goal is to have the Park be complete in January. Hopefully this will be the area for future city events.

Crystal Gardens is on the final phase of their trail improvements. There are 7 miles that loop around the ponds of the community. The city maintains most of the natural areas (grass and raking of the gravel) and has been funded to do turf reductions. The turf reduction will be sustainable and help bring costs down for the HOA as well. This project should be wrapped up in March. Garden Lakes' lakes are not part of the city. They are for HOA use only.

The Sam Garcia Library renovations are nearing completion. The playground has been refurbished. Both the top and bottom floors of the library have new information desks and there is now new furniture inside the library as well. It has a more modern look and is getting a lot of use. The sign has been changed at A.B Sernas Plaza and there is now more seating. A.B Sernas was a council member for 20 years. The detention center has also been demolished next door to the plaza. There will also be an Open House on January 9th.

There will be a few field updates at Friendship Park. The sport fields will be receiving LED lighting. We will also be building 6 pickleball courts near the tennis courts. The LED light conversions will be done this year. The dog park is our lowest reviewed park, so there will be improvements there as well. There will be better shades, and amenities. There are a lot of future opportunities for improvements at the park.

Janet Beason mentions that the park is very busy, and Cecilia agrees and notes that sometimes she cannot even find parking. Corey says they are in talks with engineering to see if there is any way to get more parking, but without taking out a field. The property north of the park is not fully the city owned, but they are looking to see how to utilize that space.

Patti Nielson asks how our budget is with all these projects and Corey says that some of the grants are very tedious. We go after a lot of grant options. The department works to make sure that funds are being allocated in time and it is always a conversation. Parks and Rec has been great about finishing projects on time. We will be using Impact fees for certain projects. The city maintains a high level of standards for these new developments.

6. MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Stacy shares that we have received the final document of the Master Plan. Stacy says that the Board is allowed to share any edits for the Master Plan. If there are any questions, the Board is allowed to reach out to any staff.

Staff clarifies that this is a 10-year plan. The city council seems to be very supportive and on board for the master plan. All concerns have been put into the final draft.

Tim Kroll says he is amazed at how thorough everything with the Parks and Rec Department has been. Janet mentions that as a resident she didn't know everything that went into the City and all the moving parts.

Lilly Lazo asks if the plan includes the corners like the new monument on MC 85 and Dysart. It was not handled through Parks and Rec, but instead went through the streets team. It was designed by the Agua Fria students.

7. HOLIDAY GAME

Brittany Garcia leads the rooms in a "Name that Tune" holiday game. The group is given about 15 seconds per song to guess the correct title and/or artist.

Lilly Lazo is the winner with 14 points.

8. 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.

Board Members Patti and Cecilia got renewed for three more years. The Board and Staff congratulate them.

Lilly asks if it is possible to bring in Water or Traffic into our meetings to discuss and have them answer questions. Corey says he will look for opportunities for their leadership academies and meetings. We will also look into bringing Engineering to one of our meetings.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Janet Beason
2nd: Patti Nielson
Approved to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

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 (Jan 9, 2025 08:44 MST)

01/09/2025



01/09/2025









Parks & Rec Board Meeting Minutes 12.11.2024

Final Audit Report

2025-01-09

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Created: | 2025-01-09 |
| By: | Brittany Garcia (bmgarcia@avondaleaz.gov) |
| Status: | Signed |
| Transaction ID: | CBJCHBCAABAAZvBW_KCT4ssB_DXLTXskmDoQH0tc7ijx |

"Parks & Rec Board Meeting Minutes 12.11.2024" History

-  Document created by Brittany Garcia (bmgarcia@avondaleaz.gov)
2025-01-09 - 2:18:50 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to lilycindy2@gmail.com for signature
2025-01-09 - 2:18:54 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Brittany Garcia (bmgarcia@avondaleaz.gov) for signature
2025-01-09 - 2:18:54 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Brittany Garcia (bmgarcia@avondaleaz.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-01-09 - 2:22:21 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Email viewed by lilycindy2@gmail.com
2025-01-09 - 3:43:47 PM GMT
-  Signer lilycindy2@gmail.com entered name at signing as Lilly Lazo
2025-01-09 - 3:44:16 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Lilly Lazo (lilycindy2@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2025-01-09 - 3:44:18 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-01-09 - 3:44:18 PM GMT