



APAC Mission

To advise and make informed recommendations to the Arvada City Council on both future and immediate park related projects, land acquisition, modifications to recreational facilities, park and trail development and redevelopment, capital funding issues, and other related issues.

(From Rules and Procedures Rev. Dec 2016, B1)

Arvada Parks Advisory Committee (APAC) Meeting Agenda

Date: Jun 10, 2026 , 6:30 PM

Location: In-person Meeting (Anne Campbell Room; link to Google Meet on [Park Advisory Committee | Arvada, CO](#))

Minutes Recorder: Stephanie Redding

Membership Attendance:

Member	Term Exp	Present	Member	Term Exp	Present
Derrick Kuhl [Staff]	n/a	☒	Sarah Ruen	2027	☒
Hannah Szakal [Chair]	2027	☒	Greg Miller	2027	☐
Abigail Griffith [Vice-Chair]	2027	☒	David Maxwell	2028	☒
Stephanie Redding [Secretary]	2029	☒	Nancy Rogers	2028	☒
John Casillas	2029	☒	David Yonkie (remote)	2028	☒
Karen Gerbatsch	2028	☒	Matt Young	2028	☐
Karen Miller	2029	☒			

Agenda Items

1.0 Call to Order (2 Min)

- 1.1 Called to order at 6:32 pm.

2.0 Public Comment (3 Min each)

- 2.1 Lynn Clemens, President of Westwood Villas HOA, commented on the APAC letter to City Council regarding the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan (CASAP).
- 2.1.1. Because of the planned development in west Arvada from Candelas to Fairmont, Lynn Clemens expressed concern about the CASAP's potential implications on:
- 2.1.1.1. Safe water supply
- 2.1.1.2. Multi-modal pathways. She noted that there are not a lot of options, particularly considering the small number of roads in west Arvada. For example, heavy traffic on McEntyre would not support successful implementation of a bike lane.
- 2.1.1.3. Quantity of traffic, which may not support a reduction in greenhouse gases.

- 2.1.2. To support these observations, Lynn Clemens has compiled a list of proposed developments, which includes Avalon, the Creek, Howard T Ranch, Golden Technology Park, Trailstone, Newtown, Candelas Point, Quantum Commons, potential trail station, development at 93 & 72, and three large parcels to the NE. Estimated traffic from the developments would total 38,970 daily trips. Where are all of these cars going to go, where will multimodal traffic go, and how will water be supplied? Ms. Clemens indicated that she has communicated with County, City, CDOT, and DRCOG regarding this matter. In addition, she encourages coordination with transportation planning, and indicated an intent to follow up with the Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC).
- 2.1.3. Lynn Clemens noted that residents throughout these neighborhoods are concerned about potential impacts.
- 2.1.4. Derrick Kuhl clarified that carrying capacity is determined by the City's Transportation Team.
- 2.1.5. Hannah Szakal clarified that the letter is in draft form, and may require clarification related to multimodal path scope.

3.0 Approval of May Minutes (3 Min) 202605- May APAC Meeting Minutes

- 3.1 Updated to indicate Nancy Rogers as excused.
- 3.2 Note that term end dates were updated on the May meeting minutes. Several APAC members took over previous member's terms.
- 3.3 Karen Gerbatsch motioned to approve with correction and David Maxwell seconded.

4.0 Speaker: Adelle Burton, Special Events and Public Art Manager and Liaison for Festivals Commission and Arts and Culture Commission (20 min)

- 4.1 150/250 subcommittee
 - 4.1.1. [Community Quilt Challenge | Arvada, CO](#)
 - 4.1.1.1. The Quilt Challenge will draw on the design of historical flour bags.
 - 4.1.1.2. Lauren Kingsland has also been working on a community quilt to be displayed publicly (City Hall, Library, etc). They are exploring themes beyond the water tower, such as the kite festival.
 - 4.1.1.3. Looking to incorporate small "easter eggs" for folks to look for, such as the water tower, magpie, etc.
 - 4.1.1.4. Karen Gerbatsch suggested Ralston Creek.
 - 4.1.1.5. Karen Miller suggested celery.
- 4.2 Arts & Culture
 - 4.2.1. [Short Stories for Arvada's 150/250 Celebration](#)
 - 4.2.2. They are also collecting community stories in collaboration with the short story dispenser, a kiosk that moves around to various businesses that presents stories of different length.
 - 4.2.3. Electrical Box Wraps
 - 4.2.3.1. These art-covered wraps are a pilot project with Arvada West for 5 boxes along Ralston Road.
 - 4.2.3.2. Installation anticipated in July.
 - 4.2.4. A mural near Long Lake is planned for late summer/fall 2026. A call for entries is forthcoming.
 - 4.2.5. Derrick Kuhl noted an internal push on beautification, aesthetics, and accessibility for Olde Town Revitalization. Olde Town Revitalization Murals are anticipated late summer/fall 2026.
 - 4.2.6. Adelle Burton requested assistance in identifying 2 potential sculpture locations within parks for pieces that are currently at the Arvada Center.
 - 4.2.6.1. Similar to parks access, they are aiming for public art within a 10-minute walk of all residents. Scale ranges from small to large (wrapped traffic boxes count!)
 - 4.2.6.2. Public art map recently launched here: [Public Art](#)
- 4.3 Festivals

Reminder: Please Submit New Agenda Items the first Monday of each month.

