



Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
City Hall Room 430

Commissioners Present: Ashlie Castaldo, Chair; Christina Johnson, Secretary; Michelle McDonald; Marie Anderson; Amanda Paszak; Allison Fochs; Brooke Marinan, Vice Chair; Jill Isola Johnson;

Commissioners Absent: Michaela Mullin

Guests Present: Laura Laaksonen, City of Duluth; Mark Bauer, City of Duluth; Andy Paszak; Mary Brodzinski; Jeff Mortimore

Chair Castaldo called the **2/5/25** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Approval of the February 2025 agenda (Fochs, Paszak)

Approval of November 2024 minutes (McDonald, Anderson)

Current Disability Issues and Announcements

a. Member Updates

Employees from Goodwill read a statement to Human Rights Commission for multiple discrimination complaints. COD to reach out and partner with HRC as applicable.

b. Volunteering

Chair Castaldo and Commissioner Anderson volunteered at Boubville in December. Chair also volunteered at Bentleyville, saw many folks with disabilities and caretakers volunteering at same time.

c. Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Fair Details

February 13 at Downtown library. COD will have a table to distribute brochures. If there are any deaf-blind attendees at HOH event, Chair Paszak can provide braille materials and additional Lighthouse resources to help.

Accessible Parking Update

Recommended for approval 4027 W. 5th Street

Parks and Rec Report

Cold Front in Canal Park

Annual Goals - Updates

a. Any other tabling events on our radar? Possible April event. Awaiting Disability Day at the Capitol. Will keep COD informed.

b. Vice Chair Marinan submitted complaint to Qdoba because there is an accessible push button outside and not on the inside. Commissioner Fochs complained to DTA because bus driver drove away as she was climbing aboard because she was using a cane and driver was behind schedule.

c. Commissioner J. Johnson - shared appreciation for Boulder Lake accessible ski route.

New Business

a. City Council Outreach and Requests

Elected officials may be interested in attending future COD meeting. COD does not endorse or allow campaigning but meetings are open to the public.

b. Review Commission brochure

Updates: Meeting time, add room number, City graphic designer to review

Old Business

a. Cross Ribbon action with City

Commissioner Paszak met with Kelli Latuska. Kelli will work to craft a media statement about concrete ribbons identifying crosswalks downtown. Drivers are not following crosswalk rules. Kelli to attend next COD meeting, public awareness campaign.

b. Lester Park Working Group Involvement

Mayor will choose working group, uncertain if COD will be invited to participate.

Human Rights Office Report

New Human Rights Officer begins Monday. Marcia will join COD in March. Human Rights office moving to 3rd floor, room number pending.

Public Comment

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 4:14pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

3:30pm - 4:30pm

City Hall Room 430

The public is invited to submit written comment prior to the meeting by humanrights@duluthmn.gov or mailing comments to 411 W 1st St, City Hall, Duluth, MN 55802. Please note that all public comment is considered Public Data.