



# Wauwatosa, WI

## Commission for Persons with Disabilities

### Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

---

Wednesday, February 5, 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 7:02 PM.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present 7**      Member Heather Birk  
Member, Co-Chair Mary Callen  
Member, Co-Chair Elizabeth (BJ) Ermenc  
Member Scott Seis  
Member Maddie Stencel  
Aldersperson Liaison Joseph Makhoulf II  
Member Julia Murphy

**Excused 2**      Member Mary Walz-Chojnacki  
Member Nancy Hall

*Excused: Laura Laurishke  
Absent: Addison Scharlau*

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 8, 2025, regular meeting [25-0191](#)  
**RESULT:** APPROVED  
**MOVER:** Joseph Makhoulf II  
**SECONDER:** Mary Callen  
**Aye:** 6      Birk, Callen, Ermenc, Seis, Stencel, Makhoulf II, and Murphy  
**Excused:** 2      Walz-Chojnacki, and Hall

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Tosa Schools [25-0192](#)  
*In future move this agenda item to every other month. Add to April agenda. Question regarding facilities improvements based on referendum. BJ Ermenc will inquire with facilities personnel. BJ Ermenc will request a speaker from the district to report on ADA issues as related to facilities improvement in the school district.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

2. Update on Health Dept. Isolation project [25-0193](#)

*The project is complete. There were several community conversations. Consultants are working on pulling their findings together. Report due in March. BJ Ermenc will invite speaker from Health Dept. to April meeting (Kristen Hecht) to update commission on findings.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

3. Update on Civic Celebration report [25-0194](#)

*Joe Makhoulf, Mary W-C, Deb Falk-Palec gave presentation to Civic Celebration committee regarding a Sensory Zone and a Mobility Zone at the 4th of July parade. Planning to do the same as last year. Asking bands and musicians to play softly near the end of the route which is the Sensory Zone. Sensory Zone is from 81st to 80th Streets. Mobility Zone is Bell Tower office building parking lot.*

*Instead of fireworks there will be drone show taking place on July 2 in conjunction with Tosa Together music celebration. Drone show will be approximately 15 minutes.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

4. Update on name tags, business cards [25-0196](#)

*- We have brochures.  
- Brochures initially designed by Heather Birk. Minuteman Press revised initial design and produced brochure.  
- Discussion regarding procuring business cards and name badges.  
- Utilize Minuteman Press for design and production.  
- City Administrator has said we cannot use city shield on cards or name tags although it is on the brochure.  
- BJ Ermenc, Mary Callen, and Mary W-C to discuss content/design of business cards and name tags.*

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Julia Murphy

**SECONDER:** Mary Callen

**Aye:** 6 Birk, Callen, Ermenc, Seis, Stencel, Makhoulf II, and Murphy

**Excused:** 2 Walz-Chojnacki, and Hall

5. Update on Tosa Comprehensive Plan [25-0197](#)

*Joe Makhoulf reported. Comprehensive plan is moving along. Finance Committee Meeting Feb. 11 at 7:30pm to discuss. Public comment welcome. Commission members encouraged to attend. Following Finance Committee Meeting, Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the Common Council for approval. This is an important document. It can be changed once approved but it is difficult. There is some verbiage relating to persons with disabilities. BJ Ermenc will share Comprehensive Plan with Commissioners for consideration and highlight section relating to persons with disabilities for consideration. Joe Makhoulf recommended looking at affordable and accessible housing issues in the Plan.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

6. Update on zoom options and e-comments at city meetings [25-0198](#)

*Subcommittee: Mary W-C, Nancy Hall, Laura Laurishke, Joe Makhoulf, and BJ Ermenc. Revisit in March for update from subcommittee on this issue. Nancy Hall to investigate open communications relating to emails sent to the Commission.*

- What are the rules for responding to email.
- How are we going to track questions/answers posed to Commission and action items.

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

7. Update on Tosa Schools Inclusion Fair [25-0201](#)

*Inclusion Fair is coming up next week. Mary Callen and BJ Ermenc will represent Commission. It is from 6-8 pm with set up beginning at 5pm at Wauwatosa West HS on Wednesday, Feb. 12.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

8. Updates from other civic groups [25-0202](#)

*Tosa Together putting together Black History Month materials.*

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

9. Topics for the next meeting [25-0203](#)

- BJ Ermenc will identify dates for LaShawnda Holland, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion + Accessibility for the school district, to join our meeting. LaShawnda has ADA compliance responsibilities as part of her position. Is she involved in monitoring ADA compliance as it relates to facility improvements?
- Deb Falk-Palec will send school district report to BJ Ermenc. Reports relating to equity and inclusion must include persons with disabilities. There are two objectives from the school district report relating to persons with disabilities.
- April meeting discuss flying flag in recognition of passage of ADA.

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

### **ALDERMANIC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT**

1. Aldermanic updates [25-0204](#)

- Comprehensive Plan report.
- The apartments proposed for North Ave. and 76th St. by the Luther Group will not be going forward. One issue is that they were not able to identify partners. There is a new proposal in the works from a different entity.
- St. Bernards school/church currently being demolished.
- Harlow & Hem development will be requesting TIF. Commission should be active in asking for built in units that are accessible. (Blanchard St. parking lot.) Check Finance Committee agenda (published this Friday) for an item related to this development. Commissioners and others concerned about accessible and affordable housing should attend if possible.

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

### **GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

*State of WI is well in the works of the new biennial budget. BJ Ermenc will investigate a possible speaker from WisTech for a future meeting. WisTech - Wisconsin's Assistive Technology Program - has sites across the state providing information, demonstration, and some short term loans of adaptive equipment. The Milwaukee site is located at Independence First.*

This was informational only.

**RESULT:** INFORMATIONAL ONLY

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 5, 2025**

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.*