

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

Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.
Arizona State Senate Capitol Complex, Senate Majority Caucus Room
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007-2890

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Brett Mecum, Chairman, Arizona Space Commission, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Brett Mecum called the meeting of the Arizona Space Commission to order at 10:12 A.M.

Marisa Walker, Executive Vice President and Administrator, Arizona Commerce Authority, proceeded with the roll call. A quorum of voting members confirmed present.

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Not Present:

- Megan Fitzgerald
- Len Munsil

III. Consent Agenda

Chairman Mecum began the meeting by introducing the first agenda item: approval of the November 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Morris moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Zylstra. The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. Welcome Remarks

Senator Janae Shamp, Senate Majority Leader, District 29, gave welcoming remarks as the room sponsor sharing her experience and enthusiasm for the work of the Arizona Space Commission. She



mentioned the future would be powered by American ingenuity and the report to be submitted to the legislature by the Commission would be instrumental in creating jobs, driving innovation, and securing space in the cosmos. She noted her particular interest in space medicine. The Senator indicated that she dropped legislation for a License Plate to support the Commission earlier in the morning.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Chairman Mecum presented Senator Shamp with an honorary Arizona Space Marshall proclamation read aloud by Vice Chairman Grant Anderson.

V. Remarks

Howard Chang, Executive Assistant United State Attorney for the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Colombia and Advisor, Georgetown University Space Initiative, shared remarks with respect to his experience working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Mr. Chang touched on Project Athena referencing a memo prepared in May 2025. He went on to share his expectations regarding a potential executive order, mentioning the agency would be looking for ways to restructure for more efficiency and completing a series of technical audits.

Commissioner Hamden asked how Arizona can best be positioned to respond to the agency's requirements. Mr. Chang quickly reviewed the current NASA Field Centers and then mentioned the potential need for a center that is organized with the commercial space industry.

Commissioner Bell inquired about the future of Space Launch System (SLS) program. Mr. Chang provided comments on the sustainability of the program and support for the program by Texas Senator Ted Cruz.

Vice Chairman Anderson asked about small business having "a seat at the table" noting Intellectual Property (IP) issues. Mr. Chang indicated the potential for efficiencies especially with respect to procurement the agency may be undertaking and encouraged negotiation with respect to IP.

Vice Chairman Anderson followed on with a question about the importance of an Arizona equivalent to Space Florida. Mr. Chang indicated the agency is tracking the work of the Arizona Space Commission and the potential need for a Space Act agreement.

Commissioner Linam asked about changes to the 8(a) federal acquisition regulations. Mr. Chang declined to comment directly. He did indicate there would be announcements forthcoming.

VI. Commission Updates

Working Groups:

Commissioner Cantrell provided an update from the Capital Formation working group. He shared the foundational thought of answering the question, "What can the Arizona Space Commission do to help with the raising capital for Commercial Space companies?" He shared the need for a narrative and suggested the concept of "quiet doers and builders" in Arizona. The Capital Formation working group will provide more suggestions in their report contribution.

Chairman Mecum called for the other working group to provide updates via email due to time constraints.



VII. Remarks

Representative Steve Montenegro, Speaker, Arizona House, District 29, provided remarks of gratitude and noted a commitment to move the Commission's work forward highlighting the industry's alignment with the "three pillars of freedom" listed as preserving the American dream for Arizonians, promoting public safety and protecting individual rights and liberties. Representative Montenegro also noted his work with the Science and Technology committee formation and the work of Senator Carroll and Representative Wilmeth to restore the Commission.

Vice Chairman Anderson inquired as to the intersection of the Science and Technology committee and the Arizona Space Commission. Representative Montenegro emphasized the importance for policy makers to understand where the government is in the way. To that end, he encouraged Commissioners to provide input on how to increase the speed of business through regulatory enhancements, to create a healthy space business ecosystem with growth potential and what innovators think is needed. There was an expressed desire to understand how the state can promote the space industry.

Commissioner Zylstra mentioned competition with other states specifically mentioning Texas which allocates a substantial amount of money to its Texas Space Commission for business attraction efforts. Representative Montenegro acknowledged a challenging budget year ahead, but encouraged the Commission to bring ideas to the Arizona House of Representatives and engage in conversation around those ideas.

Commissioner Morris registered a note of thanks to the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and asked for support for the ACA's and its mission.

At the conclusion of remarks and questions, Chairman Mecum presented Representative Montenegro with an honorary Arizona Space Marshall proclamation read aloud by Vice Chairman Grant Anderson.

Chairman Mecum called for a break at 11:17 A.M.

The meeting was called back to order at 11:23 A.M.

VIII. America's Space Wildcard: What Role Will Arizona Play in a Globally Competitive Space Future Presentation

Jonathan P. Roll, Program Manager, ASU Space Technology & Science (NewSpace) Initiative, reviewed the findings of a recently released report, The Redshift, the establishment of the Space Force Association-Arizona Chapter and the AASD Committee under AZ Technology Council.

