



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, June 17, 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:

Jessica Edwards (Arrived 3:33 pm)
Kate Elliot
Jeremy Harkin
Derrick Espadas
Meghan Brajevich (Arrived 3:50 pm)
Jonathan Lee-Confer
Ray Jordan
Chaz Gross

Representing:

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

Absent:

Cam Juarez
Zach Coble

Representing:

Ward 1
Ward 4

Staff and Others Present:

Patrick Hartley
Lydia Barker
Stephanie Alvarez
Brandi Medina

DTM Administrator
DTM Planner
City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office

2. Call to the Public

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

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

Vice Chair Lee-Confer opened discussion on the revised Housing Accessibility Memorandum. Commissioners discussed updates made to modernize the proposed recommendations, expand accessibility considerations beyond visitability, and align the memorandum with current accessibility needs and standards. Commissioners expressed support for the memorandum and the work completed by Chairperson Coble, Commissioner Jordan, and Vice Chair Lee-Confer.

It was moved by Commissioner Espadas, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, to approve the Housing Accessibility Memorandum with additional edits.

4. Presentation and Discussion of a Sidewalk Repair Program and Grant Road Accessibility Issues with Department of Transportation and Mobility Representatives

Patrick Hartley, Planning Administrator with the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM), provided an overview of the City's sidewalk repair and accessibility improvement efforts. He discussed the citywide sidewalk inventory completed through the Move Tucson transportation plan, which serves as the City's ADA Transition Plan and identified significant sidewalk and accessibility infrastructure needs throughout Tucson.

Mr. Hartley reviewed current and future funding sources for sidewalk improvements, including Proposition 411, RTA Next, corridor improvement projects, sidewalk infill projects, and private development requirements.

He also explained the City's prioritization process for sidewalk investments, which considers factors such as pedestrian safety, transit access, schools, parks, medical services, connectivity, equity, and community requests submitted through Tucson 311.

Commissioners discussed accessibility concerns throughout the City, including missing sidewalks, inaccessible crossings, steep cross slopes, and safety challenges for individuals with disabilities, particularly along portions of Grant Road, Alvernon Way, and Country Club Road. DTM staff acknowledged these concerns and noted they would be considered for future project planning and evaluation.

Additional discussion included ADA compliance, curb ramp accessibility, sidewalk maintenance, beautification projects, public art opportunities, and potential federal funding sources to support pedestrian safety and accessibility improvements.

6. Consideration and Possible Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Espadas, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0, to approve the May 2026 minutes.

7. Consideration and Possible Approval of the Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum Update

Chair Lee-Confer introduced the updated Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum. Commissioner Jordan briefly explained that the memorandum reflected recent changes to the proposed fee structure and acknowledged the decision by Mayor and Council and the Parks and Recreation Department not to implement therapy pool fees.

It was moved by Commissioner Jordan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0, to approve the Parks and Recreation Fees Memorandum Update.

8. Announcements

Commissioners discussed accessibility concerns related to disabled parking, including the availability and use of accessible parking spaces, enforcement challenges, and potential opportunities for future advocacy. Suggestions included increasing accessible parking requirements, improving public awareness, and exploring local policy solutions.

Commissioner Jordan announced that Mayor and Council would recognize July as Disability Pride Month, marking the first such recognition by the City of Tucson. He encouraged community participation at the proclamation scheduled for June 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in Mayor and Council Chambers.

Commissioners also confirmed that future Commission meetings would continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm.

9. Adjournment at 4:53pm