



The Mayor's Council for People with Disabilities
2101 O'Neil Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Minutes for Meeting: June 11, 2026

Call to Order: 11:33 a.m.

1. Roll Call/Attendance:

- Board Members Present: Tom Gallagher, Rebecca Millett, Kristy Richardson, Patti Riesland, Christina Ruffatti, Amy Simpson, Gregg Smith, Julie Tucker
- Board Members Absent: Teresa Simkins-Aris, Michelle Woerner
- Establish quorum: Yes – 8 of 10 members attending
- Council Liaison: Pete Laybourn, Councilperson – not present
- City Personnel: Amber Ash, Chief of Staff – not present
- Guest(s): none

2. Approval of Minutes: May 2026 – unanimous approval

3. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Jonah Bank \$9,222.63
- b. Expenditures in the last month: none

4. Announcements: none

5. Speaker/Presentation: none scheduled

6. New Business:

- a. Safety Symposium – see attached notes summarizing the discussion
- b. Reports: (attached at the end of the minutes, if noted)
 - 1) AARP – no report
 - 2) Affordable Housing Committee - no report
 - 3) City Council - see attached
 - 4) Cheyenne Frontier Days – no report
 - 5) Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - no report
 - 6) Finance Committee -see attached
 - 7) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – see attached
 - 8) Parking and Sidewalk - see attached
 - 9) Planning Commission – see attached
 - 10) Public Services Committee - see attached
 - 11) Safe Streets 4 All – no report
 - 12) Transit - no report
 - 13) Visit Cheyenne– no report
 - 14) Wyoming Independent Living – see attached

15) Wyoming Legislature – no report

7. Old /Continuing Business:

- a. Reports and/or comments from members about training available through Rocky Mountain ADA <https://rockymountainada.org>
 - i. Rebecca Millett attended Healthcare and the ADA training session

8. Member or Public Comments

9. Upcoming meeting dates:

- a. July 2nd, executive board meeting
- b. July 9th, monthly board meeting

10. Adjournment: 12:35 pm

5b. Safety Symposium Committees and Discussion from June 11, 2026 meeting

Committees and Discussion:

1. **Co-Chairs:** (Tom Gallagher and Christina Ruffatti)
2. **Speakers:**
 - b. Pete Laybourn– Opening comments - confirmed
 - c. Jim Geringer – transition into caregiving (experience) - confirmed
 - d. Dr. Teresa Simkins Aris – electronic document storage and retrieval - confirmed
 - e. Julie Gliem - scams targeting disabled and elderly
 - f. Manny Fardella – crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)
3. **Panel Discussion Committee:** (Gregg Smith, Rebecca Millett, Julie Tucker, Kristy Richardson) responsible for obtaining panelists. Panel discussion will focus on safety in the home, schedule during lunch break from 12:00 to 2:00, will have prepared questions and the moderator will be Teresa Simkins-Aris
 - a. Self-Advocate – Samantha Jones - confirmed
 - b. Physical and Occupational Therapist, from CRMC
 - c. Dept of Health and Home Services
 - d. Wyoming Independent Living – JJ - confirmed
 - e. AARP Fraud and scams
 - f. VA representative
4. **Publicity Committee:** responsible for marketing materials and local announcements about the event: (Rebecca Millett, Patti Riesland, Gregg Smith, Michelle Woerner),
 - a. Boy Scouts of America has been contacted to ask if they will help with distribution and posting of advertising posters, need to generate list of places that we want to have posters
5. **Sponsors Committee:** responsible for enlisting sponsors for the event: (Amy Simpson, Michelle Woerner, Rebecca Millett)
 - a. Confirmed:
 - i. Thrivent \$250
 - ii. The Millett Family \$250
 - iii. New Hope Advocacy \$250
 - iv. AARP \$200
 - b. Multiple requests are unconfirmed right now:
 - i. Blue Federal Credit Union
 - ii. Meridan Financial
 - iii. Western Vista
 - iv. CRMC
 - v. Jonah Bank
 - c. Target number is 8 sponsors or about \$2000 to \$2,500 to cover lunch and room costs
6. **Technology Committee:** responsible for coordinating the technology needs for the event: (Tom Gallagher, Gregg Smith)

