



Commission on Disabilities
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
City Hall Room 430

Commissioners Present: Ashlie Castaldo, Chair; Brooke Marinar, Vice Chair; Christina Johnson, Secretary; Jill Johnson; Amanda Paszak

Commissioners Absent: Marie Anderson; Allison Fochs; Michaela Mullin; Michelle McDonald

Guests Present: Marsha Lue, City of Duluth; Andy Paszak; Mark Bauer, City of Duluth; Duluth City Councilor Azrin Awal; Adriana Webb, ConnectAbility

Chair Castaldo called the **9/3/25** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Approval of the September 2025 agenda (Marinar, Castaldo)

Approval of August 2025 minutes (J. Johnson, Castaldo); Update BethAnn Johnson to Arc Northland

Current Disability Issues and Announcements

- Dinner in the Dark with Lighthouse, November 6 at the Clyde
- Push button at the mall - the main door had an accessible door sign but there were no push buttons to automatically open the doors. We can clarify which door and connect with Simon Properties with questions or concerns.

Accessible Parking Update

- August 1 meeting: accessible parking zones approved:
 - 110 S 67th Ave W
 - 7 E. 6th Street
 - A request from the developer of the old Ordean Building proposed that the two accessible zones on Michigan Street be turned into a two-stall loading zone and that the metered stall be converted to a four-hour accessible zone. Approved.
- Upcoming Sept 5 meeting: accessible parking zones recommended for approval:
 - 4428 W. 8th Street
 - Accessible parking needs were identified with the redevelopment of 6th Ave. E:
 - 902 N 6th Ave. E. Temp accessible parking on 9th street. Proposing a permanent zone on 6th Ave E. once project is complete.
 - 521 E. 10th Street.

Guest Speaker - ConnectAbility

Adriana - donated equipment program. ConnectAbility is a nonprofit to help people with disabilities and low-income seniors. Gently used medical equipment cleaned and sanitized, free for anyone in the public. No income qualification or medical qualification. Pediatric equipment, walkers and wheelchairs. Many other services.

Parks and Rec Report

No updates. August meeting was canceled and September meeting is delayed by one week.

Crosswalk Discussion

No updates. Amanda to reach out to Kelli and copy Chair Castaldo and Marsha.

Minnesota State Fair has paper tickets to place on ADA parking violations.

New Business

No new business.

Old Business

Skywalk Update: Noted the skywalk consultant will be reaching out to Marsha to connect with COD. Downtown Duluth has been conducting a study and hired a contractor for suggestions. Downtown Duluth should have skywalk / city walkability study posted.

Public Comment

What are rules about cutting tree branches overgrowing public sidewalk? Property owner is responsible, however, alert City Parks maintenance to trim overgrowth. Or, file official complaint with city engineering. Copy City Counselor.

Adjourn 4:16

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, October 1, 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 comments are considered public data.