

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

03/27/2024

Meeting Date

06/26/2024

Date Minutes Were Approved

n/a

n/a (Feb 20, 2025 13:08 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.

Marcella Sarmiento

Marcella Sarmiento (Sep 25, 2024 11:20 PDT)

Staff Liaison





Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 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: Shari Weise, Dawn Gerundo, Michelle McMullen, Oliver Morrison

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

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, City of Avondale Housing & Community Development Manager Regina Marette, Administrative Assistant Alisa Chavez, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibo-Davila, Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator Mariela Gonzalez

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Oliver Morrison at 6:05 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of the November 29, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Ms. McMullen made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mrs. Weise seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

Mr. Morrison stated: This agenda item was a public hearing started at 6:09 p.m. March 27, 2024. To submit a public comment please email cityclerk@avondaleaz.gov.

3. Housing & Community Development Draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan Update:

Housing & Community Development Manager Regina Marette presented the Draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan.

Ms. McMullen asked for additional clarification on how grant funding was allocated. Ms. Marette stated that allocation of funds were based on essential community requirements, with input from residents, businesses, and service providers being considered. Ms. Marette outlines a five-year strategy to showcase that projects adhered to the requirements of the grant. Ms. Marette indicated grants such as CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding was restricted to specific areas within the city, as dictated by the terms of the grant.

Mrs. Weise inquired about the possibility of funding ADA (American with Disabilities Act) accessibility for parks through housing grants. Ms. Marette stated the Housing & Community Development Division has provided financial assistance for park enhancements, while Parks & Recreation works with alternate funding sources to address additional expenses. Ms. Marette indicated the Parks & Recreation Department was currently undertaking an evaluation of ADA accessibility at parks in order to make enhancements.

Mr. Morrison inquired about the ongoing projects at hand. Ms. Marette outlined these projects: Pocket Park on Western Ave., Sam Garcia Library, Facade projects with Opportunity Tree Organization and Sam Garcia Library.

Mrs. Weise inquired about the funding allocated for security deposits and whether they were required to be reimbursed by the participant. Ms. Marette emphasized that since the aid is offered through grant funding, there was no need for repayment at any time.

Mr. Morrison inquired about the details and prerequisites of the home repair program. Ms. Marette stated the primary objective of the Home Repair Program was to prioritize the safety and accessibility needs of income-eligible families, with a particular emphasis on meeting ADA standards.

Mariela Gonzalez, the Youth & Community Engagement Coordinator shared more details about the AviTemp program (Avondale Teen Employment and Mentorship Program) which was supported by CDBG funding.

Mr. Morrison opened the public hearing and did not receive any requests to speak. Mr. Morrison closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. March 27, 2024.

4. Avondale Leading Edge Non-Profit Community Impact Award Update:

Edith Baltierrez, the Assistant Director of Neighborhood & Family Services, delivered an update on the recipient of the 2023 Leading-Edge Nonprofit award, Mission of Mercy. A comprehensive overview of the services offered by this award-winning organization was presented.

Ms. Marette inquired about whether the organization operates on a statewide level or focuses on a specific area. Ms. Baltierrez made it clear that the organization operates in various cities, with a regular operational base in Avondale every Monday.

6. Future Agenda Items

- Public safety Update
- Senior Services Update

7. Announcements

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

- The Health & Resource Fair was scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Attendees will have access to a variety of services and resources, as well as enjoy family activities, food, and performances.
- The Teen Summit Opioid Prevention was set to occur on Thursday, April 25, from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. The event featured breakout sessions for parents and teens, a presentation by the Police Department on risks and dangers, a testimonial, and dinner.
- Global Youth Service Day took place during Earth Week on April 20, from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Festival Fields Park. Volunteers helped with planting trees and shrubs, directing traffic, and clean up. Breakfast was also provided.
- Avondale CARES organization was looking to expand its board by welcoming new members. Avondale CARES, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization works with community members and the City of Avondale staff to improve the resources and services of Avondale's libraries, recreation, parks, and trails.

Mrs. Weise made an inquiry about KidsFest on Saturday, April 13th. Ms. Baltierrez mentioned that Neighborhood & Family Services will also be participating in the event and offer details about the services provided at the AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center.

Ms. McMullen inquired about the methods to distribute event details to the public. Ms. Baltierrez mentioned that staff utilized a variety of platforms like social media, news releases, the City's Rave magazine, flyer distribution, and the website.

8. Call to the Public

None

9. Adjournment

Mr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. McMullen. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – June 26, 2024.