- a. Met with LCCC, all equipment is available, they have 4 projectors and screens for slide presentations, Wi-Fi is also available

7. Vendor Committee: responsible for coordinating the organizations that will have display tables at the event: (Teresa Simkins-Aris, Amy Simpson, Rebecca Millett, Julie Tucker)

- a. Frontier Mobility - confirmed
- b. CRMC - confirmed
- c. AARP- confirmed
- d. Wyoming Independent Living - confirmed
- e. Cheyenne Transit
- f. Department of Vocational Rehab
- g. Senior Center
- h. CHAT
- i. WIND/WATR

8. Other:

- a. Schedule
 - i. 10:30 am to 10:45 am – Opening Comments – Pete Laybourn
 - ii. 10:45 am to 11:20 am – Jim Geringer, former Governor of Wyoming
 - iii. 11:20 am to 11:55 am – Speaker 1
 - iv. 12:00 – 12:15 – Lunch set up
 - v. 12:15 to 2:00 – Panel Discussion/Questions
 - vi. 2:05 to 2:40 – Speaker 2
 - vii. 2:40 to 3:15 – Speaker 3
 - viii. 3:15 to 3:30 – Closing Comments

Reports for June 11, 2026 MCPD Meeting (numbers correspond to agenda items)

- 1) AARP – no report
- 2) Affordable Housing Task Force – no report
- 3) City Council
 - i. The May 11, 2026, City Council meeting included several actions that could positively affect individuals with disabilities, particularly in the area of public transit and information accessibility. Many agenda items (e.g., zoning changes, budget appropriations, vehicle purchases for non-transit departments) do not directly reference or appear to impact individuals with disabilities based on the information provided, however, the implementation of these items may. The following provides specific information relative to individuals with disabilities.
 1. Adoption of the Title VI Program for the Cheyenne Transit Program. The council approved a resolution adopting the Title VI Program for the Cheyenne Transit Program. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs receiving federal assistance. While not specific to disability, Title VI programs often include provisions that improve accessibility and nondiscrimination in public transit, which can benefit individuals with disabilities by promoting equal access to transportation services. *Possible Impact:* This could mean improved policies for accessible buses, better communication about transit services, and more inclusive service planning.
 2. Support for Grant Funding for the Cheyenne Transit Program. The council expressed support for the Cheyenne Transit Program's application for grant funding under the Wyoming Rural Public Transportation Grant. Such funding can be used to enhance transit services, including accessibility features like wheelchair lifts, audio announcements, and accessible stops, directly benefiting individuals with disabilities. *Possible Impact:* If the grant is awarded, funds might be used to upgrade vehicles or facilities to meet ADA standards.
 3. Approval of Renovations and Upgrades to the Cheyenne Transit Facility. The council approved a contract for interior and exterior renovations and upgrades to the Cheyenne Transit Facility. Renovations may include improvements to physical accessibility (ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, signage), which would positively impact individuals with disabilities. *Possible Impact:* Renovations could include installing automatic doors, tactile signage, or accessible ticket counters.
 - ii. City Council Report 5/28/2026 - General Infrastructure and Service Changes: Several ordinances and resolutions addressed topics like wastewater, solid waste fees, zoning, and public utilities. While these may indirectly affect individuals with disabilities (e.g., changes in public transit funding or infrastructure), there was no explicit mention of disability-related considerations in these actions. There were no recorded negative impacts or reductions in services for individuals with disabilities, but also no new initiatives or enhancements specifically targeting this group.
- 4) Cheyenne Frontier Days – no report
- 5) Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - no report
- 6) Finance Committee

