



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 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
Sue Kroeger
Cam Juarez (Arrived at 4:13pm)
Jonathan Lee-Confer
Zach Coble, Chairperson
Ray Jordan
Chaz Gross

Representing

Mayor's Office
City Manager
Ward 1
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

Absent:

Kate Elliot
Meghan Brajevich

Representing:

City Manager
Ward 2

Staff and Others Present:

Kristina Swallow
Brandi Medina
Rene Figueroa

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

2. Discussion with Assistant City Managers

The Commission heard from Assistant City Manager Kristina Swallow, who oversees several public-facing departments including Transportation and Mobility, Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Development Services. She emphasized a commitment to listening to the Commission and improving infrastructure to better meet community needs, noting that accessibility standards and best practices continue to evolve over time.

Discussion focused on accessibility challenges, funding limitations, and infrastructure improvements. Swallow explained that different funding sources restrict flexibility, particularly for updating older infrastructure that may no longer meet current accessibility standards. While new projects aim to incorporate best practices, retrofitting existing systems remains a challenge. She also noted ongoing efforts to identify and promote better construction and design practices.

The Commission also discussed broader accessibility efforts, including the City's largely reactive approach due to resource constraints, Parks and Recreation fee adjustments based on cost recovery, and challenges with sidewalk maintenance. Swallow encouraged continued feedback and reaffirmed the City's commitment to improving accessibility across departments.

3. Call to the Public

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

4. Consideration and Possible Approval for the March 2026 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Gross, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, (Commissioner Kroeger abstaining) to approve March 2026 minutes.

5. Consideration and Possible Approval for Memorandum Regarding the Inclusive Home Design Ordinance

The Commission considered a memorandum regarding proposed updates to the Inclusive Home Design Ordinance. Chairperson Coble and Commissioner Jordan provided background, explaining that the current ordinance (adopted in 2007) is based on outdated accessibility standards and primarily supports “visitability” rather than full livability. The proposed updates aim to align with newer national standards, improve accessibility for long-term living, and address gaps such as insufficient bathroom accessibility and limited enforcement measures.

Commissioners discussed the memo and provided feedback, including incorporating updated building codes (e.g., ANSI and IBC standards), referencing the Fair Housing Act, and broadening accessibility considerations across different types of disabilities. Additional context and technical input were offered, with a commitment to refining the document further. Commissioners expressed general support for the memo and the direction of the proposed changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, to table consideration of the memorandum to the May 2026 meeting to allow for revisions and incorporation of additional feedback.

6. Check In About Upcoming Meeting Topics

The Commission discussed potential agenda items for upcoming meetings. Chairperson Coble proposed drafting a memorandum addressing proposed City fee increases and their potential impact on the disability community, noting the importance of timely input before Mayor and Council consideration. Commissioner Jordan offered to provide input for the draft.

Additional topics included a possible presentation from the Department of Transportation and Mobility on sidewalk accessibility improvements, which Commissioners expressed interest in scheduling. Chairperson Coble also noted plans to follow up with Sun Van and Sun Tran representatives regarding previously requested performance data. Commissioners were invited to suggest additional agenda items for future meetings.

7. Announcements

Chairperson Coble opened the floor for announcements. Commissioner Jordan provided an update from the Tucson Transit Advisory Committee, noting its involvement in a transit safety initiative and ongoing efforts to improve information sharing between the committee and transportation staff to better support advisory input.

Chairperson Coble shared information on upcoming public meetings related to proposed Parks and Recreation fee changes, including multiple in-person sessions and a virtual meeting, and noted that public comments are being accepted through May 17. Commissioner Jordan additionally noted an additional meeting focused on the therapy pool that had not been widely publicized.

Commissioner Juarez announced an upcoming workshop on May 2 hosted in collaboration with the YWCA and University of Arizona College of Public Health. The session will present findings from ongoing research on accessibility and mobility in national park settings and include a community listening component. Chairperson Coble indicated the information would be shared with the full Commission.

8. Adjournment 5:00PM