



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 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:

Jessica Edwards
Kate Elliot
Jeremy Harkin
Derrick Espadas
Cam Juarez
Meghan Brajevich (Arrived at 4:01)
Jonathan Lee-Confer
Zach Coble
Ray Jordan
Chaz Gross

Representing:

City Manager
City Manager
City Manager
Mayor's Office
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

Absent:

Representing:

Staff and Others Present:

Lara Hamwey

Parks and Recreation Director

2. Call to the Public

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

3. Possible Introduction of New Commissioners

The Chair introduced two newly appointed Commissioners, Jeremy Harkin and Jessica Edwards, and invited them to share background information and their interest in serving on the Commission.

Commissioner Harkin shared his experiences as a polio survivor, educator, and disability advocate. He discussed challenges he encountered with accessibility and disabled parking, particularly after temporarily relying on a wheelchair following an injury and expressed interest in advocating for improvements affecting the disability community.

Commissioner Edwards shared her background in education and advocacy, noting both personal and professional experiences related to disability inclusion. She discussed accessibility challenges she has encountered while using a wheelchair, particularly related to construction impacts and sidewalk access, and expressed interest in identifying practical solutions to improve accessibility within the community.

4. Discussion of Proposed New Parks and Recreation Fees with Department Director

Parks and Recreation Director Lara Hamwey presented an overview of proposed updates to department fees currently under consideration during the Notice of Intent process. The presentation outlined proposed changes to youth programs, sports field use, aquatics, recreation programs, and a revised discount structure intended to improve cost recovery while maintaining accessibility. Director Hamwey explained that many fees had not been updated since 2010 and noted that public engagement efforts had been conducted to gather community input.

Discussion focused primarily on proposed aquatic fees, including new fee structures for therapy pool and lap swim access. Commissioners raised concerns regarding affordability and accessibility impacts for individuals with disabilities and seniors, particularly related to therapy pool use. Questions were asked regarding the proposed punch-pass system, monthly pass options, future fee progression, accessibility considerations, and impacts on users with fixed incomes.

Commissioners discussed concerns that charging fees for therapy pool access while maintaining free general swim access could create unintended inequities for individuals with disabilities. Suggestions included exploring income-based options and accessibility pass models similar to National Park Service programs. Director Hamwey acknowledged the feedback, indicated staff would continue evaluating implementation details, and stated that comments would be shared with City leadership for consideration.

Director Hamwey also agreed to provide additional information regarding accessibility features, including lift availability at public pools. No action was taken.

5. Consideration and Possible Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0, (Commissioner Brajevich abstaining) to approve April 2026 minutes.

6. A Consideration and Possible Approval of the Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum

Chairperson Coble introduced the draft Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum for discussion, noting it may require updates based on recent Mayor and Council discussions and the Director's presentation earlier in the meeting. He explained that the Commission could provide feedback and proceed with provisional approval so the memo could be forwarded ahead of the next meeting.

Commissioner Jordan supported the memorandum and suggested adding language noting potential equity concerns regarding differences between therapy pool fees and free general swim access. Chairperson Coble agreed and noted he would incorporate additional information on pool accessibility features, such as lifts and entry options. Commissioner Jordan also noted broader accessibility factors, including water temperature and user needs.

Commissioner Edwards raised concerns about timing, stating the Commission had limited opportunity to review recent changes and suggesting the process may benefit from additional delay. She also expressed concern that fee disparities could raise discrimination issues and potential legal risk.

Commissioner Espadas requested additional clarity on whether the structure could be considered discriminatory and emphasized that free general swim may function as heat relief for the public rather than preferential access. He and others also discussed accessibility lift usage and maintenance responsibilities.

Commissioner Harkin shared concerns based on personal experience using lifts, emphasizing recurring maintenance issues and the importance of staff training and accountability for accessibility equipment.

Commissioner Brajevich highlighted the importance of pools as inclusive public spaces and noted that barriers to access can contribute to isolation for people with disabilities. She suggested exploring education and partnerships to improve accessibility awareness.

Chairperson Coble summarized proposed revisions, including updated fee information and added accessibility-related discussion.

It was moved by Commissioner Brajevich, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0, (Commissioner Edwards abstaining) to approve the Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum with revisions discussed by the Commission.

7. Reconsideration of Tabled Motion to Approve Housing Accessibility Memorandum with Additional Edits

Chairperson Coble stated the item would be tabled and moved to the June agenda due to time constraints. The Commission did not act on the item.

8. Announcements

Commissioner Juarez announced an upcoming community event on May 29th at the Sosa Carrillo House in partnership with the Parks for All, grant project. The event will include a panel discussion featuring community members and will be offered both in person and via Zoom with automated captioning available. Commissioner Juarez indicated a flyer would be shared with staff for distribution.

9. Adjournment at 5:01pm