

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

**Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Arizona  
Commerce Authority  
100 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007**

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

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Marisa Walker, Executive Vice President of Infrastructure & Sustainability for the Arizona Commerce Authority, served as facilitator. Marisa called the meeting of the Arizona Space Commission to order at 10:05 AM. A Quorum of voting members confirmed present.

**Board Members Present:**

Grant A. Anderson - in person  
James F. Bell - online  
Megan Fitzgerald - in person  
Shawn Linam - online  
Michael McGuire - online  
Brett Mecum - in person  
Lisa Morris - in person  
Len Munsil - in person  
Douglas J. Nichols - online  
Michael P. Vargas - in person  
Steve Zylstra - in person

**Board Members Not Present:**

Jim Cantrell  
Erika Hamden

**II. Consent Agenda\***

Commissioner Steve Zylstra moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on May 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grant Anderson and the minutes were approved by the Commission without objection.



### **III. ASU Interplanetary Initiative**

Taryn Struck, Portfolio Manager for Arizona State University, provided a presentation on the Arizona Space Summit. Taryn reviewed the history of the Summit as well as the current plans in place for a 2026 Summit tentatively scheduled for April 28-30, 2026, potentially sponsored by the City of Tempe at the Tempe Center for the Arts. The presentation covered feedback from an ASU-led survey with a suggested agenda for events and panel topics as well as a review of past and projected financials for the program. Additionally, there were questions and discussions regarding the ASU Interplanetary Initiative sunset and further discussion with respect to the Arizona Space Summit being a component of the Arizona Space Commission as host and organizing partner.

### **IV. Discuss Strategic Plan**

Marisa Walker led a review of the strategic plan content and suggested working groups. In discussion, the Commissioners identified four (4) working groups:

1. Infrastructure, Supply Chain, and Workforce
2. R&D and Entrepreneurship
3. Capital Formation
4. Public Policy, Marketing, and Communications

The Commissioners suggested three (3) commissioners per working groups with the Chairperson serving on all four (4) working groups. The following commissioners volunteered for the following working groups:

- Commissioner Bell - R&D and Entrepreneurship
- Commissioner Fitzgerald - Public Policy, Marketing, and Communications
- Commissioner McGuire - Infrastructure, Supply Chain, and Workforce
- Commissioner Munsil - Capital Formation
- Commissioner Nichols - Infrastructure, Supply Chain, and Workforce
- Commissioner Vargas - Public Policy, Marketing, and Communications
- Commissioner Zylstra - Public Policy, Marketing, and Communications

### **V. Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Anderson shared:

- His retirement from Paragon as CEO, identified now as the Co-Founder & Chief Innovator at Paragon retaining Board of Directors position.
- In December, the 2025 American Aerospace and Defense Summit will be held in Glendale, AZ. Marisa confirmed the information will be re-sent to the commissioners.

Commission Mecum shared:

- News of delegation trip to Luxemburg with a focus on investment and interest of an MOU with the State of Arizona.
- Insights from an Aerospace States Association event with teams from the states of Texas and Florida and interest in partnerships with states of New Mexico and Utah.
- A visit to the Office of Space Commerce and an invitation to comment on European Union Space Act.
- News of a Rocket Lab acquisition of a Tucson company, Geost, with a new footprint in Arizona and suggesting an invitation to CEO Peter Beck as a potential for Arizona Space Summit.
- A plan with the honorary consulate of Germany to host a trade mission September 28, 2025 – October 4, 2025, with several Arizona State Legislators attending and invitation for the



Commissioners to attend at each Commissioner's own cost.

Commissioner Nichols shared:

- Yuma Spaceport progress, Yuma representatives met with national officials in Mexico and the Governor of Sonora to advance discussion on a proposed MOU to facilitate airspace access for launch and landing activities.
- Mexico is developing its nascent space industry by planning four (4) satellite launches with a potential for the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) satellite launch to be coordinated with the Yuma Spaceport.

Commissioner Zylstra shared:

- A review of the July 11<sup>th</sup> Arizona Technology Council's AADM conference which featured a panel with the Space Commissioners moderated by Marisa Walker.
- A review of the Arizona Technology Council CEO retreat with Commissioner Cantrell as a featured speaker as well as several other prominent speakers.

Commissioner Munsil shared:

- His introduction and background as an attorney in the non-profit world.

Commissioner Vargas shared:

- News of Dr. Sian Proctor's space suit at the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum. Requested consideration of a letter to Dr. Proctor congratulating her on this distinction

## **VI. Discuss Administrative Items**

Marisa Walker led a review of the roles and responsibilities for the Commission, indicating one (1) commissioner expressed interest (Commissioner Mecum) in the Chairperson positions and two (2) commissioners indicated interest in the Vice Chairperson position (Commissioners Anderson and Linam).

Commissioner Munsil moved to nominate Commissioner Mecum as Chairperson of the Arizona Space Commission. Commissioners Vargas and Zylstra seconded the motion. Commissioner Nichols called for a point of order to understand the vote due to technical difficulties with the virtual meeting. Clarifications were made.

For a second time, Commissioner Morris moved to nominate Commissioner Mecum for the Chairperson position. Commissioner Zylstra seconded the motion. All members voted to appoint Commissioner Mecum to the Chairperson position with no dissenting votes.

Chairman Mecum took over meeting facilitation at 11:37 AM with support from Marisa Walker.

The Commission discussed the vice chairperson with a decision to unanimously agree via consent document to vote via email before the September meeting and direct Marisa to circulate the consent document along with an updated Commission roster. Commissioners with interest in serving as Vice Chairperson were instructed to submit a statement of interest with their mode of contact to Marisa Walker for dissemination to the entire Commission after all consent documents have been received and recorded.



The Commission discussed future venue opportunities and agreed on moving the meeting monthly to ensure a statewide approach. The venue for September was offered in Tucson at the University of Arizona with Commissioner Hamden previously offering to co-host. The December location was offered potentially to be held at Virgin Galactic's location in Mesa by Commission Morris. In January 2026, Commissioner Nicholls offered a location in Yuma to be determined, and in March 2026 Commissioner Munsil will provide space at the Arizona Christian University. Chairman Mecum suggested engaging the Aerospace and Aviation Industry prime contractors.

Marisa Walker noted that a SharePoint site has been established to collect information to support the development of the strategic plan.

The Commissioners discussed a marketing plan with a newsletter, website, logo and online content for the Arizona Space Commission with Commissioner Vargas volunteering to help directly with the effort.

## **VII. Future Agenda Items**

- Innovate Space event with Space Foundation and profile on the Arizona effort offered by the Space Foundation research division.
- Legislative policy briefing to be led by Commissioners Zylstra, Fitzgerald and in collaboration with Aaron Wodka, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Arizona Commerce Authority.
- Presentation of a Workforce initiative with the SciTech Institute.
- Additional policy (gifts, ethics, conflict of interest) training with the suggestion of inviting an attorney to come in and present for 30 minutes to the Commission as a refresher course.
- Adoption of a full charter currently in development.
- Working group assignments.

## **VIII. Call to the Public**

The meeting was opened for public comment.

No public comments were recorded. The group agreed to reconvene in September with a suggested venue the University of Arizona with Commissioner Hamden as a coordinating host with the Arizona Commerce Authority.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM following a motion by Commissioner Munsil and seconded by Commissioner Vargas.