The Redshift report analyzed China's space growth and track record over the last decade. Key findings included 1) China's infrastructure surge could upend US assumptions about the degree of our lead; 2) China is using a hybrid growth playbook; ours to innovate, theirs to scale with striking outcomes; 3) the "Space Silk Road" is tethering even more countries to Beijing; 4) Tiangong is already absorbing orbital science demand; 5) China is hitting all deadlines on their space exploration roadmap.

The Space Foundation Association Arizona Chapter formed in 2024 is one of 14 across the US with the objective to advocate, inform and research. To date they have hosted seven statewide events.



The Aerospace, Aviation, Space & Defense (AASD) Committee was established in December 2024 with the mission to position Arizona as a global hub of aerospace excellence, address critical challenges and support start-ups, national security initiatives, economic growth, manufacturing, workforce and policy issues. More than 140 members have participated in events over the first year.

Mr. Roll emphasized that the space domain will become more competitive; Arizona has immense legacy, assets, advantages and momentum; and the state needs to influence future national and global discussions.

IX. Arizona Space Events Resolution

Chairman Mecum called for the review of a resolution of neutrality policy statement provided by Commissioner Linam with respect to the endorsement of events. The proposed resolution included the following:

Arizona Space Commission Policy on Endorsements and Logo Use

Purpose:

The Arizona Space Commission is committed to advancing space advocacy and supporting the growth of Arizona's space ecosystem. To maintain fairness, transparency, and neutrality, the Commission has established the following policy regarding endorsements and use of its logo.

Policy Statement

1. Neutrality and Inclusivity

The Commission represents the entire Arizona space community and must remain impartial. Endorsing specific conferences, organizations, or events could create the perception of favoritism and conflict with our mission to serve all stakeholders equally.

2. No Formal Endorsements

The Commission will not provide formal endorsements for conferences, organizations, or events. This includes granting permission to use the Commission's name or logo for promotional purposes.

3. Participation and Collaboration

While the Commission will not endorse events, it actively supports space advocacy through participation. Commissioners may:

- Serve as speakers or panelists at conferences and events.
- Share insights and represent the Commission's mission and priorities.
- Engage in collaborative discussions that advance Arizona's space industry.
- May organize events on their own accord

4. Logo Use

The Arizona Space Commission logo is reserved for official Commission communications and materials. It may not be used by external organizations for marketing, sponsorship, or endorsement purposes.



5. Consistency and Transparency

This policy applies uniformly to all requests to ensure fairness and uphold the Commission's integrity.

Commissioner Linam called for a motion to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Zylstra. During discussion, Commissioner Zylstra emphasized the benefits of including an amendment to the Participation and Collaboration item to indicate that Commissioners on their own accord can organize events.

Commissioner Morris called for a motion to adopt the newly amended policy statement of neutrality. Commissioner Vargas seconded the motion. Marisa Walker took a roll call vote with the following results:

- Grant A. Anderson – voted “yes”
- James F. Bell – voted “yes”
- Jim Cantrell – voted “yes”
- Erika Hamden – voted “yes”
- Shawn Linam – voted “yes”
- Michael McGuire – not present
- Brett Mecum – voted “yes”
- Lisa Morris – voted “yes”
- Douglas J. Nichols – voted “yes”
- Michael P. Vargas – voted “yes”
- Steve Zylstra – voted “yes”

Commissioner Morris asked for a discussion on the endorsement for events from the Arizona Space Commission. Commissioners Cantrell and Anderson both commented on the amount of work related to investigating each event to earn endorsement from the Arizona Space Commission and mentioned a policy of neutrality allows the Commission to identify experts and further the goal of broadening the space ecosystem in the state. Commissioner Nicholls further mentioned protecting the reputation of the Commission, specifically the name and logo from being used. Commissioner Hamden noted that the Commission would not want to be perceived as the gatekeeper for events.

Chairman Mecum called for those remaining Commissioners with resolutions for consideration to indicate their intentions:

- Vice Chairman Anderson withdrew his resolution for discussion and consideration.
- Commissioner Zylstra withdrew his resolution for discussion and consideration.
- Commissioners Morris and Vargas withdrew their resolution for discussion and consideration.

Commissioner Morris asked for clarification on rules related to adding members of the public to working groups. She was instructed to send a note to the chairman, vice chairman, and staff after she added a new member to the working group and invite the chairman, vice chairman, and staff to any working group meetings.

Chairman Mecum reminded the Commission the next meeting will be held in Yuma on January 14, 2026.



Marisa Walker indicated she would be reaching out to Commissioners directly for any missing file information.

X. Call to the Public

The meeting was opened for public comment. No public comments were recorded.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 P.M. following a motion by Commissioner Nicholls, seconded by Commissioner Zylstra, and unanimously approved.

