



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: Jul 8, 2026 , 6:30 PM

Location: In-person Meeting (Ralston Central Park 5850 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80002)

Minutes Recorder: Stephanie Redding

Membership Attendance:

Member	Term Exp	Present	Member	Term Exp	Present
Ryan Stevenson [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	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 6:34 pm.
- 1.2 Hannah Szakal provided a review of the meeting structure.
 - 1.2.1. Public comment limited to 3 minutes each.
 - 1.2.2. Non-agenda items can be discussed after the meeting or put on the agenda for next month.
 - 1.2.3. All speakers and topics will adhere to time limits.
 - 1.2.4. Sub-Committee Updates will follow time limits or submit a request for a longer timeframe ahead of the meeting.
 - 1.2.5. The goal is to end meetings prior to 8:15 PM.

2.0 Public Comment (3 Min each)

- 2.1 Lynn Clemens provided an update from the recent City Council meeting where Morningstar was denied a development reconsideration, which will limit construction along 64th.

- 2.1.1. She also asked City Council what the “jewel” will be in northwest Arvada. She expressed concern that all of the land will be given to developers, and wants to see a great venue in the area such as an amphitheater or pavilion.
- 2.1.2. Lynn Clemens also spoke at the Candelas rezoning meeting, which discussed development that would add over 9,000 trips per day on State Highways 93 and 72. Northwest Arvada is very concerned about traffic loads, which may exceed 39,000 daily trips based on proposed development. She will be reaching out to Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) and Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

3.0 Approval of June Minutes (3 Min) 202606- June APAC Meeting Minutes

- 3.1 Karen Miller motioned to approve. John Casillas seconded.

4.0 Ralston Central Park Walking Tour - Ryan (25 minutes)

- 4.1 The playground surfacing at Ralston Central Park was installed before summer start 2026. The community expressed concern that this park was “leapfrogged” in front of others, however Ryan Stevenson emphasized that this was a repair rather than capital improvement, and that the condition of this park is highly visible due to its location.
- 4.2 The City partners with Apex to care for the splash pad. Splash pad replacement will be considered as a capital improvement in the future. The splash pad uses recycled water, which is why it is able to stay on during the drought.
- 4.3 Public art will be installed at adjacent Hoskinson Park.
- 4.4 Neighbors have expressed concern about people experiencing houselessness at Ralston Central Park, particularly at night. Ryan Stevenson emphasizes that the park is for everybody and therefore they avoid removing items right away and using benches that discourage sleeping. The City receives a lot of support from the police department to address this issue.
- 4.5 Ryan Stevenson noted that drug paraphernalia is becoming more common at Ralston Central Park and at the sports complexes.
 - 4.5.1. Ensuring the safety of city workers is a priority.
 - 4.5.2. AskArvada is the way to report any problematic activity.
 - 4.5.3. Sarah Ruen asked about best practices for addressing this topic drawn from other municipalities. Ryan Stevenson has reached out and is awaiting information.
- 4.6 Ryan Stevenson noted that a recent report indicated the City is under its current drought water allocation.
- 4.7 Visitors to the Beer Garden frequently park vehicles at Ralston Central Park. Ryan Stevenson noted that this is typically not an issue, and advocated against a ban on parking at the park.
- 4.8 Fireworks cancellation was generally supported city-wide. The City is considering an alternate date, and noted that Veteran’s Day is not likely to be the final choice. Several APAC members advocated for drone shows.

5.0 2026 APAC Goals (5 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. Ryan Stevenson connected with City Council on the topic of a year end review. APAC will identify a timeframe.
 - 5.1.1.2. City Council recommends using the model that they have been following with the Arts and Culture Commission.
 - 5.1.1.2.1. The Arts and Culture Commission was on the agenda for a council business meeting and gave a short presentation.
 - 5.1.1.2.2. Ryan Stevenson will follow up on the details of the format and timing.
 - 5.1.2. *Identify areas where APAC can collaborate on city projects through enhancing communication and understanding of city requests and objectives.*

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

- 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. The intent of this goal is to provide quantifiable feedback from APAC at the end of the year.
 - 5.1.4.2. During the August meeting, we will provide an overview of the process to Ryan Stevenson and will review new data.

