

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
April 13, 2015

MINUTES

St. John's Properties
1800 N. Prospect Ave
1:00 PM

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the April meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:00pm.

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Deb Falk-Palec
John Haupt
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Denise Koss
Barbara Leigh
Cheri Mc Grath
Susan Pickering
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki
Kathryn Zalewski

Absent or Excused:

Luis Arroyo
Tom Jacobs
Meg Steimle

Staff:

Mike Bonk

Guests:

Joseph Czarnecki, County Clerk
Tracy Harrington, MTS
Marcia Perkins, TPAC, Advocate

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March)

Commissioner Zalewski moved approval of the minutes. Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as approved.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

County Clerk Czarnecki administered the Oath of Office to the following commissioners: Johnson, Koss, Leigh and Pickering.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington indicated that the GoPass program offering free rides seniors and persons with disabilities started March 31st. They are processing GoPass requests from 9:00AM – 2:00PM and are currently averaging over 300 people per day. Many people were initially misinformed thinking they only had one day to get the pass, causing extremely long lines. MCTS has been pulling employees from all departments to help process all of these requests. A commissioner asked how disability is being defined for this GoPass. Ms. Harrington reported that they are using the FTA definition of disability. MCTS has reached out to all of the Milwaukee County Senior Centers and is setting up times to visit the Senior Centers, to make GoPasses readily available to the Senior Community.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (March)

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

- A. Mr. Bonk indicated that Summer Camps are filling up fast. Wil-O-Way Grant is currently full at 65 participants, and Wil-O-Way Underwood only has a few spots left to fill. Mr. Bonk indicated that Easter Seals is still in the process of hiring staff for the camp, but is ahead of schedule. Easter Seals, OPD, and Goodwill met to discuss camp's needs, and programming needs of Goodwill. Mike also reported that we are in the process of finishing up the Summer Recreation Book, and that spring classes continue to see a decline in attendance at Wil-O-Way programming, but increases in community based recreation. Mike also reported that OPD is now accepting Sailing Reservation forms for Sailing thru the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center. In addition Mike reported of his involvement with 25th Anniversary of the ADA celebrations, and reported dates of the following events: Legacy Bus Tour – June 26th & 27th, Brown Bag Lunches at Independence First – April 16th, Brewers Game – July 22nd 1:10pm (Will have Sign Language Interpreter, Easter Seals Color Guard, and a person with a disability throw out the first pitch), Adaptive Sports & Recreation Expo – July 25th, Abilities Fest – July 26th. Mr. Bonk indicated that Kurt Roskopf will be running the Abilities Fest at Grant Park on July 26th, and is seeking individuals to help plan the event.
- B. Chair Falk-Palec indicated that 25th ADA Celebrations are great to promote within the County, and wanted to address the issue of people parking in accessible parking spaces that should not, especially within the Wauwatosa area schools. Mr. Bonk indicated that the office has replenished its "Illegally Parked" cards and would be happy to bring cards to the next meeting for distribution.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Leigh is interested in helping the Abilities Fest, and was wondering if this is an event the Commission may want to sponsor with \$1000 - \$2000. Commissioner Leigh also thought it would be a great opportunity to promote people with disabilities through the parades that occur at the Henry Maier Festival grounds, and she would be interested in getting involved with trying to promote including people with disabilities within these parades and decorate their wheelchairs.

Commissioner McGrath brought up the fact of all the good things people with disabilities do to save tax payer money through the New Freedom project, and thinks the commission should reach out the Journal Sentinel to let them know the stats of ADA Boarding's, and make the public aware of the savings. Commissioner McGrath was also interested in inviting ABLE to the Ability Fest on July 26th.

Chair Falk-Palec mentioned that she thought the Legacy Tour Bus would be very visible at both the Milwaukee County Courthouse, as well as the Pettit National Ice Center.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Chair Falk-Palec introduced Marcia Perkins and expressed her interest in joining the commission and gave an overview of her qualifications, and presented her Letter of Introduction to the Commission.

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:01pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, May 11, 2015 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk Staff to the Commission

