



Commission on Disabilities  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**  
**City Hall Room 430**

**Commissioners:** *indicate present (P) or absent (A)*

Ashlie Castaldo, Chair - P  
Brooke Marinan, Vice Chair - P  
Christina Johnson, Secretary - P  
Marie Anderson - Starting term in August  
Allison Fochs - P  
Jill Isola Johnson - P  
Michelle McDonald - P  
Michaela Mullin - P  
Amanda Paszak - P

**Also present:**

Laura Laaksonen, City of Duluth  
Andy Paszak, Guest

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Chair Castaldo called the **6/5/24** Commission on Disabilities meeting to order at 3:31pm.

**Approval of June 2024 agenda** (Motion carries with updates noted below: Marinan, McDonald)  
Updates: May 2024 Minutes; Next COD meeting date moved to August

**Approval of the May 2024 minutes** (McDonald, Castaldo)

**Updates on New Members and Status of the Commission**

Commission is full with 9 members! Welcome Michaela and Marie.

Chair Castaldo feeling pushback from City Administration on Snow Removal Task Force. Will add Vice Chair Marinan to conversations to assist.

**Current Disability Issues and Announcements**

- Consider inviting community members to or attending these events:
  - Boulder Lake ELC Adaptive Recreation Symposium and Survey at UWS
  - North Country RIDE - reached out to Chair Castaldo for COD to come visit. Exec Committee to coordinate a date. Chair invited to attend a future COD meeting.
  - Consider COD to share accessible opportunities at parks.
  - 34th ADA Anniversary on July 23rd at UWS. Chair Castaldo to reach out for potential tabling opportunity. Commissioners Michaela, Michelle, Chris to potentially staff the table.
- Commissioner question: Can police write tickets in private parking lots for disabled parking without proper handicap placard? Yes.

### **Accessible Parking Update**

- Approved by Parking Commission:
  - 517 N 58th Avenue W.
  - 627 E 4th Street
  - 319 S 19th Avenue E.
  - 625 N 11th Avenue E.
- Proposed for approval:
  - 2322 W. 8th Street
  - 2508 W. 2nd Street

### **Parks and Rec Report**

Commissioner J. Johnson lives outside the City and unable to sit on the board. Vice Chair Marinan volunteered to join the Parks & Rec Commission as new COD liaison.

### **Annual Goals - Updates**

Summer/Fall priorities and suggestions:

- Difficulty downtown for Lighthouse students and pedestrians is drivers pulling into crosswalks. Crosswalks not identified with white paint - rather, the concrete ribbon is intended to be the marked crosswalk. Suggested a public awareness campaign, partnership with City Communications department and/or Public Safety department. Laura L. will bring this to the City staff. Aligns with Objective 2.
- Present an update to the City Council on work of the COD, concerns, action items. Summer is a good time to present. Aligns with Objective 1.
- Tabling at 34th ADA Anniversary. Aligns with Objective 2.

### **New Business**

- Duluth Public Library putting together resource center. Not specific to individuals with disabilities, but this is a central place for individuals to work with housing, CareerForce and other partners.
- Cancel July meeting due to holiday. Motion approved: (Castaldo, Marinan)

### **Old Business**

- R-Word Update - Superintendent Magas is on board.
- Snow Removal Task Force - Amanda and Chair Castaldo starting this task force up again. First meeting in June. Works to find volunteers to help community members in need shovel throughout the winter.
- HOH conference update - Chair Castaldo to reach out to DPD and DFD PIOs for tabling.

### **Public Comment**

Looking for resources or books to help educate sighted individuals and children on life as an individual with blindness. Suggestion: reach out to Lighthouse. ECE.

### **Adjourn (C. Johnson, Fochs)**

Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm.

**Next meeting:**  
Wednesday, August 7, 2024  
3:30pm - 4:30pm  
City Hall Room 430