

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

10/08/2025

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Meeting Date

12/10/2025

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Date Minutes Were Approved

  

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Lilly Lazo (Dec 16, 2025 13:11:05 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.

  

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Mariana Manzanarez (Dec 16, 2025 07:38:23 MST)

Staff Liaison





## **City of Avondale**

**Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting**

Wednesday, October 8, 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 – Sonoran Conference Room**

11465 West Civic Center Drive

Avondale, AZ 85323



Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting  
Notice & Agenda  
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

SONORAN 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 AT**

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

Present: Cecilia Lopez, Amy Soucinek, Lilly Lazo, Timothy Kroll, Janet Beason, Patti Nielson, LaChrisha Dourisseau

Absent: Stephanie Rodriguez

Staff: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Mariana Manzanarez, Brittany Garcia, Georgia Cox, Falon Thompson

**2. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

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

Yolanda Martinez

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board will consider the approval of the August 13, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Patti Nielson

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

**5-0 Approved**

**4. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS**

New employee introductions were rescheduled for a future meeting due to daylight constraints.

**5. CIVIC CENTER PARK WALK**

Board members conducted a walkthrough of Civic Center Park, which is currently under construction. During the visit, members discussed potential locations for food vendors and provided positive feedback on the new book shaped seating areas. Staff provided an overview of the available parking options for both the Civic Center library and Civic Center Park. Updates were also shared regarding water retention efforts and turf installation. The park will include two dedicated bench programs, and questions were raised about the new playground equipment. The board members had the opportunity to view the new playground equipment up close.

## **6. TEAM ACTIVITY AND POTLUCK**

The board members and staff gathered for a Parks, Recreation and Libraries themed crossword search and a dessert potluck.

## **7. 2025 AQUATIC CENTER CLOSE OUT OVERVIEW**

Staff reported a successful increase in the number of lessons offered and the addition of several new programs. The facility received an overall satisfaction rating of 4.2 out of 5. Attendance peaked in June, largely due to participation from the Avondale Summer Camp. Monthly registration averages for lessons, classes, and teams were reviewed for June, July, and August, along with revenue figures for FY 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Aquatic center events were reviewed, with participant numbers provided for each. Highlights included the Lifeguard Challenge, which featured participants from across the Valley, and the Dunk and Dash event—Avondale's first—drawing 67 participants ages 8 and older, and achieving a 4.9 overall participant rating. The 2025 Outstanding Aquatic Program award nomination for WaveFest was also noted, as recognized by the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association.

External partners included the Tolleson Union High School District, the Michael Phelps Foundation, and various food truck vendors. Staffing structures were explained, including hours and shift allocations by position. The addition of part-time personnel provided flexibility in management, security, and facility maintenance.

A question was raised regarding increased security measures. Tim inquired if this was in response to an incident, and Georgia clarified that the change was a preventative measure.

Growth opportunities were discussed, including expansion in swimming lessons, swim teams, water polo, leadership programs, and pool rentals. A Sound Bath program was introduced as a new offering. When asked about the most popular aquatic feature, staff noted the slides and volleyball play area as guest favorites. A follow-up was suggested to share a link with more information on the Sound Bath program.

The upcoming fall programming includes swimming sessions, swimming lessons, and October events such as the Hispanic Heritage Splash Bash, Floating Sound Bath, and Brrr-ave the Wave.

## **8. FALL EVENT UPDATES**

The meeting covered several upcoming fall community events and city updates. It was noted that the Movie at the Park event scheduled for Saturday, October 11th may be postponed due to weather concerns. The Billy Moore Festival will take place at Festival Fields Park and will feature live entertainment, food vendors, rides, and other attractions. The festival's parade is set for October 18th in Old Town Avondale, and Janet Beason has been named Grand Marshal. Día de los Muertos will be held on October 25th at the Goodyear Farms Historic Cemetery, followed by the Avondale Toyota fundraiser on October 30th, with all proceeds benefiting the Boys and Girls Club of Avondale.

Also on October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Creeping Candy Crawl will be hosted at Alamar Park, where various city departments will participate with themed booths and decorations.

The Veteran Run is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> at Estrella Mountain Community College, with funds raised going toward scholarships for veterans. Mercados and Melodies will feature a children's entrepreneur market, giving youth an opportunity to showcase their handmade crafts, treats, and talents. Winterfest will be held on December 6, with the main stage set in front of the tree and careful planning underway to ensure smooth traffic flow. Avondazzle will run from December 7 through January 1 at the

Civic Center and along Western Avenue, with attendance data monitored through Placer AI.

During the meeting, additional topics of community development were discussed. It was noted that the new development in South Avondale focuses on enhancing community experience and growth, with new impact fees supporting expansion. Lily inquired about transient resources, and it was shared that SONAR and Family Services address those needs while Parks and Recreation continues to partner with the Agua Fria Food Bank.

Tim suggested the idea of organizing a car show for the community, and an inquiry was made about construction near Penny Café, which will be a small strip mall with various retail stores. Leadership concluded with remarks emphasizing continued growth and investment in the Avondale community.

## **9. BYLAW DISCUSSION**

Discussion on meeting schedule requirements in the Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Advisory Board bylaws.

It was discussed that members could potentially arrange an additional meet-up to talk and collaborate outside of regular sessions. The board voted to maintain the current bi-monthly meeting schedule, resulting in six meetings per year, with the option to hold one special meeting if needed.

## **10. INVITATION TO COFFEE WITH THE CITY MANAGER**

"Coffee with the City Manager" is part of Avondale's ongoing efforts to promote open communication and community involvement. The City of Avondale invites residents to join City Manager Ron Corbin and staff from Parks, Recreation and Libraries for "Coffee with the City Manager" on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Friendship Park.

## **11. 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.

A question was asked regarding the construction status of Friendship Dog Park. Corey stated that the park is scheduled to open this coming fall. Stacy and Brittany are currently collaborating with the Municipal Art Committee on an art installation that will be placed in front of the Friendship Dog Park.

Discussion included sending invitations for upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremonies for new projects and confirming the date of the council meeting where Janet will be recognized. Plans were also made for a dessert potluck at the December meeting.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Amy Soucinek

**2nd:** Patti Nielson

**5-0 Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 PM

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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 junta