



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MINUTES

June 3, 2026

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting
Zoom ID 810 6474 8721

REGULAR MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting was conducted via Zoom only, by resolution of the Common Council and decision by the Committee.

CALL TO ORDER 7:04

ROLL CALL: Heather Birk, Mary Callen, BJ Ermenc, Nancy Hall, Julia Murphy, Scott Seis, Keagan Young, Mary Walz-Chojnacki

Guests: Deb Falk-Palec, Laurie Laurishke, Carmen Pangilinan, Sangita Ramaswamy, Amanda Saso

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING BJ moved and Nancy Hall seconded the approval of the May 6, 2026 minutes. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Commissioners introduced themselves and the concerns of the commission to Amanda Saso, our newly assigned alderperson liaison from District 4. Amanda is the Director of the Wauwatosa Historical Society.
2. Sangita Ramaswamy and Carmen Pangilinan from the Health Dept. introduced questions from the Health Dept's Health Assessment, which is done every 5 years to determine the focus for future efforts of the Health Dept. She requested that each commissioner respond to the survey as soon as possible. Wauwatosa Senior Health Fair will be held on Sept. 16, 2026. BJ, Mary Callen and Mary WC will meet with Sangita to discuss this further.
3. Mary Walz-Chojnacki presented an overview of the commission's goals as developed through our work with a consultant in April and May.
 - A. Continuing the sensory and accessibility zones at the July 4th civic celebration and developing an accessibility checklist for use by other groups in Wauwatosa. (BJ, Mary Callen and Joe Makhoulf)
 - B. Raising the commission's profile in the community by identifying allies and opportunities to be present in the community. (Mary WC and Julia Murphy)
 - C. Advocating for the ADA Transition plan to be adopted in Wauwatosa. Commissioners will reach out to alders to gather support for this initiative. (Nancy Hall will work on talking points for alders for the ADA transition plan.)
4. Mary Callen, BJ and Joe Makhoulf will continue to organize our efforts for the 4th of July parade. Heather will provide a pick up truck. We need help to set up and staff the sensory and parking zones, and to carry the banner and flag in the parade. Keagan will reach out to the Best Buddies group to see if any students are able to help. Fireworks will be held at the Lutheran College field on July 4th.
5. Our commission will continue to work with Ryan Wallace to support the passage of the ADA Transition plan
6. Commissioners are asked to read over the key points from the State of the City event for discussion at the July meeting.

7. Disability commission discussed hosting a table at the National Night Out event on Aug. 5, 2026. Volunteers are needed for set up and to staff the table in the evening from 5-8. We will request accommodations and signage for accessible parking, request a golf cart to transport people from parking to the event, and BJ to check out the property for other accessibility obstacles.

ALDERMANIC UPDATE Amanda Saso mentioned that the Veterans Memorial is going to be placed at the corner of Milwaukee, Harwood and 73rd St. Some issues related to accessibility are a lack of curb cuts, and multiple bus stops. BJ moved and Mary WC seconded the proposal that the Commission send a letter to the city elected officials asking for assurance that the site and structure will be ADA compliant and accessible to all those who wish to enjoy the memorial. Motion passed unanimously.

Amanda asked all commissioners to take the survey for the city hall and library plans for development.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: July 1, 2026

ADJOURNMENT 9:07

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act who requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format, must contact the City Clerk at voice telephone 479-8917 or TTY 471-8484 (City Hall, 7725 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213) for accommodations. Requests for accommodations for meetings should be made at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations for all meetings; so please give the City Clerk as much advance notice as possible.