

# Meeting Minutes

## Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Regular Meeting

February 10, 2026 | 7:00 a.m.

Room 102, Chandler Community Center  
125 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler, AZ



### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hespel at 7:03 a.m.

### Roll Call

#### Commission Attendance

Chair Bill Hespel  
Vice Chair Julie Lazzara  
Committee member Steven Briggs  
Committee member Geoffrey Foote  
Committee member Emily Raymond (Virtual)  
Committee member Jenny Miller

#### Staff Attendance

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

#### Absent

Committee member Elisha Anderson  
Committee member Kim Foy

### Consent Agenda

1. January 13, 2026 Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities Meeting Minutes

Move the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities approve the meeting minutes of the January 13, 2026, regular meeting.

Comm. Foote motioned to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2026, meeting. Comm. Briggs seconded the motion. No one opposed; the motion was approved 6-0.

## Discussion

### 2. 2026 IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference – Tabling Opportunity

The Committee discussed participation in the 2026 IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference, scheduled for June. Discussion focused on the value of having a table at the conference, including opportunities for networking, community outreach, and raising awareness of the Committee’s work. Members discussed staffing logistics, including the ability to rotate volunteers throughout the day and cover key time periods such as breaks and networking sessions.

Members confirmed general availability and expressed willingness to share coverage responsibilities across the two-day event. Additional discussion addressed coordinating schedules, confirming exhibit hall requirements, and preparing outreach materials.

Following the discussion, Chair Hespel motioned to approve spending \$295 for conference registration and tabling. The motion was seconded by Comm. Briggs, and the motion was approved 6-0.

### 3. Movie Screening – Discussion and Possible Action

The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting a public movie screening as an outreach and awareness activity. Members shared their perspectives on a documentary that had been circulated for review. While the film was generally regarded as meaningful and impactful, members expressed concerns about audience engagement, subject-matter complexity, and whether the content aligned with the Committee’s outreach goals.

The Committee also discussed potential logistical considerations, including venue availability and the possibility of pairing a screening with a discussion or speaker. Alternative films and community-focused programming options were also briefly considered.

Given that not all members had viewed the film and additional considerations remained, the Committee agreed to table the item for future discussion.

### 4. Potential Projects – Discussion and Possible Action

Mrs. Kuiper provided updates regarding several potential projects and initiatives that may involve Committee participation. Members were informed that interactive Rube Goldberg-style installations are planned for the Tumbleweed Recreation Center as part of a pilot

effort, with installation anticipated in the spring. Mrs. Kuiper also provided an update on a potential grant-funded playground renovation project to create a highly accessible, all-inclusive play environment. Funding decisions are expected in the coming months, and if approved, the Committee may have opportunities to participate in planning, community engagement, or related activities. Even if grant funding is not awarded, some form of playground improvements is anticipated, although the scope would be reduced.

The Committee agreed to table further discussion until additional information is available regarding funding and project timelines.

#### 5. Disability Awareness Nominations – Discussion and Possible Action

The Committee conducted an extensive review of nominations for the annual Disability Awareness Awards. Members discussed eligibility requirements, reviewed nomination materials, and considered the appropriate categorization of nominees. Adjustments were made as needed to ensure nominees were evaluated in the most appropriate award category.

Members also discussed evaluation criteria, including community impact, level of involvement, and whether contributions extended beyond normal job responsibilities. The Committee referenced the scoring rubric developed for the review process and discussed how it informed deliberations.

Following the discussion, the Committee reached consensus on five award recipients. Comm. Foote motioned to approve the selected recipients and allocate a total of \$250 for framed certificates and gift cards associated with the awards. The motion was seconded by Comm. Miller and approved unanimously 6-0.

Staff confirmed that the awards will be presented during the Disability Awareness Month proclamation event scheduled for February 26, 2026, at the City Council meeting.

6. Scholarship Applications – Discussion and Possible Action

Mrs. Kuiper provided a status update on scholarship applications. Applications remain open through the end of March. Two completed applications have been received, with a possible third pending submission. No action was required at this time.

7. Member Comments / Announcements

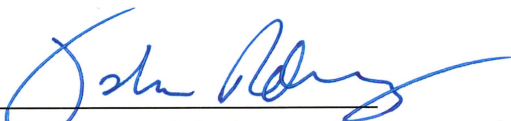
Staff and Committee members shared several upcoming events and coordination needs. Volunteers were requested for the Fun Run event at Tumbleweed Park. Members discussed event setup, cleanup, and general volunteer participation. Additional announcements included the upcoming Emergency Response training scheduled for April 18 at the Innovation Center and the Sprout Film Festival planned for early April.

## Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities will be held on March 10, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. at the Chandler Community Center, Room 101.

## Adjourn

Comm. Foote motioned to adjourn. Comm. Briggs seconded with none opposed. Motion to adjourn approved 6-0 at 8:05 a.m.

  
Becky Kuiper, Recreation Superintendent  
Joshua Adams, Business Systems Analyst

  
Bill Hessel, Chair