



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, August 20, 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 (Arrived at 3:35)
Kate Elliott
Jonathan Lee Confer
Zach Coble, Chairperson
Ray Jordan
Lily Bogan

Representing

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

Absent:

Sue Kroeger
Wesley Derbyshire

Representing:

City Manager
Ward 2

Staff and Others Present:

Brandi Medina
Stepanie Alvarez
Brandi Champion

City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office
City Manager

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

3. Consideration and Possible Approval for the July 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Bogan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, to approve July 2025 minutes.

4. Overview and Discussion with Brandi Champion and Lee Hopkins about the Role of Community Safety, Health and Wellness

Ms. Champion provided an overview of the Community Safety, Health & Wellness program, explaining how care coordination connects individuals to resources and supports stability. She described how 311 reporting functions within the program and highlighted shelter operations that offer safe transitional spaces for those moving toward housing. She assured Chairperson Coble that cooling stations and showers are fully wheelchair accessible.

In response to questions, Ms. Champion explained that care coordinators, often trained social workers, work with the Tucson Police Department's Mental Health Support Team and crisis providers. When individuals pose a risk to themselves or others, petitions can be initiated through the crisis line, with assessments by CBI and, when needed, transport to the Crisis Response Center. She clarified that shelter staff are not mandated reporters but use discretion to elevate concerns about abuse or neglect, reducing fear among families seeking services. She also noted that the Wildcat shelter is low-barrier, accepts service animals, and currently has two wheelchair-accessible rooms, with more planned in future renovations.

5. Consideration and Possible Approval of Parks Department Memo

It was moved by Commissioner Bogan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0, to approve the Parks Department memo.

6. Announcements

Chairperson Coble opened the floor for announcements. Commissioner Bogan highlighted the upcoming El Tour de Tucson, noting that Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports, led by Mia Hanson, sponsors riders with disabilities and provides a range of adaptive cycles. She encouraged interested participants to reach out for support in joining the event. Chairperson Coble thanked her and acknowledged the organization's positive impact in keeping community members active and engaged.

Commissioner Jordan then shared concerns about vacancies on the CODI commission and the recent lack of quorum in both CODI and the Transit Advisory Committee, which led to missed meetings and delayed discussion of important accessibility issues he had submitted. Chairperson Coble added that the Complete Streets Coordinating Council, on which he serves, had also paused meetings due to scheduling and funding phases but noted that updates are expected in the coming months.

7. Adjournment: 4:38 PM