



Wauwatosa, WI

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

7:00 PM

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

Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present 7 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

Excused 1 Member Nancy Hall

Deb Falk-Palec, present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 5, 2025, regular meeting [25-0536](#)
RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Elizabeth (BJ) Ermenc
SECONDER: Mary Callen
Aye: 6 Birk, Callen, Ermenc, Seis, Walz-Chojnacki, Makhoulf II, and Murphy
Excused: 1 Hall

NEW BUSINESS

1. Civic Celebration application for 2025 [25-0537](#)
Civic celebration application for our unit's participation has been submitted. Discussion about when and how units will be notified about the Sensory Zone this year. Alder Makhoulf, Deb and Mary Callen will continue to work with the Civic Celebration committee to assure that information about the sensory zone is given well in advance of this year's parade. Alder will check in with the bank owners to see if accessible parking will again be available this year.
RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

2. Commission meeting facilitator [25-0538](#)

Julia Murphy will serve as meeting facilitator.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

3. Disability Advocacy Day - March 12, 2025 [25-0539](#)

Disability Advocacy Day was virtual this year. BJ reported that no representative showed up in her meeting room. Deb Falk-Palec reported that the representatives were present and engaged with the participants in her meeting room.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

4. Commission membership [25-0540](#)

Mary WC mentioned the names of a couple of citizens interested in joining our commission. She will follow up with an invite to fill out the online application. Any citizen who lives or works in the city may participate. Out of city member may be appointed through a request with the mayor. All commissioners are appointed by the mayor. We are also seeking a student member.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

5. Update on Tosa Comprehensive Plan [25-0541](#)

Wauwatosa Comprehensive Plan was approved with an extensive vision statement. Commissions are asked to review the Vision statement for further discussion.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

6. Fair Housing presentation MWC [25-0547](#)

Mary WC and BJ attended the Fair Housing presentation given by the Fair Housing Council and Ann Heidkamp from the Wauwatosa Housing Coalition. Important information was shared about the history of fair housing in Milwaukee and the challenges for affordable housing in Wauwatosa. Health Dept. will launch a campaign to inform citizens about the value for stable housing in May 2025.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

7. Update on zoom options and e-comments at city meetings [25-0542](#)

Mary WC reported information from a meeting with Zach Kessler from the city clerk's office regarding zoom options for all city meetings and e-comment for all city meetings. Further discussion in the future. Possible invite for Zach to attend a meeting.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

8. Change Not Charity-The ADA [25-0548](#)

BJ reported on an excellent documentary through PBS on the ADA. The film is available at PBS.org.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

9. Update on Tosa Schools Resource Fair- May 7, 2025 [25-0543](#)

The commission will not have a table at the Wauwatosa Inclusion Fair this year since it conflicts with our meeting time.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

10. Wauwatosa State of the City Event [25-0549](#)

BJ, Mary Callen and Mary WC will attend the first State of the City event on April 23 at the Mueller Building.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

11. April 30, Independence First Walk and Roll [25-0550](#)

BJ reported that Independence First will hold the Walk and Roll event on April 30, 2025.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

12. Updates from other civic groups [25-0544](#)

BJ reported that the priority of Tosa Together is housing, Wisconsin Council of Deaf Hard of Hearing is communication, and she continues to advocate as part of the Independence First Transportation Team.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

13. WTMJ Let's Talk Tosa 3.19.25 [25-0545](#)

WTMJ's Let's Talk Tosa came to Cranky Al's on March 19. BJ reported that she will follow up with the facilitator for more coverage about events and priorities in Tosa.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

14. Topics for the next meeting [25-0546](#)

Topics for next meeting: further discussion of the Comprehensive Plan Vision statement, letter about parking accessibility at Hem and Harlow.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

ALDERMANIC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT**1. Aldermanic Updates [25-0551](#)**

Alder Makhoulf reported that the State of the City meeting will be held on April 23, 2025, at Hart Park. Hem and Harlow proposal received TIF funding, questionable accessibility for public parking spaces at this site. The commission moved and seconded that we send a letter to the Plan Commission to review the plan for public parking at Mandel's Hem and Harlow project. BJ will draft a letter.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS**1. Governmental Actions [25-0552](#)**

Continue to reach out to elected officials regarding funding for public services.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL ONLY

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.