



# Wauwatosa, WI

## Commission for Persons with Disabilities

### Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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Wednesday, June 4, 2025

7:00 PM

Zoom Only:  
<https://servetosa.zoom.us/j/81064748721>,  
Meeting ID: 810 6474 8721

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#### Regular Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

*Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.*

#### ROLL CALL

**Present 8**

Member Heather Birk  
Member, Co-Chair Mary Callen  
Member, Co-Chair Elizabeth (BJ) Ermenc  
Member Scott Seis  
Member Mary Walz-Chojnacki  
Alderpersion Liaison Joseph Makhoulf II  
Member Julia Murphy  
Member Nancy Hall

*Deb Falk-Palec, present*  
*Laurie Laurishke, present*

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes of the April 2, 2025, regular meeting [25-0947](#)  
**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Nancy Hall  
**SECONDER:** Mary Walz-Chojnacki  
**Aye:** 7 Birk, Callen, Ermenc, Seis, Walz-Chojnacki, Makhoulf II, Murphy, and Hall

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Loneliness and Isolation report [25-0928](#)  
*Carmen Pangilinan reported that the initial outreach survey tapped into caregivers and found that they reported difficulty with participating in social activities for themselves and those they care for. There is a great need for respite services. Also, a lack of appropriate activities was identified as a need. Carmen then responded to questions from the commissioners regarding how to find people with lived experience to give input for the survey on loneliness and isolation. Carmen will reach out to consumer, advocacy and community groups to find respondents. Discussion was held about the size, location, structure and community resources needed to create and sustain programming in our community. Heather Birk, a*

commissioner, gave an informal overview of neurodiversity and the challenges faced by individuals who live with neurodiversity and their families. The school district has begun an initiative to provide educational information on neurodiversity. BJ will request access to the video of this meeting to review the excellent information provided by Heather and will share the access with all commissioners. Carmen is reaching out to the Tosa Neighborhood Association Council (Tosa NAC) to locate and engage citizens who may be interested in exploring ways to create social space for adults with disabilities.

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

2. Civic celebration report- July 4th Parade plans/ Drone Show July 2 [25-0948](#)

*July 4th Parade plans. Ongoing planning discussion about communication with neighbors (commercial and residential) on the parade route and all the units in the parade regarding the Sensory Zone and the accessible parking zone. Civic Commission has agreed to adding a brief text mentioning on the city-wide July 4 Celebration poster. BJ agreed to provide verbiage.*

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

3. State of the City report [25-0929](#)

**RESULT: HELD**

4. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan Vision statement [25-0930](#)

**RESULT: HELD**

5. Letter from commission about parking accessibility at Hem and Harlow [25-0931](#)

**RESULT: HELD**

6. Special Needs Social Club report [25-0932](#)

**RESULT: HELD**

7. Disability Flag [25-0933](#)

*discussion tabled. BJ will send an email with current and possible alternate flag for consideration at our next meeting. If approved by the Common Council, the current flag will be flown from the city flagpole July 21-28 in recognition of the 35th Anniversary of ADA Passage on July 26.*

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

8. Tosa Tonight, Aug. 6, 2025 [25-0934](#)

**RESULT: HELD**

9. Updates from other civic groups [25-0949](#)

*July 26th celebration in Madison is being considered for ADA Passage 35th Anniversary.*

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

10. Topics for next meeting [25-0950](#)

*Will be sent via email to Mary WC.*

**RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

**ALDERMANIC UPDATE**

1. Aldermanic Update [25-0951](#)

*Alder Makhlouf reported that the development in the village is ongoing. The MSP project at Mayfair Collection has received TIF funding. Urged all to watch the prior Financial Affairs meeting for information about the state of the city finances. Commission has been invited to participate on a city website update process.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

1. Proposed cuts to Medicaid, state funding plans

[25-0952](#)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: July 2, 2025**

*July 2 and Aug 6 meeting have been cancelled. A makeup date will be chosen.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.*