

**ARIZONA SPACE COMMISSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**



**Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M.  
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Chapel, BLDG 46)  
3700 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, AZ 86307**

\*Items which may be acted upon by the Board are indicated with an asterisk below.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

Brett Mecum, Chair, Arizona Space Commission

**II. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Commissioner Brett Mecum, Chair for the Arizona Space Commission, called the meeting of the Arizona Space Commission to order at 10:10 AM. A quorum of voting members confirmed present.

Board Members Present:

- Grant A. Anderson - in person
- James F. Bell – online
- Jim Cantrell – online
- Erika Hamden – in person
- Shawn Linam – online
- Brett Mecum – in person
- Lisa Morris - in person
- Len Munsil - online
- Douglas J. Nichols - online
- Michael P. Vargas - online
- Steve Zylstra - online

Board Members Not Present:

- Megan Fitzgerald
- Michael McGuire

**III. Welcome**

Tom Drape, Dean of the College of Business, Security and Intelligence, gave opening remarks sharing and confirming Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University as a committed partner to the Arizona Space Commission.

**IV. Consent Agenda\***

Commissioner Hamden motioned for the approval of October 8, 2025, Space Commission Board of Directors Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morris.

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The minutes were unanimously approved.

**V. Remarks**

Jeff DeWitt, former Chief Financial Officer of NASA, shared remarks and insights from his time serving at NASA. Mr. DeWitt expressed his appreciation for the business representation on the Arizona Space Commission and provided commentary on international competition. Mr. DeWitt also shared his experience with NASA iTech and the success that was achieved remarking on the importance of partnership with the investment community and private equity. Mr. DeWitt took questions from the Commission regarding his thoughts on a State-level version of iTech to which he responded favorably recommending the Commission speak with Kira Blackwell, Program Executive with NASA, regarding the design and implementation of a roadmap. Mr. DeWitt also provided comments on the process for advocating for Arizona projects at NASA.

**VI. Arizona Strategic Planning for Space**

Commissioner Grant Anderson, Vice Chair, Arizona Space Commission & Co-Founder/Chief Innovator, Paragon Space Development Corporation, reviewed the subcommittee data collection assignment from the previous meeting. Commissioner Anderson asked for each subcommittee working group to commit to drafting a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis and upload the draft SWOT in the Arizona Space Commission online document portal before the next meeting.

Marisa Walker, Administrator for the Arizona Space Commission, mentioned the Paragon Fellows and their work on landscape reports sharing examples of recent updates with the Texas Space Commission. Commissioner Mecum mentioned his relationship with member of the Texas Space Commission and Space Florida as well as Space Valley in New Mexico and Aerospace State Association who he can reach out to for informational needs.

**VII. Commission Updates**

Working Groups:

Each Commission working group leader in attendance shared high-level comments on both the assigned SWOT analysis for their given group as well as comments about reaching out to working group members.

- Commissioner Morris spoke for the Infrastructure, Supply Chain, and Workforce working group with comments about working with the ACA and MEP for supply chain database access.
- Commissioner Hamden spoke for the Capital Formation working group emphasizing the importance of the strategic plan and identifying what can be achieved at a low cost as well as sustainable structure investments.
- Commissioner Linam spoke for the Research & Development and Entrepreneurship working group, mentioning federally available opportunities and drafting recommendations for the State.
- Commissioner Zylstra spoke in lieu of Commissioner Fitzgerald for the Public

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Policy, Marketing and Communication working group mentioning a long-term funding opportunity through the State Legislature and utilizing the Arizona Space Commission to share Arizona's space experts and sharing Arizona assets supporting the Space Industry and ecosystem. Commissioner Vargas shared an update on draft logo creation with a goal to share publicly at the next meeting.

**Legislative Strategy:**

Commissioner Anderson mentioned a goal of estimating potential project costs by January or February 2026 for discussions with members of the Arizona State legislature.

**Space-related Events:**

Commissioner Zylstra shared the Arizona Technology Council's event now scheduled for July in Tucson combining the Advanced Air Mobility Conference and the Arizona Space Summit with the Aviation, Aerospace, Defense and Manufacturing conference. Arizona Technology Council will be sharing a "save the date" and other relevant information soon. Commissioner Munsil mentioned scheduling an Arizona Space Commission meeting around the event which was recommended for further discussion and evaluation.

Commissioner Vargas and Commissioner Morris shared the Arizona Rising event and asked Taryn Struck of AZ Space Lab (organizer) to present the updated for the April 2026 3-day event in Tempe. Ms. Struck asked for formal endorsement from the Commission and permission to use the Commission's logo. Commissioner Morris requested a vote from the Commission on the endorsement and logo-usage request and committed to sending the request to Marisa for the next meeting.

**VIII. Call to the Public**

The meeting was opened for public comment.

Colleen McLeod Garner of Paragon Space Development Corporation volunteered her services on logo development and on SWOT templates if needed. Ms. McLeod Garner mentioned engagement with youth and STEAM engagement with Sally's Night, an organized effort to celebrate Sally Ride and support STEAM education.

Marisa Walker, Administrator of the Arizona Space Commission, alerted the Commissioners to the request for interviews from the Paragon Fellows and asked them to consider identifying time to advance this work.

Jeff DeWitt, voiced his support for the Arizona Rising event sharing its alignment with the NASA iTech model.

Commissioner Vargas asked for feedback from each Commissioner on the draft logo sent.

Commissioner Zylstra mentioned the Arizona Technology Council's event, Governor's

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Celebration of Innovation, happening in the evening.

Commissioner Mecum reminded the Commission the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> in Phoenix and the January meeting is scheduled to be in Yuma.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm following a motion by Commissioner Hamden, seconded by Commissioner Morris, and unanimously approved.

