



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, June 18, 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

Representing

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

Absent:

Lily Bogan

Representing:

Ward 6

Staff and Others Present:

Stephanie Alvarez
Jennifer Toothaker
Jennifer Bonham

City Clerk's Office
Deputy Director DTM
Interim Director OEP

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

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

No action was taken on this item. Approval of the May minutes will be moved to the July meeting.

4. Presentation and Discussion regarding the ADA Coordinator with Jennifer Bonham

Jennifer Bonham, Interim Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, introduced herself and shared her background relevant to ADA work, including connections with Sun Van and experience with City disability training.

Commissioner Espadas asked for examples of complex accommodations. Bonham described setting up ADA-compliant units and resolving unmet housing needs with legal support. He also suggested more advanced ADA training; Bonham agreed current training could be improved.

Commissioner Jordan inquired about sidewalk maintenance. Bonham deferred to Jennifer Toothaker, who explained responsibility is shared between the City and property owners, with support programs in place. Chairperson Coble confirmed the programs are budgeted.

Discussion followed about enhancing ADA training and improving the role of departmental liaisons. Bonham noted tracking systems are in place and agreed to provide updated liaison contacts.

Chairperson Coble raised concerns about required medical documentation for accommodation; Bonham agreed with the concerns and will follow up. Commissioner Lee-Confer asked about "undue hardship," which Bonham said varies case by case.

Chairperson Coble thanked Bonham for her presentation.

5. Consideration and Possible Approval of New CODI Co-Chair

Chairperson Coble opened the discussion by noting one volunteer for the Co-Chair position and invited additional nominations. No other commissioners volunteered. Chairperson Coble acknowledged Commissioner Lee-Confer as the sole volunteer. Commissioner Lee-Confer accepted the nomination, noting his limited experience as the newest member, but expressed his willingness to serve if supported by the group. The Commission welcomed him into the role.

Chairperson Coble called for a motion to appoint Commissioner Lee-Confer as Co-Chair. Commissioner Derbyshire moved, Commissioner Espadas seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

6. Discussion of CODI's Future Work and Priorities

Chairperson Coble opened the floor for future topic suggestions. Commissioner Derbyshire proposed revisiting the Sun Van memo and emphasized the need for councilmember support. Chairperson Coble noted the upcoming changes in council that may affect timing.

Commissioner Jordan discussed mobile transit and a recent Ward 2 meeting. Commissioner Espadas expressed frustration with inaction and suggested new strategies, including highlighting gaps between ADA compliance and lived experience, and launching a letter-writing effort. Chairperson Coble supported adding this to a future agenda.

Commissioner Kroeger supported evaluating the City's awareness of disability issues. Chairperson Coble proposed updates from City IT on accessibility and follow-up with the City Clerk on accommodation procedures. Commissioner Jordan raised concerns about Reid Park, prompting Chairperson Coble and Commissioner Derbyshire to discuss inviting Parks and Rec to a future meeting. Commissioner Kroeger asked about sharing personal emails; Chairperson Coble noted quorum concerns and referred the question to staff. Commissioner Espadas also expressed interest in

working with the City's Small Business Center on disability-focused economic efforts.

7. Announcements

Commissioner Espadas announced a large event taking place Saturday at the Universalist Church, featuring multiple guest speakers, some of whom will address disability-related topics.

Chairperson Coble announced that the City of Tucson has broken ground on a new aquatic center at Mission Manor Park, expected to be completed next summer. The facility will include a heated pool with accessible entry, marking a positive step toward more inclusive aquatic amenities.

8. Adjournment: 4:44 PM