

City of Lowell Disability Commission

Meeting November January 8, 2026

Members present

Sebastian Nash, Ron Lassman, Chris Green, Bill Mellen (remote), Lloyd De Jesus, Erica Harvey, Joanna Turcotte, and Mike Desrosiers (remote)

Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

Motion to approve December 11, 2025 , Meeting Minutes

Motion by Bill Mellen, 2nd Mike Desroches Motion Passes

Agenda item: Guest representing the Massachusetts Special Olympics, Matt Ruxton. Mr. Ruxton briefly introduced and explained that due to unforeseen circumstances that the Massachusetts Special Olympics would be soliciting municipalities to hoist the upcoming Special Olympics for 2026 and beyond moving from their traditional Cambridge and Boston locations. Multiple items are needed for these events to take place to include housing for participants and coaches/managers, food services, transportation and event location for the events.

Discussion between Mr. Ruxton and Commission members focused on the wonderful opportunities for the participants and the municipality/ies able to host and promote the event. General discussion focused on the size and needs that may be out of the scope of the Disability Commission but that contact with the Lowell City Managers office and local stakeholders would be needed.

Clerk Chris Green agreed to reach out to the City Managers Office and put Mr. Ruxton in contact with the appropriate persons in the office to potentially move forward.

The Commission thanked Mr. Ruxton for his efforts and hopefully furthering our connection to the Massachusetts Special Olympics for other collaborations.

Motion to accept report, 1st Sebastian Nash, 2nd Joanna Turcotte, motion passes.

No report

Agenda Item. Funding and transition plan.

Ongoing tracking of these items will be provided by Lloyd DeJesus, no items to report this month.

Motion to accept the report by Bill Mellen, 2nd by Chris Green, motion passed.

Agenda Item, Bartlett School.

Chris Green, report. The newly installed lifts are operational at the Bartlett School allowing full participation by all students. The Commission thanks Mr. St. Cyr for concluding this work.

Motion to accept the report from Ron Lassman, 2nd by Joanna Turcotte, motion passes.

Agenda Item: LHS Building, Commissioner Harvey reported that construction is ongoing and that there have been no issues reported to accessibility during the different construction phases recently.

Motion to Accept Report, Ron Lassman, 2nd Bill Mellen, Motion Passes.

Agenda item, Friends of the Commission Program.

Commissioner Harvey expressed that she had spoken to a few potential candidates for the program, Erika has met with one student and hopefully this will progress during the early 2026 calendar year.

Motion to Accept Report, Chris Green, 2nd Bill Mellen, motion passes.

Old business.

None

Motion to adjourn at 6:41 pm, Mike Desrosiers, 2nd Bill Wellman.

Motion passes.