

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

08/13/2025

Meeting Date

10/08/2025

Date Minutes Were Approved


Lilly Lazo (Oct 9, 2025 09:28:08 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.

mariana manzanarez
mariana manzanarez (Oct 9, 2025 09:08:21 PDT)

Staff Liaison





City of Avondale

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Parks, Recreation & Libraries 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 & Libraries Department

Corey Larriva, Director

Stacy Swainston, Assistant Director

Brittany Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Mariana Manzanarez, Administrative Assistant

City Hall – Mesquite Conference Room

11465 West Civic Center Drive

Avondale, AZ 85323



Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting
Notice & Agenda
Wednesday, August 13, 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

Meeting Called to Order at 6:08pm

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

Present: Amy Soucinek, Cecilia Lopez, Lilly Lazo, Patti Nielson, Janet Beason

Absent: LaChrisha Dourrisseau, Stephanie Rodriguez

Staff: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Brittany Garcia, Angelina Acero, Marissa Dailey

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 June 11, 2025, meeting minutes.

Motion: Patti Nielson

2nd: Amy Soucinek

5-0 Approved

4. CIVIC CENTER PARK WALK

Staff had originally planned a Park Walk; however, due to the heat, it was changed to a photo tour.

Corey presented aerial photos of Civic Center Park, noting that the perimeter sidewalk is now fully complete. He then shared images taken during construction, including views of the seat walls designed to resemble books. Patti Nielson praised the thoughtful and creative design of these book-themed seating areas.

The playground will include a zipline swing and a feature specifically designed for older children. Additionally, the sidewalk along the east side of the Civic Center Library will be extended to reduce the need for frequent street crossings, improving pedestrian safety and flow.

The Board complimented how the park is coming to life. Cecilia asked whether the ramada will be available for rent, and Corey confirmed it will be listed on Civic Rec for reservations. Patti inquired about the project timeline, and Corey responded that completion is anticipated by the end of October 2025.

Corey also noted that trees and other vegetation will be planted throughout the park, and the book wall seating will be equipped with underlighting to enhance both safety and aesthetics.

Lilly inquired about a possible elevation difference, and Corey confirmed that there is one, primarily due to water retention design, which creates the illusion of a hill. Patti asked whether there would be electrical outlets available. Corey responded that all ramadas are equipped with both lighting and outlets, allowing guests to use Crockpots or other plug-in devices. Lilly also asked if solar panels had ever been considered

for the ramadas. Corey explained that while solar has been installed over the parking structures at the Aquatic Center, it has not yet been implemented on the ramadas. However, as the city continues to prioritize sustainability, this could be a consideration for future development.

5. HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Stacy Swainston presented plans for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations.

The Library Division will host a variety of events throughout September. Highlights include a Linocut Workshop, Mexican Art Crafts, Family Story Time with Ballet Folklorico, and Tu Herencia at the Sam Garcia Library. The Civic Center Library will feature a Tween Craft event inspired by the "Colors of Fiesta."

Several community events are being organized, including the new Mercados & Melodies: Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the City Hall Amphitheater, and a Hispanic Heritage Splash Bash at the Aquatic Center, featuring a banda and traditional games like lotería.

Amy Soucinek inquired about volunteer opportunities or child performers. Stacy responded that they are specifically seeking child entrepreneurs and performers for the November Mercado, which will be themed as a "Children's Market."

The team is still recruiting vendors for the Mercados series. Updates to the amphitheater include the installation of a shade cover over the stage, repaired stage lighting, and upcoming ambient lighting, and is expected to be in place by the second Mercado.

6. FALL EVENT UPDATES

Angelina Acero addressed the Board to provide an overview of the city's upcoming fall and winter events.

In October, "Barks and Treats" will host pet-friendly activities including pet yoga, food vendors, a K-9 demonstration, and opportunities for pet adoption. Also in October, Avondale's Billy Moore Days will take place from Thursday through Sunday at Festival Fields Park. While the parade will still be held along Western Avenue, the festival and carnival components will move to Festival Fields. Patti Nielson, praised this change as she noted the location offers more space and better parking.

