



Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting
Avondale Civic Center, 11465 West Civic Center Drive, Mojave Room
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 6:00 p.m.
Summary of Action

Commission Members in Attendance

Fabian Prado, Chair
Glenn Coleman
David Iwanski
Oliver Morrison
Melissa Valdez, Vice Chair
Wendy Dormer
Lisa Osborne
Irene Marquez
Delores Robinson

Commission Members Excused

John Raeder
Yvonne Hopper

City Staff and Guests in Attendance

Chris Lopez, NFS Director
Jessica Blazina, Intergovernmental Affairs Assistant Director
Ava Gutwein, Library Manager
Jesse Caufield, Library Operations Manager
Janet Ayala, Community Outreach Manager

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Call to Order | 6:07 PM |
| 2. | Review and Approval of the June 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes | Approved |
| 3. | Election of Officers | Approved |
| 4. | Intergovernmental Relations Division Update | Discussed |
| 5. | Libraries Division Update | Discussed |
| 6. | Future Agenda Items | Discussed |
| 7. | Announcements | Discussed |
| 8. | Call to the Public | None |
| 9. | Adjournment | 7:19 PM |



Neighborhood and Family Services Commission Meeting
Avondale Civic Center, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive, Mojave Conference Room
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 6:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Commission Members in Attendance

Glenn Coleman
David Iwanski
Oliver Morrison
Irene Marquez
Lisa Osborne
Delores Robinson
Wendy Dormer
Fabian Prado, Chair
Melissa Valdez, Vice Chair

Commission Members Excused

John Raeder
Yvonne Hopper

City Staff and Guests in Attendance

Chris Lopez, NFS Director
Jessica Blazina, Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs
Ava Gutwein, Library Manager
Jesse Caufield, Operations Manager
Janet Ayala, Community Outreach Manager
Paula Swenson, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

The Neighborhood and Family Services Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Fabian Prado at 6:07 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of June 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Iwanski seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Election of Officers

Mr. Iwanski made a motion to nominate Mr. Prado to continue to serve as Chairperson for the 2019 calendar year. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. Mr. Prado accepted the nomination and was appointed Chairperson for the 2019 calendar year by acclamation. Mr. Morrison nominated Mr. Coleman for Vice Chair. Mr. Coleman declined the nomination. Mr. Coleman nominated Mr. Morrison. Mr. Iwanski seconded the motion. Mr. Morrison accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous for Mr. Morrison to serve as Vice Chair for the 2019 calendar year.

