

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
May 28, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Fountain Hills Community Services Advisory Commission was convened at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains in open and public session at 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Vice Chairperson Natalie Varela; Commissioner Stephen Barnes; Commissioner Craig Rudolphy; Commissioner Ron Ruppert

Members Absent: Youth Commissioner Adam Oberg and Chairperson Carey Reddick II

Staff Present: Community Services Director Kevin Snipes and Administrative Assistant Stormy Mazeikis



Post-Production File

Town of Fountain Hills
Community Services Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2026

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VARELA: Okay, we're ready to call the meeting to order and start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

VARELA: All righty, then roll call, please.

MAZEIKIS: Chair Carey Riddick.

Vice Chair, is a vacant position.

Youth Commissioner Adam Oberg.

Commissioner Natalie Varela.

VARELA: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Stephen Barnes.

BARNES: Present.

MAZEIKIS: Commissioner Craig Rudolph.

RUDOLPHY: Present.

MAZEIKIS: And Commissioner Ron Rupert.

RUPERT: Here.

MAZEIKIS: Thank you.

SNIPES: Since we don't have anybody here, I think we're fine.

MAZEIKIS: Yeah.

VARELA: Yeah.

MAZEIKIS: I would just mention it.

VARELA: Okay.

All right. We're going to go on to statement of participation, and then we're going to move on to presentations.

MAZEIKIS: We do not have any presentations today.

VARELA: Okay. And then our consent agenda.

Looks like we're looking for a motion to approve the Community Services Commission verbatim meeting minutes for April 27th, 2026.

RUDOLPHY: So moved.

RUPPERT: Second.

VARELA: All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

VARELA: Okay. Regular agenda.

Discussion and possible action, election of Vice Chairperson.

RUDOLPHY: I nominate Natalie.

BARNES: Second.

RUPERT: Third.

VERELA: Okay. All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

VARELA: Well, thanks, guys.

Okay. Update on the puzzle donor program, please.

SNIPES: We actually got another one purchased last week, right? Another puzzle piece came through?

MAZEIKIS: It was about two weeks ago.

SNIPES: Two weeks ago. And so that puts us up to five total?

MAZEIKIS: Four total.

SNIPES: Darn it, I'm trying. Four total. So we're getting closer to our -- our next round of orders. But yeah, it's good that we're -- we're continuing to sell them and -- and it's starting to really take shape over there. So it looks good.

VARELA: Yes. Great.

Okay. And then update on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

SNIPES: We're coming into our summer months where we're a little bit slower, but we do have -- our summer games are coming up inside of the community center. That's turned into a -- a good showing that we've been getting for those the last couple of years that we've been doing it. They keep increasing in size.

And our Wacky Wet Wednesdays kickoff here in June, and on June 10th will be our first one. And then July 15th, we'll also have one at Four Peaks Park, like we have for the last several years. That's always a hot button item for our kids.

Then our video game tournament is our -- is another event that's been gaining steam. We've done -- this is, I think, our third or fourth one now that we've done. And they're becoming really popular, especially during the summer when it's hot out, and get kids inside to at least get them socializing and playing some games together, and they have a really good time with it.

Then our next big event, where we are always looking for people to -- to help out with, would be our 4th of July event, Fourth at the Fountain. And this year we do have a bigger act than we've had there in the past. We'll be having Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers playing there. They're a fairly good size local band that plays all over Mexico and all over the U.S. as well. So we're really excited that we were able to -- to get them signed up and agree to play our event.

And then our family fun night will also be at the community center July 17th. That's been another event that we're getting more and more people at. Seems like all of our events are starting to grow more and more both locally and with people hearing about it from outside of Fountain Hills and coming to our events. So that's been really good as well.

And then our final summer event is our Back to School Bash on August 8th. And that's over at Four Peaks Park again. I think we're looking at using both sides of the park this year because last year it -- it -- it was pretty busy with the group that we had. So we're looking forward to that as well.

That's about all I have for that right now.

VARELA: Great.

Any questions?

Okay. Commission discussion. Advice to the director.

I'll say I went to the -- the dog park just to walk the other day with a friend. And it was -- the dog park was very busy, but then the rest of the park was really busy, too, and it looked like maybe some kind of soccer thing going, like a practice of some type. So kids on the playground and it was, gosh, probably 6:30 to -- we were there maybe till 8:00. So it was good to see.

SNIPES: Yeah. There's been a -- we have a school that's been using it for practice, as well as one of the traveling teams has been out there practicing. So we're getting more use out there.

We -- we just got done putting in -- I want to say it was 300 tons of a soil mixture to help level up the fields. And -- and it really invigorated the Bermuda out there. And so we're really starting to see some good growth over there, and hoping to get -- have it be back to where -- that it -- it was a few years ago.

We -- we had a -- a good battle with people wanting to do donuts on the turf right after we got done putting a bunch of sand out there. So that helped for a while. And now we're getting it back to where it's a good playable surface for the -- for the kids to use for soccer. So we're excited about that.

VARELA: Any other --

Yep.

RUPPERT: I just want to use this as a platform to -- just to get a few things off of my chest. I brought this up last year involving Golden Eagle between Desert Canyon and Palisades. The stretch that's there. This isn't directed towards any -- anybody in this room.

