



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, July 16, 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
Kate Elliott
Wesley Derbyshire
Zach Coble, Chairperson
Ray Jordan
Lily Bogan

Absent:

Sue Kroeger
Jonathan Lee Confer

Staff and Others Present:

Stephanie Alvarez
Karen Gereke
Jasmine Chan

Representing

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

Representing:

City Manager
Ward 3

City Clerk's Office
City of Tucson IT Dept
Planning and Development
Admin

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Derbyshire, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0, to approve May 2025 minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and passed with a roll call vote of 5 to 0 (Commissioner Bogan abstaining), to approve June 2025 minutes.

4. Overview and Discussion with Karen Gereke about City Website and Web Platform Accessibility

Chairperson Coble introduced Karen Gereke from the City's IT Department, who presented on ADA Title II compliance, including a new DOJ rule effective April 24, 2026. She outlined assessment findings, like broken links and heading issues and shared plans for ongoing tracking, internal support, and outreach.

Commissioner Jordan asked about site navigation, which Karen confirmed is a focus. Chairperson Coble inquired about internal staff education, issue reporting, and video accessibility; Karen noted efforts are underway and video updates are planned.

Commissioner Espadas stressed the importance of public feedback and aiming beyond minimum ADA standards. Commissioner Derbyshire highlighted needs like clearer video instructions, navigation guidance, and visual options like dark mode. Karen appreciated all input. Chairperson Coble thanked her and noted follow-up communication.

5. Consideration and Possible Plan for Information regarding Information of Park ADA deficiencies and completed fixes

Chairperson Coble introduced Jasmine Chan and opened discussion on a list of ADA issues in city parks. Commissioner Jordan asked about discrepancies between known issues and the report, to which Chan explained the list is from the early 2000s and may not reflect current conditions.

Discussion followed on balancing outdated deficiencies with ongoing observations. Chan noted it's driven by available funding rather than set timelines. Commissioner Jordan raised concerns about the large gap between issues reported and fixes completed. Chan acknowledged this and pointed to limited budgets, especially following the recession.

Commissioner Derbyshire questioned why newer park projects are prioritized over older ones. Chan explained that bond funding must address items listed as deferred maintenance or safety issues, though older park updates are also in progress.

Chairperson Coble asked about the upcoming master plan and public outreach timeline. Chan said the consultant procurement process is still pending but estimated outreach could begin around January. She confirmed CODI could be included in that outreach phase.

Chairperson Coble expressed interest in drafting a CODI memo outlining completed progress and future goals. Commissioner Jordan volunteered to assist. Chairperson Coble thanked Chan for her time and insights.

6. Announcements

Commissioner Jordan shared that the Transit Advisory Committee did not meet this month but will reconvene the first Monday of August, inviting others to attend. He also noted he submitted accessibility topics for upcoming agendas.

Commissioner Espadas announced a virtual game night group based in Atlanta to create a safe space for people with disabilities and encouraged participation. He also mentioned an upcoming bus protest highlighting transit accessibility issues and invited involvement. Additionally, he shared he is running for a seat on the Arizona Corporation Commission and encouraged peers to sign his ballot. He noted an initiative inviting the Mayor and Council to experience disability-related challenges and requested support in sending the invitation.

Chairperson Coble expressed support and suggested coordinating further. He reminded commissioners to contact him directly for email connections to avoid quorum issues. Commissioner Jordan added interest in connecting with commissioner Espadas about the invitation effort, referencing a similar program called *Traveling in the Shoes* that builds empathy through firsthand experiences. Chairperson Coble supported the idea and, hearing no further announcements, adjourned the meeting.

7. Adjournment: 4:59 PM