4. Intergovernmental Relations Division Update

Ms. Blazina presented a legislative update to Members and explained that intergovernmental relations staff lobby at Federal and State levels. Their mission is to advance and protect the interest of their cities as represented by the Mayor and Council. Intergovernmental staff work closely with the following organizations: Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), League of Arizona Cities and Towns, National League of Cities, Luke Forward, State of Arizona, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA One for Water), Valley Metro and Westmarc. Ms. Blazina described past lobbying for Luke AFB (Luke) to stay open and to be taken off the federal cut list. They acquired the F-35 jet contract and continue to be one of the largest strategic air command bases to train pilots from all over the world. Luke brings many benefits to the west valley; and provides huge economic boost to our state with a 2.1-billion-dollar industry. The majority of the west valley cities are members of the National League of Cities. They work together to advance legislation across the State. Water issues are the priority for AMWUA, One for Water. Former Council Member Iwanski works closely with the organization and its members to advocate for protection of our water resources. We also work closely with Valley Metro to address public transportation in the west valley. Westmarc explores business and educational opportunities. Ms. Blazina explained that tools for intergovernmental success are: clear goals and guidance from the Mayor, City Council and City Manager; ongoing support and insight from city staff; and excellent relationships with other cities and elected officials. Here in Avondale, we work closely with Congressman Raul Grijalva in the 3rd District to address and advocate for housing and essential human services. This includes discussing funding for rehabilitation and revitalization. Currently, transit options are robust in the west valley: we are working towards developing more. We work closely with our economic development team, who recruit employers and promote working within the community in which you live in. We also lobby with our representatives on Capitol Hill. We discuss Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships federal funding issues. This includes lobbying for additional funding. The City of Avondale is represented at the State Legislature by Representative Diego Espinoza, Senator Lupe Cardenas, and Senator Mark Cardenas. Senator Cardenas will be replaced by Avondale's Council Member Lorenzo Sierra in January 2019. Ms. Blazina described four bills that were in the last legislative session that would of interest to the Commission. House Bill 2371 (HB2371) regards mobile food truck vendors and state licensure. This bill originally contained several provisions that were not acceptable to cities and towns and is an example of a bill that was negotiated throughout the session with the bill sponsor and various stakeholders. The troublesome provisions were removed, and the bill was signed by the Governor. Senate Bill 1032 (SB1032) regards outdoor advertising prohibitions, which would have prohibited advertising that promotes the sale of a substance that is prohibited under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. This bill was assigned to the committee; however, it did not receive a hearing and died. Senate Bill 1261 (SB1261) regards texting while driving. It would have prohibited texting while driving for all drivers. Currently, state statute prohibits texting while driving for those under the age of 18. This bill passed committee; however, it was not heard before the full Senate and died. Senate Bill 1041 (SB1041) regards restrictions with sex offenders and victims. This bill provides additional protection for victims of sex abuse. It prohibits sex offenders from knowingly establish residency within 1,000 feet of the real property on which their victim resides. This bill was signed by the Governor. Ms. Blazina stated that they work closely with Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Clint Hickman of District 4 and Steve Gallardo of District 5. They provide assistance to us with land areas in their respective districts that need to be protected. Ms. Blazina discussed governmental learning opportunities with residents who go to Avondale's Citizen's Academy. Ms. Blazina inquired of questions or concerns and gave contact information to those who wish to be included on listservs with future legislative updates.

Mr. Iwanski inquired if Ms. Blazina had any updates on the water legislation that was to be passed. Ms. Blazina stated that last year, the Governor's Office convened a task force to discuss the inevitable shortage of water in the Colorado River. Time is nearing a point for us all to get together to discuss the water shortage and to protect our supply. Mr. Coleman inquired if a project such as Luke AFB will go

back to the slate for budget cuts. Ms. Blazina stated that acquiring F-35 jets contract gave us some breathing room.

5. Libraries Division Update

Ms. Ava Gutwein presented an update on the libraries' division activities. Introductions were made to the Commission: Jesse Caufield, Operations Manager and Janet Ayala, Community Outreach Manager. Mr. Lopez explained that the libraries were most recently moved from Parks & Recreations to the Neighborhood & Family Services department. City leadership recognized that functions and activities of libraries have grown, and that many of the services fit well within the Neighborhood & Family Services general goals and objectives. Ms. Gutwein discussed trends from the State Library statistics and provided the link for review: <https://azlibrary.gov/libdev/programs-services-and-tools/arizona-public-library-statistics>. Ms. Gutwein explained that library trends and statistics are a valuable resource for staff. They tell us the story of how libraries are evolving. Traditional measures for success are trending down. People are looking for different things than what they did in the past. Technological advancement has driven down physical item trends; electrical items are trending up. Public computer usage is down as well due to the accessibility of wi-fi. There are a variety of digital literacy applications available for students to access on their phones and/or tablets, which means that our library visits are trending down as well. However, programming numbers are up. Ten years ago, e-books came about, which gave libraries a challenge to keep up with societal trends. We strive to keep up and stay current with digital technology. Libraries have broadened their purpose and offer community space that include conference rooms for meetings. We do not charge non-profits to meet at the library. Children's programming and activities have trended up. We have diversified our staff to include other services that library science, recognizing a need for community outreach and human services. That need prompted us to explore ways to build relationships and go out into the public versus them coming to us. Currently, we have two facilities: the Sam Garcia Library on Western Avenue, and the Civic Center Library, located on the Civic Center complex. Both are relatively new, modern libraries. During fiscal year 18, the libraries circulated 226,445 physical items. We have books, CDs, audiobooks, a Beyond Books collection, digital items, DVDs, magazines and periodicals. Our Beyond Books collection includes sports equipment, games, STEAM kits, outdoor equipment and other fun stuff, which is different from most libraries. We also have culture passes to attend various venues at no cost or less cost. We strive to provide programming to all age groups. Most of our core audience is children under five years of age. We have programs in place that include come and play, teen volunteer days, craft groups, Soulful Expressions mic nights, book clubs, and monthly writers' workshops. In addition to our regularly scheduled programs, we have special programs that include summer reading for various ages, a STEAM Fest, specialty story times that include our city staff who operate our sanitation and recycling trucks, work at the police and fire stations and in our community garden. We hold teddy bear picnics and murder mystery nights, too. We have two physical branches and a virtual branch. We have Hoopla, Overdrive, Zinio, and Freegal subscriptions. Currently, we are in the Southwest Valley Library Consortium that gives us access to many choices. Our operating budget is 1.7 million dollars. Virtual patron visits are high. We are able to register residents in all cities with library cards. For residents outside of the City of Avondale, we receive revenue of \$25 per person back from the County. New library initiatives include community outreach with a mobile library trailer. Our goal is to reach all neighborhoods. Read 365 is an all-year- long reading program. We visit various school districts and issue student library cards to encourage students to visit and use the library. Hours of operation at the Civic Center Library are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. We do have some unstaffed hours as well. We are looking at changing our hours to help serve the community when it's best for them. Mr. Iwanski inquired if staff were looking survey the public again for hours of operations. Ms. Gutwein stated that we are looking at various venues for input. Ms. Gutwein explained usage statistics and size of the buildings. The Civic Center Library has with more materials due to size; however, we have courier service that delivers at both branches daily. Mr. Iwanski stated that he thinks it may be warranted to do another survey with the public for hours of operation. Mr. Coleman inquired of the measures we are taking with statistics indicating that