I just want to say a few things that I think everybody kind of knows, but it involves the parks, which is part of our commission here. Because Golden Eagle obviously has three different access and recess [sic] out of their parking lots there. So I think it's appropriate for me to just spout.

The 3/10 of a mile or so -- it's approximately 500 yards that goes between Desert Canyon and Palisades. There's a lot of things happening in that stretch right there. And just, you know, we all know about it. But there's three park -- parking lots and entries out, all on the north side.

There's a loading driveway for the back of the high school that gets deliveries for the high school and the middle school. There's the drop off between the middle school and the high school, right next to it where it has two -- one incest [sic] -- incest [sic] and one outscest [sic] there.

You have pickleball traffic. You have school traffic. There are four median cut-throughs in that same 500 yard stretch.

On weekends, where this first came up, was the parking along both sides of the street for the tournaments, as far as overflow parking. That's not illegal. But what scares me, because I live there and I work there, is the kids that run between the cars to try to cross the street as -- in their excitement.

I guarantee you that 90 percent of these people that come here don't live here. So they're not very familiar with that whole area that I'm referring to.

There are two curves in that road. One goes one way, and one goes the other way. There are trees and bushes that are on -- on those curves and -- which restricts vision. All this with the speedway that is Golden Eagle in the middle of it. And these people, believe me, fly up and down that street on both sides.

You know, all the above, like I said, is in a 500 yard stretch, which isn't very far. You know, what can we do about this as a commission? Well, I think that we can write a letter to anybody that wants to listen, whether it be the counsel, or the streets department, or all of the above. We can petition the counsel, whether it's the new counsel. We can talk to the engineering department about solutions.

I'm not, you know, that skilled to give all the -- the remedies there. But you know, there are certainly things that can be done there. You know, as far as flashing crosswalks like we have over on Saguaro. The school could have a police officer directing traffic in and out of the drop off area. Cones that are set up that are done in other municipalities.

I don't know. But I guarantee you this. The sheriffs know about this whole stretch. The town knows about this whole stretch. The fire department knows about this whole stretch. The school district knows about this whole stretch. And every resident that lives here knows about this whole stretch.

And we had a problem a week ago, and it's -- and it's a tragedy and it's a shame, but it's just something that I would -- I would think that somebody can do something about that stretch. And I would like the commission maybe, you know, to get the ball rolling and -- and just put the pressure on whoever.

And I appreciate you listening -- listening to me. It's just a rant. I don't think I'm saying anything that's out of line. And I just wanted to get it off my chest because it's -- it's -- it's another accident waiting to happen, and I just don't want to see it. Thank -- thank you.

VARELA: Are there any crosswalks over there? I don't think there are, right?

RUPPERT: They just put one in across from -- they just put one in across from the drop off there. But it goes to a cul-de-sac on Sunridge. And yes, there is a sidewalk, but I don't think it's in the best spot.

VARELA: Okay. And then would that be a working group to form to discuss options for that or put it on our agenda?

SNIPES: That's more something that -- that I'll take to our Public Works Department and have a discussion with them around seeing. I know we've talked about some different calming mechanisms in the past, and maybe this will help push that in a little bit more.

RUDOLPHY: And after you have that conversation, maybe Public Works Director could come and brief us on what his thoughts are or what --

SNIPES: I can see --

RUDOLPHY: -- what -- what he thinks would or would not work.

SNIPES: Yeah, I can see what we can do for that. Thank you.

RUPPERT: I don't -- I don't think we should let this drop.

VARELA: No, I -- I -- I definitely agree. So I would love if they would come and speak with us.

SNIPES: Okay. I'll see what I can do.

VARELA: I know.

Anything else?

Okay. All right then, let's see. Call to the public? Nope.

Future agenda items, anybody?

SNIPES: Seems like we have one.

VARELA: Yes, absolutely.

RUPERT: So what we can do is we can put that on for discussion during our -- our next

meeting, and you guys can think about it a little bit more and see if you can come up with different ideas. And I'll go, and I'll speak with our Public Works Department and see if we can bring all that back around for our next meeting.

RUPPERT: Yeah, and then if we want to do a work group, I'd volunteer for that.

VERELA: Okay.

RUPPERT: For sure.

VARELA: Perfect. Maybe we'll wait till --

SNIPES: Yeah, we could set that up after -- after the next one if -- if we're coming back --

VERELA: Okay.

SNIPES: -- and we're grasping at straws, then we can -- we can have a work group start looking into some ideas for that.

VARELA: Great. Thank you.

SNIPES: Perfect. Thank you.

VARELA: All right then, motion to adjourn?

RUDOLPHY: So moved.

VARELA: Second?

BARNES: Second.

VARELA: All in favor?

ALL: Aye.

Having no further business, Vice-Chairperson Varela adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Community Services Advisory Commission meeting held on May 28, 2026, at 5:17 p.m.

TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

Natalie Varela, Vice-Chairperson

ATTEST AND PREPARED BY:

Stormy Mazeikis, Administrative Assistant

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held by the Community Services Advisory Commission of Fountain Hills in the Town Hall Council Chambers on the 28th of May 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 16th Day of June 2026.

Stormy Mazeikis, Administrative Assistant

