



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

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

Commissioners Absent:

Guests Present: Marsha Lue, City of Duluth; Laura Laaksonen, City of Duluth; Mark Bauer, City of Duluth; Andy Paszak; Joe Jurewicz, City of Duluth; Kelli Latuska, City of Duluth; BethAnn Johnson

Secretary Johnson called the **3/5/25** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of the March 2025 agenda (Fochs, Anderson)

Approval of February 2025 minutes (Anderson, Paszak)

Commissioner McDonald requested person-first language edit to Annual Goals section. Secretary to make that change.

Current Disability Issues and Announcements

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Fair wrap up - Positive feedback of resources present, well attended, MinneSNOWta campaign swag distributed, and multiple verbal invitations to attend a COD meeting. Suggestion to look for additional events to table for more exposure.

Library starting an accessibility committee, Commissioner Mullin to stay in contact.

Request for City to shovel the plow bank to cross the street INTO City parks. Money is allocated to plow some City streets; Chair Castaldo to work with County to identify areas they can uplift City plowing.

Accessible Parking Update

Approved at February meeting: 4017 W. 5th Street

Parks and Rec Report

Guest Speakers: Kelli Latuska, Public Information Officer and Joe Jurewicz, Traffic Engineer, City of Duluth on Crosswalks/Traffic Controls

Lighthouse Center has concerns about concrete ribbon as identified crosswalks. City confirmed they are compliant with ProWag.

COD requests to City: Paint crosswalks, add 'Stop Here' signage, implement a public education campaign utilizing City resources. Suggestion to test at one location and expand from there.

City response: 3 considerations with traffic: enforcement, engineering, education. City recommending signage and education to be most effective. More communication between COD and City in the coming months.

Annual Goals - Updates

COD would like to ask to be involved in Skywalk study.

New Business

- a. Vibrant Street - Goal to make walking around Duluth and alternative transportation a more recognized option. Chair to invite Vibrant Street to April COD meeting.
- b. Statement on 504 Lawsuit / Executive Orders - Not applicable to Minnesota.

Old Business

- a. MinneSNOWta Nice - "SnowScholars" college students shoveling sidewalks and driveway in a six-block radius around UMD.

Public Comment

Hoping to invite Goodwill folks to COD meeting. All action lies with MN State, in a waiting pattern.

Commissioner Mullin attending Disability Advocacy Day. Will bring updates or news back to COD.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 4:34pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 2, 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.