



City of Avondale

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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, January 8, 2025

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, Vice Chair Stephanie Rodriguez, Board Member Timothy Kroll, Board Member Amy Soucinek, Board Member LaChrisha Dourisseau, Board Member Patti Nielson, Board Member Janet Beason

Staff: Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Angelo Fobbs-Valentino, Mark Foote, Dani Cornejo

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 December 11, 2024, meeting minutes.

Motion: Patti Nielson to approve meeting minutes

2nd: Timothy Kroll seconds

6-0 in favor to approve the December 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

4. BOARD TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

The Board and Staff take turns discussing their favorite memories of 2024.

5. SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES & COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

Angelo Fobbs-Valentino presents to the Board a Special Interest Class and Community Center Update. Angelo shows a table that displays the number of registrations, walk-ins, and room rentals at the Mountain View Community Center. The numbers do end up decreasing slightly towards the end of the year due to kids going back to school and the holidays. The multipurpose room, art room, game room, and esports rooms are all available for reservations. Surprisingly, baby showers are a very popular event in the multipurpose room. They have even had some SAT classes take place in the rooms as well. Currently, there is a hula dance company that also rents out the facility and an art company as well. Vice Chair Stephanie Rodriguez says she saw some videos from the Noon Year's Eve Party, and that it looked like a great time.

Angelo shares some survey results from our recent events. The events have all received 5/5 stars for the ratings. Aikido Self Defense has had great reviews especially regarding the instructors. The Winter Rec Camp was a great success and also got many compliments for being very organized. Patti Nielson asks if there is a feedback box where people can make suggestions. Amy says she enjoys that they receive the

survey link the morning of the event, because it reminds her of the event and keeps those questions in her mind during the event.

Open Play is a free program where children can come in and utilize the facility. Ages 6-10 Youth has 135 registered and Ages 11-17 Teens has 157 registered. Participants register at the beginning of the school year and the staff will renew their registration by reaching out to their parents for any updated information.

In the Fall they offer many different events: esports tournaments, painting classes, yoga classes, archery class, family game night, etc.

In July, MVCC hosted Bluey Water Day where they had over 200 children in attendance. Dino Discovery Day had 190 attendees, and they had fossil digging, dino jumpers, and a dino show for the children. The Fright Night Fenzy event had about 100 attendees, and the children could go through a haunted maze, trick or treat, and paint pumpkins. The Jingle Jam event had about 100 attendees, and had a hot cocoa bar, Elsa and Anna characters, and letters to Santa.

Patti Nielson asks how we find the characters for our events, and Dani answers that it takes a lot of research, but there is a local company that provides that service. Thanks to the Outdoor Rec Grant, we have been able to have some of these events including our recent Santa Hike.

The Noon Years Eve event featured music, egames, and a balloon drop. It was a great success and the parents who left reviews said it was very helpful and that their children loved it.

The Thanksgiving Camp had 27 participants and the staff took the children to a local farm where the children got to learn about corn, pick veggies, and meet the farm animals.

The Winter Camp had 25 participants and the staff took them to Owens World of Adventure and they were able to play in the arcade, utilize the virtual reality equipment, and play in the jungle gym.

Some new programming will include the following: Fencing, Gymnastics, Paint & Sip, Dog Training, Ceramics, and Outdoor Fitness. Stephanie asks if the ceramics will be for adults as well. Dani answers that yes it is for adults and children. Janet asks if the city is pleased with the growth of the MVCC. Angelo says people still walk in not expecting what they get at the center. The facility can hold about 200 guests, so the staff does need to keep an eye on the sizes of the events. Mark Foote mentions that there is definitely room for growth. LaChrisha asks if the Resource center still allows rentals, and Stacy answers that right now they are not, but the goal is to grow staffing so they can start renting out again.

Lilly Lazo asks how supervision works for the open play. Angelo answers that there are typically one to two staff members in each room that is in use, so there is always adult supervision. Security is also on site during certain hours. Lilly says she is happy to see how collaborative the community center is. Dani says she really does try to make sure that the children are getting a good experience.

Janet asks if they only advertise on the Rave and Angelo answers that they also utilize MailChimp, Social Media, and the small electric billboards.

6. PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE

The Board is shown updates at various City of Avondale Parks.

Stacy shows pictures from the DeConcini Park. The area is surrounded by soft turf and still needs the fencing around the playground. There will be a ribbon cutting at the end of the month.

Friendship Park will be getting pickleball courts and the Board is shown the renderings. There will be 4 courts and a small area where people can sit and watch. The pickleball courts will be right next to the

tennis courts. The only concern right now is the parking situation. There will also be renovations done to the dog parks. They will be going from three parks to two. Friendship Park is also receiving LED Light updates. These updates just started this Monday, 1/6.

The Sam Garcia and Sernas Plaza Open House will be on Thursday, 1/9, at noon.

Timothy Kroll asks if a shuttle would be possible if the parking becomes out of hand due to the pickleball courts. Stacy mentions that shuttles typically don't get utilized too often for certain events, but that is something to consider.

7. MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Stacy Swainston opens the floor to the Board and asks if they had any questions or edits on the Master Plan.

Patti mentions that the Master Plan is very comprehensive. Stacy says that the department has learned a lot from this process. There was a high amount of need for shaded areas, and more libraries, according to the study.

Stephanie asks if the budget comes after the Master Plan, and Stacy clarifies that the budget is already set, so this is more of a tool to show how we should plan for the next ten years. Berry Dunn does not give suggestions specifically for budget. Berry Dunn however will come back on site in case anything does need to be moved around, especially as we grow in the city.

The Master Plan will be presented to City Council on February 10th.

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.

Stacy lets the Board know that we will be working on getting a guest speaker at our next meeting, from engineering.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Janet Beason motions to adjourn

2nd: Patti Nielson seconds

Approved 6-0 to adjourn. Meeting dismissed at 6:55pm.

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"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

Brittany Garcia

02/13/2025

Lilly Lazo

02/13/2025

Lilly Lazo (Feb 13, 2025 10:17 MST)









Parks and Recreation Board Minutes 1.8.2025

Final Audit Report

2025-02-13

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