



Commission on Disabilities Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
City Hall Room 430

Commissioners Present:; Brooke Marinan, Vice Chair; Christina Johnson, Secretary; Marie Anderson; Allison Fochs; Michaela Mullin; Amanda Paszak

Commissioners Absent: Ashlie Castaldo, Chair; Jill Johnson; Michelle McDonald

Guests Present: Andy Paszak; Mark Bauer, City of Duluth; Laura Laaksonen —

Vice Chair Marinan called the **12/3/25** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:35pm.

Approval of the Dec 2025 agenda (Johnson, Anderson)

Approval of Nov 2025 minutes (Mullen, Paszak)

Current Disability Issues and Announcements

- UMD and Commissions coloring event on December 18th. Ashlie setting up a table at Dovetail Cafe in partnership with Human Rights Commission. Amanda and Marie interested in attending. Laura to update and print brochures
- Commission marketing updates: COD brochure update time and location of meetings. Print in color. Chris offered to update the brochure if the City needs support.

Accessible Parking Update

- Nov 7 meeting approved:
 - 2872 Exeter Street
 - 626 N 56th Ave W
 - 3909 Grand Ave - business address
 - Gregorich Dentist 230 E Superior Street - business address
- Dec 5 recommended for approval: 808 N 8th Ave E
- Q: Do vehicles with accessible permits need to follow City alternate parking rules? Yes.

Parks and Rec Report

No P&R meeting in November.

New Business

- Elections for Officer into 2026. Voting in January.
 - Amanda intent for Chair
 - Ashlie intent for Chair
 - Allison intent for Vice Chair
 - Michaela intent for Secretary
 - Can we have paper ballots to vote for Chair, since that vote is contested? Recommended slips of paper identifying A and B for Commissioners with vision loss.
- Commission Timing and Agenda

- Recommend updating to 90-minute meetings.
- Recommend 3:00-4:30pm. This would allow for time for guests to speak and get involved in the COD.
- Motion APPROVED new meeting time 3:00-4:30pm starting Jan. 2026 (Paszak, Mullen)
- Bylaws
 - Process generally is to collect requests or suggestions, then City has to run through the legal process.
 - Updates:
 - Section 1: Update Member number to 9 instead of 17.
 - Section 3 Term of Office: Add language about commissioners can serve two consecutive terms for 3 years each. But then absent for 12 months, then can reapply for a third term.
 - Confirm “Commission on Disabilities” naming is consistent throughout
 - Article IV Officers: Add secret ballot voting when an officer position is contested (with multiple candidates)
 - Article IV Officers Section 2.2 and 2.2.1 Nominating committee: remove committee. Nomination or self-nomination at November meeting. Nomination can be submitted to COD liaison via email if absent. Revisit and discuss at December meeting. Laura recommends keeping language vague and including 2-meetings before Annual Meeting in the event there’s a snow storm.
 - Article VI Section 2 Annual Meeting: Held first meeting of the year.
 - Add a Parks and Rec liaison language
 - Article VI Meetings Section 4 Roberts Rules: Remove this
- Annual goals
 - Add to January or February agenda to discuss goals, potential tabling events, for the upcoming year.
 - Laura to pull goals list to share with the commission.
 - Initiative idea for 2026: Partnership with businesses downtown to ensure their drop-off zones are not banked.

Old Business

- Skywalk update - tabled, no updates.
- Dining in the Dark - More than 200 guests. Would like to do it again, potentially in 2 yrs
- Accessible parking permit allowed free parking at the DECC? No, still \$10 parking fee. They do have a large number of accessible parking spots.
- Hard of Hearing tabling event at the Library - is that happening again this year? February 2026

Public Comment

Adjourn 4:33 (Fochs, Mullen)

Next Meeting
 Wednesday, January 7, 2025
 NEW TIME: 3:00PM-4:30PM
 City Hall room 430