

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER,
ARIZONA, WEDNESDAY, June 3, 2026, HELD IN-PERSON AT CHANDLER CITY HALL, 175 S.
ARIZONA AVE., CHANDLER, ARIZONA.

Board Present: Jennifer Hewitt, Vice Chair
Micah Miranda, Secretary
Ron Hardin, Board Member
Rommie Mojahed, Board Member
Mike Mobley, Board Member
Lana Berry, Board Member
Anthony Deard, Board Member
Chris Dobson, Board Member
Marc Valenzuela, Board Member
Cecilia Ashe, Board Member
Chris Chavkin, Board Member
Merlin Smith, Board Member
Terri Kimble, Ex-Officio

Board Absent: John Pombier, Ex-Officio
Julie Graham, Chair
Jacob Knudsen, Board Member
Neil Calfee, Board Member
Raj Chakraborty, Board Member

Others Present: Councilmember Christine Ellis, City of Chandler
Councilmember Jane Poston, City of Chandler
Lauren Schumann, City of Chandler
Kimberly Janes, Economic Development
Caly Strickler, Economic Development
Michael Winer, Economic Development
Chandler Escalante, Economic Development
Joe Abeita, Economic Development
Reagan Smith, Economic Development

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Jennifer Hewitt called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Ms. Hewitt welcomed new board members Cecilia Ashe, Chris Chavkin, and Merlin Smith, who each provided a brief introduction.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Chris Dobson made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Hardin. Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Action Items

A. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Hewitt presented Mr. Jacob Knudsen for appointment as Vice Chair, noting his experience in mixed-use and redevelopment projects would be relevant to development activity anticipated in Chandler. Mr. Knudsen was not present at the meeting.

Ms. Cecilia Ashe made a motion to appoint Mr. Knudsen as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Hardin. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hewitt will assume the role of Chair at the next meeting, upon completion of her one-year term as Vice Chair. Mr. Knudsen will assume the role of Vice Chair at that time.

4. Briefing Items

A. Chandler 2026 General Plan Update

Mr. Micah Miranda introduced the item, noting the General Plan is the city's guiding document and the foundation for economic development and the built environment in Chandler.

Ms. Lauren Schumann, Principal Planner and General Plan Update Project Manager for the City of Chandler, provided an informational update on the 2026 General Plan and Proposition 415.

Ms. Schumann began with an overview of Chandler's development history, illustrating how plans and policies have guided growth. She explained that the General Plan is a comprehensive set of broad policies that establish a vision for the city at ultimate buildout. She added that rezonings must be consistent with the General Plan, and that the update allows the city to respond to new development trends and confirm community values.

Ms. Schumann then reviewed the most significant changes, including revisions to the Future Land Use Map, Future Land Use Categories, the addition of Arts, the addition of Urban Forestry, and an Implementation Action Table.

Ms. Schumann concluded by saying City Council has adopted the plan and it will go before voters for ratification as Proposition 415 in the July 21 primary election. Board members discussed how information could be shared with civic organizations, noting that city staff may educate but not advocate on the measure.

B. Entertainment Use Permit

Mr. Micah Miranda, Economic Development Director for the City of Chandler, led a discussion regarding Entertainment Use Permits.

Mr. Miranda said city staff has been reviewing processes that could be streamlined for businesses in Chandler and identified the Entertainment Use Permit as a recurring obstacle. He said outdoor patio speakers are treated as amplified music and require a permit, which has frustrated many businesses. He said staff is drafting language to remove this requirement for businesses outside the downtown area, and that a review of past violations found none associated with ambient patio music.

Board members said the permit requirement places a significant burden on business owners and can delay their business opening. Members noted that ambient music contributes to customer experience and is needed to be competitive. One member suggested a buffer or an overlay around retail centers as an alternative. Members also noted that code enforcement and the city's noise ordinance provide remedies should an issue arise, and said the permit requirement felt redundant.

Mr. Miranda said no action was requested at this time and the item was brought forward for Board feedback. He said staff expects to present this item again with other proposed code adjustments at a future Board meeting.

5. Advisory Boardmember Comments

None.

6. Next Meeting

Ms. Hewitt announced the next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. A calendar invite will be sent to all board members in advance.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Hewitt adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Hewitt, Chairwoman

Micah Miranda, Board Secretary