The Creepin' Candy Crawl is scheduled for October 30 at Alamar Park, where various city departments will decorate themed booths. The event will also feature music, food, and arts and crafts.

The Winter Fest will take place on December 6 at the Civic Center and include dance performances, food trucks, vendors, visits with Santa, giveaways, and a stage for the annual tree lighting. Also beginning December 6, the Avondazzle Lights display will illuminate Old Town Avondale and the Civic Center from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. nightly through January 1.

The city does have three partnership events.

The Día De Los Muertos Festival will be held on October 25 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Avondale-Goodyear Historic Cemetery and will include a performance by Ballet Folklorico. On October 30, the Avondale Toyota Championship Open, in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club and Phoenix Raceway, will take place. The annual 5K Vet Run is scheduled for November 11 in collaboration with Estrella Mountain Community College, followed by a veteran's ceremony.

Amy Soucinek noted that Littleton schools release students at 3:55 p.m., which may be helpful to keep in mind when scheduling any library-related programming. Finally, nominations for both Grand Marshal and Junior Grand Marshal are now officially open.

7. PUBLIC ART FY26 SCHEDULE

Marissa Dailey will be presenting an overview of the past fiscal year in public art.

Over the year, 14 public art projects were completed, and 11 are currently in progress. Three scholarships were also awarded through the Achieving Artist High School Scholarship Art Contest. Notable completed projects include the mural at the Mountain View Community Center, which was finalized in September; two additional Hometown Hero Banners installed on Dysart Road; the “Harmony of Rivers” mural at Fire Station 172, completed in January 2025. “Confluence,” was completed at Park Avenue Plaza in May 2025.

The Utility Box Art Wraps program showcased winning artwork from the previous year’s Blank Canvas Art Contest. A map of the utility box locations will be distributed to the board for reference.

Public art funding comes from the Public Art Fund, the Capital Improvement Program Fund—which provides up to \$150,000—and private sector contributions, triggered by developments over 50,000 square feet. The City holds itself to the same public art standards that it requires of private developers.

Several projects are scheduled to be underway. The Coopers Hawk Mural and “The Grid” at the Visitor & Conference Center are both set for completion in November 2025. The mural at Fire Station 171 is in progress and expected to be finished by October 2025. The Hybycozo sculpture at Civic Center Park is being proposed as a gateway project for Old Town Plaza.

Upcoming initiatives include continued work on the Hometown Hero Banners, as well as new projects at the Friendship Dog Park, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Agua Fria Multi-Use Path, and the Police Communications Building. Potential art installations at the Dog Park and Wastewater Treatment Plant were also discussed.

During the meeting, Patti Nielson asked for an update on the Agua Fria Multi-Use Path. Two segments are currently in the design phase but are under review by the Railroad due to potential safety concerns. Additional details regarding the path’s infrastructure were also reviewed.

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.

Cecilia inquired about the progress at Friendship Park. Corey responded that the pickleball courts are advancing quickly and may be completed by Fall 2025. Amy asked how this construction would impact the existing soccer field. It was explained that a half field will remain available, and plans are in place to level additional ground and reposition the goals under the existing light poles. Additionally, the pickleball area will now feature four shade structures, and the dog park will receive four shade structures as well—an increase from the originally planned two.

Lilly raised a concern regarding the area behind the Aquatic Center—HOA has installed a brown gate that now blocks access to the street. It was confirmed that this area is currently in the design phase for future trail development.

Lilly also brought up the meeting schedule and suggested a return to a monthly format. Due to the high volume of events in September, October, November, and December, it was agreed that this topic would be added to the next meeting agenda for further consideration. Board members were also encouraged to bring a guest to the next meeting. Additionally, it was noted that the next session of the Citizen Academy will start soon.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Patti Nielson

2nd: Amy Soucinek

5-0 Approved

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17pm

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