

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

06/10/2026

Meeting Date

08/12/2026

Date Minutes Were Approved

Lilly Lazo

[Lilly Lazo \(Aug 15, 2026 20:25:55 PDT\)](#)

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 \(Aug 13, 2026 09:43:10 PDT\)](#)

Staff Liaison





City of Avondale

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting

Board Members

Lilly Lazo, Chair

Amy Soucinek, Vice Chair

Ivan Carreno, Board Member

LaChrisha Dourisseau, Board Member

Timothy Kroll, Board Member

Patti Nielson, Board Member

Kenneth Shoaff Board Member

Jay D Koenig, Alternate Member

Parks, Recreation & Libraries Department

Corey Larriva, Director

Stacy Swainston, Assistant Director

Mariana Manzanarez, Administrative Assistant



Parks, Recreation & Libraries Advisory Board Meeting Notice & Agenda Wednesday, June 10, 2026

MESQUITE CONFERENCE ROOM | 11465 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE | AVONDALE AZ, 85323

Request to Speak: Anyone wishing to speak regarding items listed on the agenda or under unscheduled public appearance should submit a Request to Speak online at <http://www.avondaleaz.gov/requesttospeak> prior to consideration of that agenda item.

REGULAR MEETING 6:00 PM

Physical access to the conference room will be available 30 minutes prior to the meeting.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIR Time – 6:00 pm**
- 2. ROLL CALL AND STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY THE STAFF LIAISON**

Present: Vice Chair Soucinek, Boardmember Dourisseau, Boardmember Kroll, Boardmember, Boardmember Koenig, Boardmember Shoaff, Boardmember Nielson, Boardmember Carreno (6:05pm)

Absent: Chair Lazo

Staff Present: Corey Larriva, Stacy Swainston, Mariana Manzanarez, Dominic DeCono, Jen Stein

- 3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES** (Time is limited per person. Please state your name.)

Corey introduced new Assistant City Manager Jen Stein to the board.

- 4. MINUTES**

The Board will consider the approval of the April 8th, 2026, meeting minutes. The Board will take appropriate action.

Motion: Boardmember Kroll

2nd: Boardmember Nielson

Approved 7-0

- 5. FRIENDSHIP PARK PLAYGROUND REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

The Parks, Recreation and Libraries Board will review and discuss board member input regarding playground concepts.

Corey provided an update to the board on a planned project to upgrade a playground structure at Friendship Park. He touched on concepts of the new playground that the department is looking to install which will be ADA accessible, be fenced and have elements that will accommodate users of all ages. Corey went through multiple concepts that were provided by vendors and sought feedback from the board to better understand what they would like to see from the project.

First Concept

Boardmember Kroll asked if there are drinking fountains near where the playground is, which Corey confirmed there is. Boardmember Nielson also mentioned that the designs presented did a good job improving shade at the space.

Second Concept

Boardmember Dourisseau inquired about the amount of seating around the playground which Corey showed is included in the more technical renderings. She also mentioned that seating being closer to the playground structure would be beneficial.

Vice Chair Soucinek expressed that 2 seating areas in the playground are not enough accommodate the shade and seating needs for the current use of the playground, which Corey said staff will be taking into consideration for feedback. She also expressed that she liked the design went up to 12 feet for the slide for older kids, but not that the fact that the accessible slide went up to 3 feet, which Boardmember Nielson agreed with. Both members expressed support for pour in play as well because the surface has more give and cushion in the case of a fall. Boardmember Carreno also expressed that improved accessibility was also important for the design that the City ultimately chooses.

Third Concept

Boardmember Dourisseau asked about understanding what a belt system is, which Corey described provides a system where a child of any capability could use to reach higher on the playground structure if they followed the system. Boardmember Carrano, while he loved the thought behind the design, expressed concern that the belt system on the structure would potentially burn a child trying to use the system and recommended not moving forward with it. Boardmember Nielson also asked if the structure was shaded, which he confirmed it is not.

Boardmember Dourisseau also expressed concern that the vendor that provided the concept was not able to meet several of the requirements the City asked of the vendors to provide, to which Corey provided feedback that the vendor was the first to respond to the city's inquiries and they are open to make changes as needed.

Boardmember Shoaff and Carrano asked about safety concerns on the slides of the concept, which Corey went into more detail about anti-climbing blockers that were placed on slides, higher requirements as the slide goes higher and that the department will ensure the playground selected meets all safety requirements.

Vice Chair Soucinek did express concern on the final concept that there still was not enough seating presented for parents of the users, which Corey said staff will absolutely consider.

Corey asked if there were any specific concepts that the board didn't want to move forward with, which the board collectively agreed that the first and second concept were more preferable than the third.

Boardmember Koenig asked if there was a maintenance plan for the sandbox because of the concern of animals using. The board then agreed there were several disadvantages with the sand and preferred if the city did not move forward with it.

Vice Chair Soucinek also pointed out that limited pour in play would cause an overuse of wheelchairs because of the need to use it, which could increase maintenance costs.

6. PARK PROJECTS

Staff will provide an overview and updates regarding ongoing park improvement and development projects.

Corey gave an update on several projects that are ongoing within the City such as the improvements at Dessie Lorenz Park, the construction of Donatela Park, and continued improvements to the dog park at Friendship Park.

7. NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

Staff will provide an overview of planned programs and recognition efforts for staff and community during the month of July.

Stacy provided an update to the board about National Parks & Recreation Month, which will include a proclamation at the July 6th City Council Meeting, as well as something called the Team in Green games that the department does for team building and collaboration. The department will also be able to participate in optional activities such as an Arizona Diamondback game sponsored by the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association.

8. DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

The Board and Staff will discuss and complete a SWOT analysis to help identify opportunities for continued improvement in service delivery and community engagement.

Stacy held a SWOT planning exercise with the board to better understand the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the department.

After completing the exercise, Stacy polled the board to talk about trends that went through each area. Boardmember Kroll talked about a lack of parking at another of facilities and events, which Stacy responded how the staff have used creative methods to find ways to make that happen.

Boardmember Nielson mentioned retention of staff is a real threat which the board agreed with. Boardmember Carrano encouraged more adaptive recreation. Vice Chair Soucinek mentioned a sensory break at events as an opportunity. Boardmember Dourisseau also mentioned an opportunity to improve things is marketing across all areas. Boardmember Koenig agreed and expanded on this point by mentioning specific marketing tactics the city could use that were less costly.

Boardmember Carrano also mentioned a campaign on TikTok that Goodyear did and mentioned that is something the city can do. He also mentioned about partnering with local colleges to possibly have interns assist with the social media campaigns.

Vice Chair Soucinek also talked about aligning library program activities with school times to better improve participation.

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.

Vice Chair Soucinek asked if a garden would be possible to implement at Civic Center Library. Corey mentioned that while there is not a community garden going in at Civic Center Library, Estrella Mountain Community College has one and that it is something they want to bring more visitors too. Corey also mentioned that Dessie Lorenz Park will have a plantar garden when its upgrades are finished as well.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Boardmember Kroll

2nd: Boardmember Nielson

Approved 7-0

Adjourned at 7:58 pm

Personas con necesidades especiales de accesibilidad, incluyendo personas con impedimentos de vista o oído, o con necesidad de impresión grande o intérprete, deben comunicarse con la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 623-333-1000 o TDD 623-333-0010 al mínimo dos días hábiles antes de la junta.