

# Wauwatosa, WI

## Commission for Persons with Disabilities

### Meeting Minutes

7725 W. North Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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Wednesday, May 6, 2026

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 7:06pm.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present 7**      Member, Co-Chair Mary Callen  
Member, Co-Chair Elizabeth (BJ) Ermenc  
Member Heather Birk  
Member, Co-Chair Mary Walz-Chojnacki  
Member Nancy Hall  
Member Julia Murphy  
Member Scott Seis

**Excused 1**      Member Keagan Young

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes of the April 1, 2026, regular meeting

[26-0798](#)

*Motion to accept April 2026 minutes passed unanimously.*

**RESULT:**      APPROVED

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission training with Marissa Yeakey. The public is welcome to attend the training meeting for the commission, however, input will be restricted to commissioners for this meeting.

[26-0799](#)

*Communication training continued with Marissa Yeakey. Marissa presented the three goals identified by the commission at our last meeting and the related objectives. BJ moved and Mary WC seconded a motion to accept the three goals for future advocacy for the commission. Motion passed unanimously.*

*1. Continue to work on the holiday celebration sensory zone and accessible parking zone. Objectives include replicating the event in 2026, create a checklist for other civic entities that wish to accommodate individuals with special needs and work with Eva Ennamorato on disseminating it.*

*2. Raise the public profile of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Objective include connecting with the new Director of Development, and connecting with community partners with common goals.*

*3. Advocate for the adoption of the Comprehensive ADA Transition Plan for the City of Wauwatosa.*

*Objectives include creating talking points to use with alders, and setting meetings with the new alders to introduce ourselves and our mission and the benefit to the city for the transition plan.*

*Discussion followed about the path to work on objectives for each goal. Marissa reminded us that*

*strategic thinking and step-by-step communication is required to meet our goals. We will need to define the audience, clarify the objectives and define the message for each goal. The primary audience are those who can act and secondary are those who influence others.*

*Deb Falk-Palec suggested that we reach out to the ADA Coordinator network for steps and methods that have worked in other cities as they adopt an ADA transition plan.*

*Marissa shared some tips for effective written communication such as using positive, direct language and placing the main message at the beginning of any communication.*

*Marissa will follow up with a report, 1-1 coaching on a goal, editing a document and slides and templates from our training.*

*Discussion followed about our first goal of continuing the access zones for the July 4th civic celebration. Joe Makhlouf will attend the Civic Celebration committee meeting and will update the commission in June.*

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Elizabeth (BJ) Ermenc

**SECONDER:** Mary Walz-Chojnacki

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: June 3, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.*