

**CITY OF MONROE  
COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES  
300 WEST CROWELL STREET  
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**  
[www.monroenc.org](http://www.monroenc.org)

- Item 1.** Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2026
- Item 2.** Listening Session on May 5, 2026
- Item 3.** Alliance for Children Discussion
- Item 4.** Staff Updates: The Dowd Center Theatre – Sensory friendly summer movies
- Item 5.** Other Business

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**ATTENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Please contact Angie Sustar at [asustar@monroenc.org](mailto:asustar@monroenc.org) or 704-290-1838 to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

**CITY OF MONROE  
COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2026  
MINUTES**

The Committee on Disabilities of the City of Monroe, North Carolina met in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m. on March 3, 2026.

**Members Present:** Melinda Plue (Chair), Kelly Stegall, Karen Heath (arr. 3:15 p.m.) Jonathan Belk (ex officio)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Property Management Director Ryan Jones, Assistant City Manager Lisa Hollowell, and Clerk Angie Sustar

**Visitors:** Linda Belk

Chair Plue called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. A quorum was present.

**Item No. 1 Public Input Regarding Individuals with Disabilities.** There were no speakers.

To allow for more dedicated engagement, Chair Plue suggested striking “Public Input Regarding Individuals with Disabilities” from the regular agenda. Instead, she proposed hosting dedicated, separate meetings to invite and hear from the public periodically, rather than including it at every meeting. Some general discussion ensued regarding, and options for, improving public comment and engagement, and inviting dialogue relating to individuals with disabilities.

Chair Plue proposed that the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting function as a listening session to identify issues, concerns, and needs within the City of Monroe’s disability community. Discussion ensued regarding the efficacy of current City communication and promotion strategies for public meetings.

Chair Plue suggested that providing a clear explanation of the committee’s purpose specifically, what it is and is not, would be helpful before receiving public comment.

**Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2025.** Ms. Stegall made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting. Ms. Heath seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Members Stegall, Heath and Chair Plue  
NAYS: None

**Item No. 3 Mission and Vision Statements.** Ms. Stegall presented the revised document, which outlines the committee’s Mission, Vision, and Goals. She noted that each goal includes action items under each goal. Members were encouraged to review the updates and provide

additional feedback. Following review of the document and brief discussion, Chair Plue made a motion to adopt the revised Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Goals for the Committee on Disabilities. Ms. Stegall seconded the motion which passed unanimously with the following votes.

AYES: Chair Plue and Members Stegall and Heath  
NAYS: None

**Item No. 4 Priorities and Goals.** Item has been combined with Item No. 3 Mission Statement.

Prior to moving to the next agenda item, Chair Plue requested an “Other Business” item to be added to future agendas to allow for the discussion of topics not specifically listed.

Chair Plue stated she has not received an official response from Council after presenting the letter regarding live-streaming meeting to General Services Committee, noting that she is unaware of any formal action taken and inquired if there was an update on this matter. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Stegall reported that she located the meeting minutes which stated “the Council agree that they need a balanced solution that would restore accessibility while maintaining a respectful environment in the end the committee members decided to take the issue back to the committee for further discussion and potential suggestion before making a final decision.” A brief discussion between Ms. Stegall, Chair Plue, Mr. Jones and ACM Hollowell followed relating to the communication strategy for such matters.

Chair Plue noted the importance of keeping this matter at the forefront to avoid potential ADA complaints. The item was tabled until a subsequent meeting to allow for further review.

Chair Plue proposed inviting Trinisha Dean from The Alliance for Children to the April meeting. The purpose is to discuss incorporating sensory-friendly elements into next year’s Christmas Parade.

Chair Plue will invite Trinisha Dean to the April meeting.

Mr. Jones advised that ADA placards have been installed at all City Hall offices.

**Item No. 5 Organizational Resource List.** Mr. Belk has a presentation he will share at the April meeting.

**Item No. 6 Sensory Friendly Event Template Update.** Chair Plue requested a list of upcoming City events for the next year to identify opportunities for accommodating individuals with disabilities or sensory needs.

Mr. Jones advised that there is a list of City-approved events is available on the City’s website. He explained that these events are pre-approved as a group and outlined the specific permit process associated with them.

Chair Plue inquired about summer movie series for children at the Dowd Center Theatre and if there would be sensory friendly showings. Acknowledging feedback from last year, she noted

the need for more accommodations beyond the initial steps taken. A brief discussion relating to what are some recommendations of what a complete sensory-friendly event movie screening look like. Chair Plue confirmed with Mr. Belk that his template provides this information.

Mr. Belk noted that the topics for the April meeting will coincide with Autism Acceptance Month.

Chair Plue inquired about the procedure for obtaining a proclamation for Autism Acceptance Month. ACM Hollowell advised that proclamations are typically initiated by Council. Chair Plue asked Mr. Belk if he would like the committee to reach out to a City Council member to request a proclamation for Autism Acceptance Month. Chair Plue and Mr. Belk will work together and ask a Council member to present the request to City Council.

There being no further business, Chair Plue made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Stegall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES:	Chair Plue and Members Stegall and Heath
NAYS:	None

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.