



## **City of Avondale**

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Wednesday, February 12, 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, February 12, 2025

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

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**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**

**Meeting called to order at 6:01pm**

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

**Present:** Cecilia Lopez, Amy Soucinek, Janet Beason, Patti Nielson, LaChrisha Dourisseau, Stephanie Rodriguez

**Absent:** Timothy Kroll

**Staff Present:** Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Cheryl Covert, Brittany Westlund, Falon Thompson

**2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

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

Chelsea Soucinek

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board will consider the approval of the January 8, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion: Patti Nielson motions to approve the January 8<sup>th</sup> minutes.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Janet Beason

6-0 in approval of previous meeting minutes

**4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION**

Cheryl Covert is the Assistant Director of Economic Development and she is at the meeting to share some Avondale updates with the board. She has been with Avondale for 12 years and is very West Valley focused. Economic Development is building for the generations. Economic Development is about quality, not quantity.

Economic Development focuses on Business Attractions, Small Business Support, Workforce Development, Business Retention, and Marketing. There is a lot of work that they do with businesses in Avondale to help them expand and gain more support from the community and the city.

Cheryl Covert goes into detail about some new businesses in Avondale:

Woofgang Bakery and Grooming is a fun bakery and grooming spot for pets. Alta Avondale is a new apartment complex that recently opened. Rollin Smoke Barbeque is a Vegas based barbeque spot that has recently opened in Avondale and has been getting really good reviews. A2Z Aquariums is a new location

where you can get salt water tanks and other accessories for your tank. Springhill Suites on 99<sup>th</sup> is finally open and has been getting full occupancy.

New Businesses coming:

The BLVD will be getting an indoor/outdoor bar, a marketplace, indoor golf, a barbershop, and a bahn mi restaurant. The Brunch House will be opening in the old Ruby Tuesday building. Cooper's Hawk will be across from the First Watch on McDowell Rd. It will be open in November 2025. Next level retail and restaurants will be starting to come to Avondale. Better Buzz and Whataburger will be opening soon on McDowell. Ashley Homestore West Coast Headquarters will be opening across from the automall off the 10. QTS and Prime Data Center will also be coming to Avondale. They are very low water usage businesses, and they will provide a little over \$12 million in sales tax in total for the city.

Janet Beason asks what is being built next to IMS on McDowell and Cheryl Covert answers that a physician is looking to build a new medical building.

Lilly Lazo asks if the Econ team is the team that shares the survey results. Cheryl says they like to hear the opinions of the community, especially because there are things that can always be changed to better the community's opinion. Stephanie asks how they can send recommendations to Econ Development. Cheryl responds that she will take down the information and that her cellphone and email address is a great way to get the suggestions over to her. Patti Nielson quickly mentions that the Lending Closet is looking to expand. Lilly Lazo asks how the City holds themselves accountable to giving back to the community. Cheryl responds that the city views themselves as a commodity, so we ask for those improvements and developments that will incentive people to be wanting to come to Avondale. Businesses are not required to give back, but relationships are a big part of the community. The City will often host Business resource fairs, the Hub, Marketing, and other support to the businesses. The City will ask these businesses to engage into the community, especially the city events and expos that we host. They are consistently thinking of how to engage the businesses with the community. No matter the size of the events, we offer the businesses a chance to somehow to be involved.

Stephanie mentions that she loves New Penny Café and she is so happy that there are so many good food options. She asks about the dirt area by the ASC, and Cheryl answers that they are still searching for different ideas for the development that could go into that area. That area is very "hot" right now and there are many people interested in setting up in that area, but it will definitely be a restaurant. Amy recommends reaching out to the food truck on 107<sup>th</sup> and Lower Buckeye because it is always packed and the parking lot is always full.

Avondale EDGE is the Instagram handle and Website name for Economic Development.

## **5. FUTURE MEETING DATES DISCUSSION**

Staff provides the Board with a proposed list of future meeting dates. Staff is recommending moving the meetings to Quarterly Dates. The proposed dates are May 14<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, and February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Janet suggests that we update the dates to align better with events or attempt to move them to bimonthly first.

The Board mentions that they think this is a very important commission and that there are always so many events that it seems necessary to have the monthly meetings. Stephanie likes the suggestion of trying out the Bi-Monthly meetings. Cecilia understands the concern about having the meetings be uniform.

The Board soft votes first:

As Is: 3-4 in favor to keep the meetings the same.

Change Schedule to Quarterly with summer time (June July August) off: 0-7, not in favor

Bi-Monthly with summer off (June July August): 4-3 (five meetings a year and maybe one special meeting)

**Motion:** Janet Beason motions to keep the meeting dates as is currently

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Patti Nielson

**3-4 – Motion Does Not Pass**

**Motion:** LaChrisha motions to change the meetings to Bi-Monthly, with potential of one special meeting

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Stephanie Rodriguez

**Approved 4-3 to change meetings to Bimonthly (6 meetings a year, one Special Meeting)**

## **6. PARKS & PROJECTS UPDATE**

Staff provides an update on DeConcini Park.

Pattie Nielson asks if the parks have the park names anywhere for the public to see. All the new parks and those that have been renovated, should have a sign that states the park name.

DeConcini Park has been renovated – the tile roof of the ramadas have been fixed, the playground has been redesigned, the drainage code was updated, and the playground was updated with ADA updates.

There is a sensory aspect underneath the playground and there is now a wheelchair accessible swing set.

The basketball court has been resurfaced and there are now three ramadas at the park.

The reopening is next Tuesday, Feb 18 and 4pm. There will be free food and refreshments. Invite will be sent out on Thursday.

Cecilia asks what the alternative for the wood chips are in the playground. Corey answers that the rubber requires a 14-inch depth, and it is about 3 times the cost of the wood chips. The rubber has a subbase for absorption. The wood fill requires more maintenance than the rubberized surface due to having to replenish them. However, the rubber does need to be patched, retains heat, and needs to be maintained almost as much. They both claim to be ADA accessible, but the rubberized surface is more accessible in comparison. DeConcini is the first fully enclosed playground in Avondale and allows those on the spectrum or those with disabilities to be safer and more comfortable while playing.

The Aquatic Center has also had improvements. Staff show that the Aquatic Center has received new fans and will be receiving a new misting system. This is due to many complaints regarding the heat during the long lines. The city is also looking into bringing water softening to the Aquatic Center as well now that the misting system will be implemented. The Aquatic Center has also received new locker room floors. The previous floors were still very slippery. Staff chose the flooring color.

Fred Campbell Park recently gained 8 new trees with stakes and new irrigation.

## **7. MASTER PLAN ADOPTION**

Stacy announces to the Board that the Master Plan was adopted by Council this past week. Stephanie Rodriguez asks if the vote is just for support and not funds. Corey clarifies that yes the council will support our Master Plan and it will be a way to show backup on why we advocate for new projects or improvements. In April, Berry Dunn will be having our Strategic Retreat for staff to start implementing the plan.

## **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 announces that at the Quarterly Meeting, the City Manager Awards – Safety Award our Aquatics Team won, and the City Management Star Performer was Brittany Westlund.

Janet mentions that the future park construction for Civic Center Park is really coming along. They should be finished in May 2025.

We are now hiring a new Library, Culture and Art Manager, Parks Supervisor, and many aquatics positions. The jr lifeguard ages will start at 14 years old and that will be coming soon this year.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Amy Soucinik

2<sup>nd</sup>:Patti Nielson

7-0 approved to adjourn at **7:45pm**

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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



Lilly Lazo (Mar 15, 2025 17:34 PDT)

03/15/2025



03/13/2025