

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

04/16/2025

---

Meeting Date

06/11/2025

---

Date Minutes Were Approved

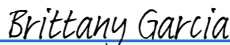
  
Lilly Lazo (Jul 7, 2025 15:34 PDT)

---

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.

  
Brittany Garcia (Jun 12, 2025 07:34 PDT)

---

Staff Liaison





## **City of Avondale**

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

Wednesday, April 16, 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, April 16, 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 AT 6:03PM**

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

Present: Janet Beason, Amy Soucinek, Timothy Kroll, Pattie Nielson, LaChrisha Dourisseau

Absent: Lilly Lazo, Stephanie Rodriguez, Cecilia Lopez

Staff: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Marissa Dailey, Desirae Gonzales, Zach Martins, Natasha Alavi, Brittany Shirvinski, Georgia Cox

**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 March 12, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Timothy Kroll motions to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Amy Soucinek

**Approved: 5-0**

**4. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS**

Marissa Dailey, Desirae Gonzalez, Georgia Cox are introduced to the Board. Marissa is the new Arts, Culture & Library Manager, Desirae is the new Sports Recreation Programmer, and Georgia is the new Aquatics Coordinator.

**5. NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK & PRESENTATION**

Natasha Alavi is the Branch Manager at the Sam Garcia Library and she is presenting data from the Avondale Public Libraries. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Garcia is going to be having a huge event with Avondale Fiesta and on May 31<sup>st</sup> at Phoenix Raceway Storytime. In 2024, the libraries were visited 156,257 times. The libraries were also able to get 8,101 new library card sign ups. They had 52 outreach events, which connected them with 5,481 patrons. With 1,307 programs, they were able to see 43,525 attendees.

There were many accomplishments in 2024 for the libraries. The Sam Garcia Library Renovations were completed, the Book Bundle Kits debuted, 5G Hotspots became available, and the new Teen/Tween Book Boxes debuted.

Natasha shows the Board the Bookmark Design Contest 2025 winners. There was one winner for each grade range, K-3, 4-8, 9-12.

Janet Beason comments that many people don't know that you can check out seeds. The library switches out the seeds depending on the season. They provide herbs, flowers, vegetables, and fruit options.

Tim asks how the library obtains new books. They look at book lists, book journals, and recommendations from the community.

## 6. PARK PROJECT UPDATES

Corey Larriva gives the Board an update on the recent Park Development Projects. This will be presented to Council next Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Civic Center Park is estimated to be completed in October 2025. There will be a shaded playground, ramada, turf, a reading grove, and public art.

Dog park improvements will be coming soon to Friendship Park. The new park amenities will feature shade canopies, benches, seat walls, new irrigation, drinking fountains, and public art. Amy Soucinek asks if the parks are ever sprayed for ticks or fleas. The city has a pest control specialist on contract, so if there is a need, they will take care of it.

There are new pickleball courts will be being installed at Friendship Park. There will be 8 pickleball courts built, replacing where our current unlit soccer field is towards the back of the park. There will be sidewalk connections, spectator seating, and shade canopies. Tim asks if they will be taking reservations for the new pickleball courts, and Corey answers that most of the pickleball courts are going to be reservable while also being first come, first serve.

Dessie Lorenz will also be getting improvements. The park itself is about 11 acres long. There are no current amenities. The city is looking to create demonstration gardens at Dessie Lorenz. There will be educational signage for a self-guided trail. There are 8-10 parking spaces, with about two handicap spots as well. There may be opportunity to have "field trips" and utilizing busses to be able to bring more people. Tim suggests using it for events and teaming with WeRide. The park will be lit at night as well. There are no benches or tables at this property, the new design may have rock seats for a more natural design for seating.

The Old Town Avondale Pocket Park will be up and coming. This will be a future item where the board will vote on the name. It is an empty piece of land on Dysart and Western. The new Plaza Park will have a walking path, decorative fencing, area lighting, and landscape improvements. The Municipal Art Committee is looking at a Large-Scale Public Art piece for the park.

Donatela Neighborhood Park on Palm Lane & Avondale Blvd will be our first park in northern Avondale. The new park amenities will include a shaded inclusive playground, park restroom, 3 picnic ramadas, 2 open turf spaces, a basketball court, a ¼ mile loop path, outdoor fitness station, and a pollinator garden. There will be LED area lighting and parking will also be available. The project is split funded, ground breaking will be January and it should be a 12-14 month construction period, so hopefully it will be opened in January 2027. This park will also feature Avondale's first ADA accessible car chargers.

There are multiple projects still in the works. These include Trail Lighting, Festival Fields Park Disc Golf, Ballfield improvements, indoor pickleball facility, and more.

The indoor pickleball facility would hopefully be placed next to the Avondale Aquatic Center.

## 7. BYLAW CHANGES

The Board will consider a request and make a recommendation to City Council to amend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board bylaws, changing the Advisory Board Name and the current Alternate Member Quorum section.

Name Change:

**Motion:** Patti Nielson motions to change the advisory board name to Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Amy Soucinek

**Approved:5-0**

Alternate Member Quorum Change:

**Motion:** Amy Soucinek motions to change the Alternate Member Quorum

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** LaChrisha Dourisseau

**Approved: 4-0**

## 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.

Amy asks if the process can be clearer as to how someone can try to a coach. Due to issues in the past, there should be a clearer way of communicating the ways to become a coach with the City.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Patti Nielson motions to adjourn

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Amy Soucinek

**Approved: 5-0**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:15pm**

---

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