- 4.3.1. Summerfest wrapped this past weekend, raised approx. \$8k for partner organizations. Adelle Burton noted that Summerfest had somewhat smaller attendance this year because of high temperatures.
- 4.3.2. Extra kite festival tees are available.
- 4.3.3. Movies around town will occur throughout the summer and fall. The events include ice cream, live music, and proposed incorporation of poetry slam/short stories. [Movies Around Town | Arvada, CO](#)
- 4.3.4. High Tea for Seniors will occur Saturday, August 8 at the Apex Community Rec Center.
 - 4.3.4.1. The age requirement was recently lowered to 85+. Last year there were approximately 80 attendees.
- 4.3.5. Hannah Szakal requested that Arts and Festivals share volunteer opportunities, especially for events in parks so that APAC can increase community outreach and involvement.

5.0 2026 APAC Goals (10 minutes)

5.1 2026 APAC Goals - Established January 2026

- 5.1.1. *Conduct one year end review by EOY 2026 through City Council workshop or other means regarding APAC work during 2026.*
 - 5.1.1.1. *Adelle clarified that Council is working to schedule a regular review with every commission.*
- 5.1.2. *Identify areas where APAC can collaborate on city projects through enhancing communication and understanding of city requests and objectives.*
- 5.1.3. *Remain informed and advise on updates to the 2026 Arvada Parks, Trails, and Open Space and Lake Arbor master plans.*
- 5.1.4. *APAC members, either on their own or in a group, visit 4 parks throughout the year to give feedback regarding the park during the regularly scheduled APAC meetings.*
 - 5.1.4.1. *Hannah suggested reading through goals and checking progress each meeting.*
 - 5.1.4.2. [APAC Park Site Visit App](#)
 - 5.1.4.3. The group reviewed the app and viewed recent park surveys.
 - 5.1.4.4. Hannah Szakal recommended 2 park visits per month for all APAC members to cover all parks this year.
 - 5.1.4.5. John Casillas can make an addition to the survey form to identify if there is an opportunity for public art.

6.0 Upcoming Speakers and Requests (10 minutes)

- 6.1 Hannah Szakal will share a survey to prioritize speakers for upcoming months.
- 6.2 Previous survey responses or suggested speakers:
 - 6.2.1. Native area maintenance and overview, pollinator project
 - 6.2.1.1. Superintendent of Arvada Golf Courses Joe Kunze
 - 6.2.1.2. Manager of Parks Maintenance Division Steve Gustafson
 - 6.2.2. Trail signage overview
 - 6.2.3. Mayor Lauren Simpson, other Council Member(s), City Manager, or Deputy City Manager
 - 6.2.4. Bike regulations
 - 6.2.5. Brady Portfield-Finn, Neighborhood Coordinator for City Manager's Office (July 8)
 - 6.2.6. Emergency Manager or Fire Protection District representative
 - 6.2.7. City Forester
 - 6.2.8. CPW
 - 6.2.8.1. Wildlife Management

