

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission

09/24/2025

Meeting Date

03/25/2026

Date Minutes Were Approved



Natosha Edmonds (Mar 30, 2026 10:09:20 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.



Mayra Garibo-Davila (Mar 30, 2026 09:17:35 PDT)

Staff Liaison



Avondale

Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center, 995 E. Riley Drive
Aravaipa Conference Room
Avondale, AZ 85323

Physical Access to the Aravaipa Conference Room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance: Louis Matamoros, Natosha Edmonds, Fabian Prado, Michelle McMullen, Jerome Brownlee Jr., Dawn Gerundo

Commission Members Absent: Eddie James, Pearlette Ramos,

City Staff and Guests in Attendance: Neighborhood & Family Services Assistant Director Edith Baltierrez, Administrative Assistant Mayra Garibo-Davila, Avondale Finance & Budget Director Renee Weatherless

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Natosha Edmonds at 6:01 PM.

2. Review and Approval of March 26, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Prado made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Matamoros seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with an Aye by Members present.

3. Bond Election Information

Ms. Renee Weatherspoon gave a presentation on Proposition 404 and Proposition 405, two proposed bond measures to fund major improvement projects in the City of Avondale. These new bond proposals were shaped with input from the Citizen Bond Committee, which helped identify and prioritize the most important projects based on community needs.

Proposition 404 proposes \$68 million for upgrades to parks, recreation facilities, and libraries. Improvements include enhanced trails, shaded areas, and updates at Las Ligas, Friendship, Fred Campbell, and Festival Fields parks. Trailheads and pedestrian access will be expanded, and the nearly 20-year-old Civic Center Library will receive technology and infrastructure upgrades.

Proposition 405 proposes an investment of \$55 million on public safety, providing funding for a new fire and police station, with two apparatus bays, six dorm rooms, and designated police briefing areas. It also includes a new Public Safety Headquarters to consolidate staff currently

spread across multiple buildings. Additionally, a proposed police training facility in Avondale would eliminate the need to send personnel to Glendale for training.

Mr. Matamoros inquired whether the City of Avondale pays a fee to use the training facilities in Glendale. Ms. Weatherspoon confirmed that the City does pay for staff to use those facilities. He then asked whether Avondale might consider renting out its own future training facility to other cities. Ms. Weatherspoon responded that such discussions have not yet occurred, but they may take place in the future.

Mr. Brownlee asked if a location had been identified for the proposed Public Safety Headquarters in Avondale. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that a few potential sites are currently under consideration. He also asked whether the headquarters and the proposed training facility would be located on the same property. Ms. Weatherspoon clarified that they would be on separate sites.

Ms. Weatherspoon also addressed the need to expand the City Court offices, noting that the current space is limited, and expansion would be included in the bond projects.

Ms. McMullen asked whether the bond would result in any additional financial obligation for residents. Ms. Weatherspoon explained that the proposed bonds would not result in a city tax increase. She added that issuing bonds is a fiscally responsible method for funding major capital improvements.

Ms. Weatherspoon explained that voting will be by mail-in ballot only, a change from previous years, with ballots due by 7:00 p.m. on November 4, 2025. She also stated An open house was scheduled for September 29, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at the Avondale Visitor Center to inform the public.

Ms. McMullen asked what materials would the coverings would be made of and whether they would be permanent or temporary. Ms. Weatherspoon stated that the coverings would be made of long-lasting, durable materials.

Mr. Matamoros asked if any parks would need to close during the construction process. Ms. Weatherspoon explained that full park closures are rare, and efforts would be made to reroute or relocate park users as needed. She also added if a closure were necessary, the community would be notified in advance.

Ms. McMullen asked whether the bonds had already been approved. Ms. Weatherspoon clarified that the proposals have been presented to the community, but they must still be approved by voters. Ms. Weatherspoon stated following voter approval, City Council would then determine when to issue the bonds.

Ms. Edmonds expressed her excitement about participating on the bond committee and shared that she looks forward to seeing the outcomes of these proposed improvements.

4. Meeting Reschedule

Mr. Brownlee made a motion to approve the proposed new meeting date of Wednesday, November 5, 2025. Ms. McMullen seconded the motion. The new date was approved unanimously with an Aye by members present.

5. Future Agenda Items

Public Hearing and presentation for the Community Development Block Grant Allocation

6. Announcements

Ms. Baltierrez provided information on the following projects and events:

- **Project Connect** will be held on Thursday, September 25, from 8 AM to 3 PM at Avondale Baptist Church. This event provides resources for individuals experiencing homelessness, including transportation to and from the event, meals, showers, clothing, and referrals to various support services.
- **Billy Moore Days** will take place from Thursday, October 16 through Sunday, October 19, from 6 to 11 PM at Festival Fields Park. The event features carnival rides, a parade, softball and cornhole tournaments, and free transportation via WeRIDE until 8 PM.
- **Make a Difference Day** is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, from 7:30 to 11:30 AM. Volunteers are invited to help plant trees at Michael Anderson School. Registration is required.
- **Creepin' Candy Crawl** will occur on Thursday, October 30, from 5 to 8 PM at Alamar Park. Various city departments will host themed booths and hand out candy for a community focused Trick-or-Treat experience.

8. Call to the Public

None

9. Adjournment

Mr. Prado made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Ms. Gerundo. The motion passed unanimously with an Aye by Members present. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – AZ Complete Health Avondale Resource Center – November 5, 2025.