



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 3:30 P.M.

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Derrick Espadas
Kate Elliott
Sue Kroeger
Wesley Derbyshire
Jonathan Lee Confer
Ray Jordan
Lily Bogan

Representing

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

Absent:

Zach Coble, Chairperson

Representing:

Ward 4

Staff and Others Present:

Jasmine Chan
Melissa Mundt
Xochitl Coronado-Vargas
Brandi Medina
Stepanie Alvarez

Connecting Children to Nature
Connecting Children to Nature
Connecting Children to Nature
City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Bogan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, (Commissioners Kroeger and Derbyshire abstaining) to approve August 2025 minutes.

4. Presentation and Discussion on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights from a member of the Pima County Connecting Children to Nature Network

Jasmine Chan, Melissa Mundt, and Xochitl Coronado-Vargas from the Pima County Connecting Children to Nature Network presented on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, highlighting the importance of equitable access to nature for all children across Tucson's diverse communities. They described their coalition, which includes representatives from local government, early childhood education, and nonprofits, and outlined their focus areas: education and programming, inclusive design of play spaces, and policy development. The presenters emphasized the creation of nature-based learning opportunities that are accessible and reflective of Tucson's unique environment, ensuring that children, including those with disabilities, can meaningfully experience outdoor play and exploration. Community input is being sought to guide and refine the project.

Commissioners engaged with the presenters, asking about ways to share information broadly. Commissioner Kroeger suggested distributing materials or website resources for wider community connection, to which the presenters responded they would follow up with one-pagers and additional information. Commissioner Jordan emphasized the importance of ensuring nature spaces are accessible from surrounding neighborhoods, promoting walkability rather than assuming visitors would drive.

Co-Chairperson Lee-Confer expressed appreciation for the work, highlighting its significance for child development and community connection. The presenters concluded by inviting commissioners to participate in nature-based activities themselves and thanked the Commission for their time.

5. Open Discussion on Under Discussed City Departments, Subject Areas, and Visions for Improvement

Co-Chairperson Lee-Confer opened the item for discussion. Commissioner Ray Jordan emphasized the importance of making accessibility a standard practice throughout the city rather than an exception, noting that it is simply the right thing to do. In response, Jennifer Toothaker shared insights from her work coordinating with developers on downtown projects, where stricter traffic control and pedestrian-oriented requirements are already in place due to congestion. She suggested revisiting how traffic control plans for city capital projects are reviewed, with the possibility of applying these more stringent standards citywide.

Co-Chairperson Lee-Confer noted that the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), requires accessible routes to be maintained consistently, and this should apply across the city, not just downtown. Commissioner Derbyshire added that the needs of individuals must be prioritized, stressing that even one person's accessibility needs should be addressed fully. Toothaker agreed, clarifying that the City already incorporates additional requirements beyond the MUTCD in right-of-way permitting, but acknowledged that broader consistency could be beneficial. Commissioners expressed appreciation to Toothaker for her continued presence and collaboration, with Toothaker concluding that addressing these challenges requires teamwork and persistence.

6. Announcements

Commissioner Jordan reported on his service with the Tucson Transit Advisory Committee. He noted that he has submitted several disability- and transit-related topics to the committee chair for consideration but expressed concern that these items have not yet appeared on meeting agendas. He stated that he will continue to advocate for their inclusion.

Commissioner Bogan announced that Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports (SAAS) will be participating in the "Loop de Loop" event at Rillito Park on Saturday, in connection with the Tour de Tucson opening. The event will run from 7:00 a.m. to noon and will feature opportunities to learn about and participate in adaptive sports such as hand cycling and tandem biking. Commissioner Bogan encouraged commissioners and members of the public to attend, visit the SAAS information tent, and connect with team representatives.

7. Adjournment: 4:48 PM