in-person traffic is down. Ms. Gutwein stated that we are working with various apartment complexes, schools and various other contacts including Mercy House to make sure that the public knows the opportunities available at the libraries. Mr. Iwanski inquired if Phoenix Children's Hospital had been approached. Ms. Gutwein stated that we are focusing on generating a variety of partnerships and foot service with the general public. Mr. Iwanski inquired of how the mobile trailer process was going. Ms. Gutwein stated that we are hoping to have an opening by April, Spring timeframe. Mr. Prado stated that as a teacher, he is encouraged to hear that we work through the schools and classrooms to get cards in the hands of students; and that we teach students how to access the library and books. He likes that it's right at their fingertips.

6. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Lopez stated that future meetings would include revitalization and youth and community engagement updates, including volunteerism on special projects' events. Mr. Lopez inquired if Members were interested in any other special topics for the calendar year 2019. Mr. Iwanski inquired if Members would be interested in hearing an update on water and wastewater activities, stating that it would be a good opportunity to learn about supply and demand along with future projections on securing Avondale's water supply; and an update on Superfunds. The Commission agreed unanimously that they'd be interested in receiving a future informative presentation on both items from Public Works staff. Mr. Lopez will follow up on the request.

7. Announcements

Mr. Lopez announced that Ms. Sandy Lopez accepted the position of Neighborhood Revitalization Manager. The Winter Fest will be held at the Civic Center Complex on Saturday, December 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. The event is family-friendly. Photo opportunities with Santa, food and sweet treats and other holiday entertainment will be available, including a winter snow zone and an ice-skating rink. A tree lighting ceremony will be led by Mayor Weise and other special guests. The Hometown Holidays event will be held on Friday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Care1st Avondale Resource Center. For more information, please call 623.333.2703.

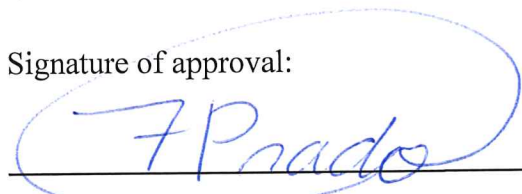
8. Call to the Public

None

9. Adjournment

Mr. Iwanski made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Mr. Coleman. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. on November 28, 2018.

Signature of approval:



Fabian Prado, Chair

Next meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Avondale City Hall – February 27, 2019