

City of Lowell Disability Commission

Meeting April 9, 2026

Members present

Sebastian Nash, Ron Lassman, Chris Green, Bill Mellen (remote), City Councilor Sean McDonough, Erica Harvey, Joanna Turcotte, Yovani Baez, and Mike Desrosiers

Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

Motion to approve March 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Sebastian Bill Second Mike Desrosiers

Motion Passes

Introduction of New Friend to the Commission. Not present will table until next meeting.

Friends of the Commission Program

Jade Cerventes was not present at meeting will attend the next meeting. No items to report.

Suicide awareness signs purchase.

Discussion was held among the Commission Members as we were fortunate to have Ms. Lisa Golden, Director of Health for the City of Lowell, at our February meeting and at the time of the meeting it was discussed how the city had embarked on a Suicide Awareness Campaign by placing assistance and help signs at areas there had been attempts. The Commission, while meeting with Ms. Golden was asked if there was anything we could do to help. She mentioned that purchasing signs would be great. While in the meeting we asked that they be printed in multiple languages and to please contact the Commission if there were other areas we could help.

Motion by Sebastian Nash, 2nd By Ron Lassman to authorize up to \$1500.00 to be paid for signage at the discretion of the Health Department.

Motion passed unanimously.

School Park and playground improvement requests by the Disability Commission.

Commissioner Turcotte brought up the nonfunctioning ADA swing at the Gage Park Playground and how we have been trying to remedy the situation. Commissioner Green brought up the recent efforts to fix or replace the swing to no satisfactory outcome,

Public Works Director Yovani Baez-Rose noted that she could assemble a list of items in playgrounds and school parks that may need to be replaced or repaired and would notify the Disability Commission with this list.

At this time the discussion ended and we hope to make an in-kind donation to remedy some of these situations.

Motion to accept report by Joanna Turcotte, 2nd by Chris Green

Motion passes unanimously.

Folk Fest Carts

This item was being handled by Mr. Lloyd DeJesus and we will try to find the information to accommodate the request to authorize the rental of two golf carts dedicated to handicap movement during the Folk Festival.

Yovani Baez-Rose will attempt to coordinate this aspect of the event with the Commission.

MIS Funding request for fiscal 2026 ADA compliance.

This request is for \$4000.00 to be transferred to cover visual and auditory compliance on the City of Lowell Website.

Commissioner Lassman began the discussion referencing the experienced former Commissioners that have spoken against this request in the past couple of meetings. Commissioner Lassman also felt that this should be covered by the city as it is needed to apply to all functions of the City Website and APP.

City Councilor McDonough also spoke against this request for funds based on the overall size of the MIS budget and the increase that this department has received in the last 18-24 months.

Commissioner Green spoke in favor of the request noting that the city has been very responsive to the Disability Commission's requests for items in the past couple of years

specifically the Bartlett School elevators and enforcement of ADA requirements throughout the city.

Motion by Chris Green, 2nd by Mike Desrosiers to authorize a 1 time payment of \$4000.00 to the City of Lowell for ADA updates to the city website and APP.

Motion fails by a 6 to 2 vote

Special Olympics Donation

This item is brought forward by Erika Harvey to cover the costs of the Special Olympics Event rental at the Greater Lowell Technical High School. This requests is to cover the costs up to \$1850.00.

Motion by Erika Harvey, 2nd by Joanna Turcotte.

Motion passes unanimously.

Business Cards and ID Badges

No report.

Funding and transition plan.

Mr. Lloyd Dejesus is no longer with the City of Lowell as such and we will need to identify which person in the Planning Department will assist the Commission with tracking ADA repairs, updates and spending.

Motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm, Mike Desrosiers, 2nd Sebastian Nash.

Motion passes.