6.0 Upcoming Speakers and Requests (10 minutes)

- 6.1 Top priorities from the recent poll are:
 - 6.1.1. Native area maintenance overview, Superintendent of Arvada Golf Courses, or manager of Parks Maintenance Division
 - 6.1.2. Mayor Lauren Simpson, other Council member(s), City Manager, or Deputy City Manager
 - 6.1.3. Brady Portfield-Finn, Neighborhood Coordinator for City Manager's Office
 - 6.1.4. Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Management

7.0 Sub-Committee Updates (15 min)

- 7.1 Sub-Committee General Updates
 - 7.1.1. Volunteer and Community Outreach Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 7.1.1.1. Keep visiting parks and doing the survey! APAC members are encouraged to do more than 4.
 - 7.1.2. Best Practices Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 7.1.2.1. APAC's letter in support of CASAP was submitted as part of the City Council packet.
 - 7.1.2.2. Ryan Stevenson attended the July 7, 2026 Council meeting and indicated that the CASAP passed unanimously.
 - 7.1.2.3. David Maxwell, who also attended the July 7 meeting, noted that the majority of comments on the CASAP were supportive, and all Council members made a statement in support of elements of the plan. Steve Santos, Sustainability Manager gave a presentation on the plan.
 - 7.1.3. Golf Subcommittee (5 min)
 - 7.1.3.1. Sarah Ruen, Hannah Szakal, David Maxwell, David Yonkie, Karen Gerbatsch, and Karen Miller met for breakfast at the Lake Arbor Golf Course on Monday June 15 to discuss the upcoming article on golf course restaurants. Sean Star met the group for a photo to accompany the article.
 - 7.1.3.2. The draft article highlighting the restaurants as "hidden gems" has been submitted to Sean Star for inclusion in the Arvada Report.

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

- 8.1 Robby Ferrufino Park Rededication
 - 8.1.1. David Maxwell attended the combined park rededication and public engagement event on June 25, 2026.
 - 8.1.2. Playground redesign is ongoing. David Maxwell appreciated the involvement of the design team.
 - 8.1.3. David Maxwell indicated that the rededication focused on Robby Ferrufino was a boy who passed of cancer in the late 80s, who had given away many of the gifts he received.
- 8.2 Derrick Kuhl has resigned from the City of Arvada. Ryan Stevenson will be the new APAC liaison, a responsibility that he shares with other committees.

9.0 City Staff Updates (15 Min)

- 9.1.1. City Council issued a proclamation on July 7 declaring that July is Parks and Recreation Month.
 - 9.1.1.1. The City is also cross-promoting Apex giveaways.

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- 9.1.1.2. List of 31 ways to celebrate 31 days of parks and recreation month
<https://www.arvadaco.gov/912/Park-and-Recreation-Month>
- 9.1.2. Colorado Front Range Trail (CRFT)
 - 9.1.2.1. Construction on the project was held back due to red tailed hawk fledging.
 - 9.1.2.2. Brooks Stone Circles were documented in 2003 and are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The City is working to preserve the site.
- 9.1.3. Gold Strike Park
 - 9.1.3.1. A competitive sealed bid solicitation was issued on June 17. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for July 9 at Gold Strike, with questions due July 16 and proposals due August 11.
 - 9.1.3.2. Approvals are moving forward from the City Attorney office. This phase will allow for fabrication and purchase of playground equipment.
 - 9.1.3.3. The ground blessing is not yet scheduled.
- 9.1.4. Golf and Restaurants Operations
 - 9.1.4.1. Parking is a consistent issue at Westwoods Golf Course because of the amount of activity at the site. To date the course is 3% up on rounds, 10% up on revenue, instructional programs are at an all time high, and tournament events are ahead of last year.
 - 9.1.4.2. Fishing on golf course ponds was frequent this spring. The City is looking for other spaces for fishing to occur, as it should not happen on the golf courses.
 - 9.1.4.3. A fish kill occurred at Westwoods Golf Course for unknown reasons earlier this season. There is no reason for this to be a public health concern.
 - 9.1.4.4. The reorganization process for golf course managers recently completed. They are anticipating hiring a new team soon, and Ryan Stevenson noted that some of the positions have already been filled.
- 9.1.5. Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan
 - 9.1.5.1. VCN is on schedule to develop the project charter and RFP, and are aiming to get the RFP shared by the end of next month.
 - 9.1.5.2. A City Council workshop addressing the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan is scheduled for August 11.
 - 9.1.5.3. Ryan Stevenson requested APAC's notes and presentation on the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan.
- 9.1.6. Lake Arbor Master Plan
 - 9.1.6.1. Presentation to the City Manager office has not yet occurred.
- 9.1.7. Majestic View Nature Center
 - 9.1.7.1. The Frontline Farming lease was removed on June 29, 2026.
 - 9.1.7.2. Ryan Stevenson has left an invitation with them to close out the program or come back to the table.

10.0 Adjournment (1 min)

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