



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 3:30 P.M.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Derrick Espadas
Sue Kroeger
Kate Elliott
Wesley Derbyshire
Jonathan Lee Confer
Zach Coble, Chairperson
Ray Jordan
Lily Bogan

Representing

Mayor's Office
City Manager
City Manager
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

Absent:

Representing:

Staff and Others Present:

Stephanie Alvarez
Brandi Medina
Jennifer Toothaker
Chris Desborough
Jasmine Chan

City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office
Deputy Director DTM
Ward 2
Parks and Recreation

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

3. Consideration and Possible Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from April 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Bogan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Commissioner Jordan Unavailable), to approve the April Minutes.

4. Consideration and Possible Approval of Memorandum Regarding Sun Van and Update on Work Regarding Sun Van

Chairperson Coble, along with Commissioners Derbyshire and Jordan, presented a memorandum intended for submission to the Mayor and Council. The memorandum outlines ongoing concerns with Sun Van services, acknowledging the operational impacts of COVID-19 but highlighting the company's continued struggles post-pandemic, including driver shortages, service delays, and unmet passenger needs. The purpose of the memorandum is to inform the City and reinforce the importance of prioritizing quality service providers during contract negotiations with Sun Van.

Chairperson Coble requested a motion to approve the memorandum. The motion was moved by Commissioner Derbyshire, duly seconded, and approved with a roll call vote of 8 to 0.

After the motion passed, Commissioner Jordan, who had seconded the motion, requested to make minor edits to the memorandum. Commissioner Derbyshire amended his motion to approve the memorandum as written, with the inclusion of Commissioner Jordan's recommended minor edits. The amended motion was duly seconded and approved with a roll call vote of 8 to 0.

5. Update on Inclusive Playground at Palo Verde Park with Parks and Recreation Representative

Chairperson Coble invited Jasmine Chan, Capital Administrator for Parks and Recreation, to present on the Palo Verde Park playground

replacement, funded by Proposition 407. At Ward 2's request, the design will focus on inclusivity, though the playground's footprint will remain the same. It will include a new play structure and ground-level, multi-sensory equipment offering visual and auditory elements accessible to children of all abilities.

Chan shared a site survey and noted that the City is working with manufacturer Miracle. A link to the project website was provided. Commissioner Lee-Confer raised concerns about woodchip depth meeting CPSC standards; Chan will follow up with the project manager. Commissioner Jordan asked who completes the playground surveys and how age-appropriate equipment is determined. Chan stated parents typically fill out surveys and she would consult the manufacturer for age data.

Commissioner Espadas noted the importance of appealing to different age groups and supported the need for strong data. Chairperson Coble asked how equipment is selected; Chan explained decisions are guided by the manufacturer based on budget and design goals. In response to a question from Commissioner Espadas, she also listed local parks with similar equipment for reference.

6. Discussion of City ADA improvement data with Jennifer Toothaker

Chairperson Coble reintroduced Jennifer Toothaker to revisit her previous ADA presentation, noting that supporting documents weren't available prior to the last meeting. Toothaker shared that her department aims to improve procedures for collecting and sharing ADA data and increasing interdepartmental coordination.

Commissioner Jordan raised concerns about tracking progress on ADA issues and the public's ability to view updates. Toothaker acknowledged the need for better public access and follow-up and asked for Commissioner Jordan's email to stay in touch. Commissioner Derbyshire added that a visible work order system would help with transparency, which Toothaker supported, though she noted current systems are internally focused.

Chairperson Coble and Toothaker discussed the challenge of departments using separate systems and the goal of streamlining processes. Chris Borough asked if ADA improvements like ramps were being tracked. Toothaker confirmed they are, though some data is backlogged. Chairperson Coble also emphasized improving online accessibility of documents, which Toothaker agreed is a shared goal.

Lastly, Commissioner Espadas shared his personal experience of getting a wheelchair stuck on the tram track, which is an issue that is noted to be common. Toothaker acknowledged the concern and expressed interest in working with him to determine the best way to report such hazards.

Toothaker confirmed she will return to a future meeting with updates and responses to unresolved questions.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements made

8. Adjournment: 4:53 PM