

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

06/11/2025

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Meeting Date

08/13/2025

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Date Minutes Were Approved

  
Lilly Lazo (Aug 18, 2025 17:09:03 PDT)

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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.

  
mariana manzanarez (Aug 18, 2025 13:59:20 PDT)

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Staff Liaison





## **City of Avondale**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 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, June 11, 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 6:05 PM**

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

Present: LaChrisha Dourisseau, Cecilia Lopez, Patti Nielson, Amy Soucinek, Timothy Kroll

Absent: Lilly Lazo, Stephanie Rodriguez, Janet Beason

Staff: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Dominic DeCono, Brittany Garcia, Mariana Manzanarez

**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 April 16, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Motion: Cecilia Lopez

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

Approved 5-0, motion passes to approve the 4/16/25 meeting minutes

**4. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS**

The board is introduced to Parks Maintenance Supervisor Blake Comella, Events Programmer Angelina Acero, Admin Assistant Mariana Manzanarez, and Recreation Programmer Sarah Kuma.

**5. BOND PRESENTATION**

An overview was provided on Propositions 404 and 405, which represent major investments in the City of Avondale's infrastructure and services.

Proposition 404 focuses on enhancing Parks, Recreation, and Libraries, with an allocation of \$68 million. Planned improvements include the addition and expansion of shade structures in parks, upgrades to park facilities and parking areas, enhancements to the city's trail system, and improvements to the Civic Center Library.

Proposition 405 dedicates \$55 million to Public Safety initiatives. These funds would support the construction of a new Fire and Police Station in southern Avondale, development of a new Public Safety Headquarters, a Police Firearms Training Facility, expansion of the Main Police Station, and the addition of office space at the City Court.

It was emphasized that these bond measures will not result in any increase to the City's current tax rate.

Key dates for the bond election were shared: voter registration closes on October 6th, ballots will be mailed and drop boxes made available starting October 8th, and the deadline to mail back ballots is October 28th.

During the discussion, LaChrisha inquired about the location of the proposed Public Safety Headquarters, which will be situated off El Mirage Road near the Alamar community. Tim asked about public feedback received so far. In response, Dominic noted that most responses have been in the form of questions, rather than negative comments.

Additionally, it was shared that the former detention center on Western Avenue has been demolished, with plans underway to expand the adjacent fire station. A new public park featuring walkable space and public art is planned for the corner of Dysart Road and Western Avenue.

## **6. SUMMER READING PROGRAM EVENT RECAP & PROGRAM**

Chris Amarillas, Librarian I at the Sam Garcia Library, provided an overview of the 2025 Summer Reading Program. The program is designed to be inclusive and engaging for both children and adults. While Maricopa County coordinates countywide events, all Avondale-specific programming is managed and delivered by the Avondale Public Libraries.

This year's kickoff event was held at the Phoenix Raceway on May 31st and featured a variety of crafts and activities for children. The event saw significant growth compared to the previous year, with sponsorship participation increasing from 3 booths in 2024 to 13 booths in 2025. Attendance also saw a notable 58% increase, reflecting strong community engagement and interest in the program.

## **7. AQUATICS SUMMER UPDATE**

Georgia Cox, our Aquatics Coordinator, provided an update on pool operations and programming. The first session of swim lessons is currently underway with 270 participants enrolled. Each class has a waitlist of approximately 80 individuals, reflecting strong community interest in the program.

In addition to our existing swim teams, the Aquatic Center has recently introduced Water Polo as a new program offering. Georgia also shared that the popular Summer Dive-In Movie Nights will begin this week.

Regarding facility rentals, all weekend dates are completely booked. Rental requests are handled automatically, with full facility availability being reviewed every other day to ensure accurate scheduling.

During the update, Tim inquired about returning seasonal staff. Georgia confirmed that 33 employees have returned this season, and the total number of lifeguards currently employed is 65.

## **8. NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH**

National Parks and Recreation month is July. Staff will have a proclamation on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Council Chambers.

## **9. 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.

Cecilia shared a positive experience with the AviWise reporting system, noting that after submitting a report, she received a follow-up call almost immediately. She praised the service for its prompt response and consistently excellent customer service.

The next meeting will be August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Cecilia Lopez

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

5-0 Approved

Meeting Adjourned 6:54pm

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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