

Meeting Minutes

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Regular Meeting

September 9, 2025 | 7:00 a.m.

Room 101, Chandler Community Center
125 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Becky Kuiper at 7:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Commission Attendance

Chair Bill Hespel
Vice Chair Julie Lazzara
Committee member Kim Foy
Committee member Geoffrey Foote
Committee member Emily Raymond
Committee member Steven Briggs
Committee member Elisha Anderson
Committee member Jenny Miller

Staff Attendance

Becky Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent
Josh Adams, Business System Support Analyst

Absent

Committee member Tom Fay

Consent Agenda

- Minutes
Regular Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 9, 2025, and Work Session Minutes of Friday, August 1, 2025.

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Comm. Raymond moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Seconded by Comm. Miller.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Action Agenda

2. Approve Scholarship and Stipend Program Applications – none received.

Discussion

3. Summary and review of August 2025 Work Session

A review of the August 2025 work session followed. Members agreed that the retreat was beneficial and should become an annual event each August. Key outcomes identified included targeted marketing strategies, planning for scholarship programs, reviewing ordinance language for inclusivity, and exploring rotating meeting locations to enhance accessibility. Comm. Miller offered Chandler-Gilbert Arc as a potential host site in the future. For October, however, the group agreed to remain at the current location and bring additional suggestions for later meetings.

The committee then turned to discussing the scholarship program. Ms. Kuiper explained that while the program offers up to \$1,000 for educational or vocational purposes, the City has received very few applications in recent years. Members agreed that shifting from a rolling application process to a defined window, such as December through March, with notifications in late spring, would allow for a stronger marketing push. Suggestions included outreach through Chandler schools and counselors, community colleges, homeschool networks, and targeted social media campaigns. Members also agreed that the scholarship application and requirements could be updated and clarified. This item will be added to the October agenda for formal action.

The committee also revisited an idea from the retreat to host a public screening of the film Crip Camp. Members agreed to watch the film individually before discussing event logistics at a later meeting.

4. Golf Challenge

Ms. Kuiper presented the selected giveaway item, a cooler backpack, which was within budget and well-received by the committee. Sponsorships to date total \$11,900, which is below the \$15,000–\$16,000 raised last year. Members were encouraged to seek additional sponsors before the October 1st deadline for logo submissions. Raffle prizes are also

lagging, with fewer than in prior years, and members were asked to solicit donations from golf courses, restaurants, and local businesses. Staff will distribute updated sponsorship and raffle materials to the full committee. Registration for players has been opened, including an option for individual players, and technical issues affecting sign-ups have been resolved. Volunteers will be needed primarily at the start of the event. Discussion also covered adjustments for senior golfers, raffle logistics, and potential prize changes, including awarding free entry for next year's tournament to the winning team.

5. Disability Awareness Award category review (possible action)

The committee then discussed the Ability Awareness Awards. Current categories include Student of the Year, Educator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Disability Ally of the Year, and Employee of the Year. Concerns were raised about confusion surrounding the Employee of the Year award, which has at times been misinterpreted as recognition for City of Chandler staff rather than for employees with disabilities. Ms. Kuiper provided the recommendation to rename the award Workplace Impact or Ability in Action.

Comm. Foy moved to rename the award Workplace Impact. Comm. Foote seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Information Items

Next Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities meeting will be held on October 14, 2025 at 7: 00 a.m. in the Chandler Community Center, Room 101, 125 E. Commonwealth Ave.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 a.m. by Vice Chair Lazzara.


Becky Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent


Bill Hespel, Chair