7.0 Sub-Committee Updates (15 min)

- 7.1 Sub-Committee General Updates

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- 7.1.1. Volunteer and Community Outreach Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 7.1.1.1. David Yonkie encouraged getting out and recording parks in the recently created app.
 - 7.1.1.2. The group confirmed that the APAC personal donation can be sent to Majestic View tree fund rather than being put towards a commemorative brick.
 - 7.1.1.3. Karen Miller and David Maxwell attended the Volunteer Appreciation Event. They noted that it was a great event, with good food and music.
- 7.1.2. Best Practices Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 7.1.2.1.  2026 - DRAFT APAC Letter of Support for CASAP
 - 7.1.2.2. Abigail Griffith attended the June 10, 2026 Kiwanis meeting and shared that the Vice Chair of ASAC was in attendance to promote the plan. She noted that City Council is voting on the plan next Tuesday.
 - 7.1.2.3. Hannah Szakal requested clarification on multi-modal pathways. Derrick Kuhl noted that this primarily relates to on-road routes.
 - 7.1.2.4. Sarah Ruen identified a concern related to cost and implementation of greenhouse gas reduction. The CASAP incorporates a mix of high level goals and line items that may support future funding requests, but will need to be weighed with other concerns in the budget.
 - 7.1.2.5. John Casillas motioned for a vote on the letter, which was unanimously approved.
 - 7.1.2.6. APAC will share the signed letter with Derrick Kuhl to be sent to City Council.
- 7.1.3. Golf Subcommittee (5 min)
 - 7.1.3.1. David Maxwell took his nephews to the Lake Arbor golf course restaurant to good reviews.
 - 7.1.3.2. David Maxwell has also contacted Sean Star, who confirmed that the APAC Golf Subcommittee should develop an article for the Arvada Report (½ page, 300 words) with a draft by June 18.
 - Focus on:
 - 7.1.3.2.1. What makes the restaurants a good place to dine?
 - 7.1.3.2.2. Why considered hidden gems?
 - 7.1.3.2.3. How did he discover the restaurants?
 - 7.1.3.2.4. Sean Star will arrange for a photographer to meet the group at the Lake Arbor golf course restaurant on June 15 at 7 am.
 - 7.1.3.2.5. Derrick Kuhl indicated that his preference is not to talk about staff/management, but instead to provide perspective on the restaurants as Arvada residents (this way, the article will also not require APAC approval).

8.0 Updates/Good of the Order (anything new from members) (5-10 min)

- 8.1 Abigail Griffith has been nominated by APAC to be the City of Arvada Comprehensive Plan - Community Advisory Group representative.
- 8.2 The July APAC meeting will be held at Ralston Central Park.
 - 8.2.1. The group confirmed it will be a shortened outdoor meeting and walking tour, followed by an optional social hour at the new Arvada Beer Garden (across the street).
 - 8.2.2. Address will be included in the July meeting agenda.
 - 8.2.3. Parking is available at Ralston Central Park.
- 8.3 David Maxwell recently volunteered at the May 28 Memorial Park Honor Garden ribbon cutting. The ceremony included an Air Force flyover and memorial speeches for each of the officers, followed by a tour of the garden.
- 8.4 David Maxwell noted that the Allen House will be open to the public from 11-2 on Saturday. Adelle Burton indicated that the Allen House is being taken over as a research library by the Arvada Historical Society.

9.0 City Staff Updates (15 Min) - Derrick Kuhl

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- 9.1.1. The construction punchlist is not yet complete for the Honor Garden. Once these items have been resolved, VCN will take over maintenance.
- 9.1.2. Colorado Front Range Trail (CRFT)
 - 9.1.2.1. Construction documents have been approved and Council approved Phase 2 for construction. The Arvada portion of the trail is planned to be complete by June 2027.
 - 9.1.2.2. The east portion of the trail includes the Brookes Stone Circles archeological site, which has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with associated tribes is forthcoming and VCN has been the primary contact with Indigenous tribes and nations.
- 9.1.3. Gold Strike Park “ground blessing” date is being determined. Solicitation is ongoing.
- 9.1.4. Summer camps are ongoing at the golf courses, and the courses are busy.
- 9.1.5. No updates this month on the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan; RFP not issued yet.
- 9.1.6. Lake Arbor Master Plan
 - 9.1.6.1. Budget presentation to the City Manager and Finance Department is planned for June 16. The presentation will focus on conversion of the golf course to 12 holes, driven by work with the Stormwater Division.
 - 9.1.6.2. There are floodplain concerns related to Lake Arbor. An updated floodplain map will likely get approved by FEMA in the next 6-7 years. The goal is to develop a preferred conceptual design addressing stormwater issues.
 - 9.1.6.3. The City is continuing to discuss safety in the adjacent neighborhood and creating defined boundaries between course and community, as well as modernizing the facility and making more people aware of the public facilities.
 - 9.1.6.4. The City intends to capitalize on opportunities related to water conservation and ecological benefits. Denver’s City Park golf course renovations were also driven by stormwater renovation, and many strategies were drawn from that previous project.
 - 9.1.6.5. Sarah Ruen asked about public input on the golf course changes. Derrick Kuhl indicated that there are more financial tools to pay for the golf course renovations, while there are no revenue bonds attached to the pool and community center master plan. Derrick Kuhl can recirculate design information. Extensive community engagement will still be required to move forward. Expenditures may start in budget year 2028.
- 9.1.7. The City’s golf course supervisor will be attending a Commonground Golf Course walkthrough with Aurora and Denver City Council members and state representatives. The walkthrough will include review of native plantings, Audubon habitat, water conservation, etc.

10.0 Adjournment (1 min)

- 10.1 Sarah Ruen motioned to adjourn, David Maxwell seconded.