- i. Increases in solid waste fee schedule for residential and commercial properties will raise from 1% to 5% on trash pick-up and recycling.
 - ii. Overall, a 5% increase on water and sewer rates.
 - iii. Cheyenne Regional Airport submitted a proposed budget of \$13,400,000 but heard criticism of conditions of Airport Parkway which the airport is required to maintain, such as dying trees and lack of trash receptacles for waste disposal. Also, the lack of parking at the airport was addressed, although there were compliments on very full flights. New Director of Aviation, Doug Bullock responded to questions.
 - iv. 7 new pick-up trucks approved for Traffic Division, Public Works, Animal Control, Fire and Rescue, and The Landfill totaling approximately \$778,000.
 - v. Mayor Collins reported a donation of 3.5 million dollars donation from KT Land Holdings LLC which will contribute to building 2000 units by 2030.
- 7) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- i. Safe Streets 4 All presentation for draft plan, on website for MPO
https://www.plancheyenne.org/safe-streets-4-all/?et_fb=1&PageSpeed=off
 - ii. East Allison Rd Corridor Study
 - iii. Parsley Blvd/Wallick Extension feasibility study is in process, consultant has been selected will be sent to City Council for approval
 - iv. Road construction projects are in process
- 8) Parking and Sidewalk meeting with Engineering
- i. DDA Sidewalk applications:
 - a. 9 sidewalk applications, waiting on Westby's to see if they want to proceed, Twin Dragon will need a ramp
 - b. There are three applications/businesses ready to go:
 - 1. 1716 Thomes
 - 2. 1512 O'Neil
 - 3. 2111 Warren Ave
 - ii. Reed Avenue Corridor
 - a. Design is posted outside Engineering
 - b. 5-million-dollar ordinance, contract being signed soon
 - c. Increase walkability
 - d. Rail cars will be placed in June 2026, working on getting the tracks laid for the rail cars, no access into rail cars until interior work is done. Plan is to eventually be accessible
 - e. No loss of parking
 - iii. 2 complaints about sidewalks – 17th & Lincolnway, 18th & Lincolnway, referred to Engineering
 - iv. Sidewalk work should begin in the next few months
 - v. Not sure of the placement of signal lights
 - vi. No other roundabouts planned at this time
 - vii. Downtown striping Final design stage of 2nd phase of striping
 - viii. Sidewalk/Street Audits -no more planned until next year
 - ix. 18th Street project: May 26, 2026 Library, 5-7pm, public input. Construction scheduled for 2027
- 9) Planning Commission and recent planning projects
- i. Highlands, south of Sweetgrass, 3460 acres annex into the city, zoned for business park

- ii. Read Land, west of College Dr, south of I-80, 300 acres zoned for business park
- iii. Gambling establishments ordinance includes distance separation from schools, day cares etc., and creation of standards
- iv. Carport ordinance – for requirements for carports in driveways
- v. Projects in Review
 - 1. 4700 Lions Park Dr – Botanic Gardens is being expanded including raised planting beds and a picnic area
 - 2. 6952 Countryside Dr site plan, 6 multi-family buildings (1 - 12 unit, 1 – 18 unit, 2 -19 unit and 2- 24 unit)
- 10) Public Services Committee
 - i. HR Ranch and Judy Dr – zoning for Business Park
 - ii. Gambling overly district and distance separation requirements
 - iii. Belvoir Ranch environmental studies need to be provided to City Council to ascertain if the Belvoir Ranch trails and activities will continue to be available to all individuals according to the ADA Act
- 11) Safe Streets 4 All Committee – no report
- 12) Transit Board– no report
- 13) Visit Cheyenne – no report
- 14) Wyoming Independent Living
 - i. Put together flyer for businesses to promote accessibility. This is what WIL'S Access committee has been working on over the past year. It is for talking to business owners about making their business more accessible thereby increasing their customer base. It is to be used by those who have had the training offered by WIL trainers for now.
 - ii. The WIL annual Peer Advocacy Conference is in Casper at the Ramkota Hotel August 13 - 15. More info can be found on the Wyoming Independent Living Facebook page.
- 15) Wyoming Legislature – no report