

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Donald Natzke, Director
January 13, 2014

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the January 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
Tom Jacobs
Denise Koss
Barbara Leigh
Cheri Mc Grath
Susan Pickering
Don Richards
Meg Steimle
Kathryn Zalewski

Absent or Excused:

Luis Arroyo
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.

Staff:

Mike Bonk
Don Natzke

Guests:

Tracy Harrington, MCTS
Amy Look, Easter Seals
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Chair Falk-Palec gave a brief review of what she learned about the life of Commissioner Shovers from attending his funeral services. The Chair talked about his life. The family has asked that the commission to carry on Mike's work.

Chair Falk-Palec asked for a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Commissioner Shovers.

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December)

Commissioner Richards moved to accept the minutes. Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington indicated that the audit is finished. It came out positive and it included nine areas of recommendations which MCTS will work on continually. A couple positions at Transit Plus are open and we're actively recruiting for people. The program is facing challenges with the weather and construction of the zoo interchange. The future contract for the operations of MTS is under an appeal. Discussion took place regarding phone surveys done by transit plus, the programs providers' performance reports, the rating guidelines for the MTS contract being 80% technical ability and only 20% price, the transit TV network on the buses, the city of Milwaukee increasing the amount of taxi licenses by 100, the trial run of the new annunciator system on the buses going on right now, and the new fare collection boxes/system coming soon.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Chair Falk-Palec thanked the Nominating Committee for putting together the 2014 Slate of Officers (Chair: Falk-Palec, Vice-Chair: Richards, Secretary: McGrath, At-Large: Pickering and Steimle).

Chair Falk-Palec asked three times if there were any other nomination for any of the officer position. Hearing none, a vote was called. In favor: unanimous, Opposed: none.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (December)

Mr. Natzke asked Mr. Bonk to report on the staffing changes at Easter Seals. Mr. Bonk indicated that there's been some turnover again at Easter Seals with Vince and Derek leaving and Amy Look taking over the Respite Supervisor position. Easter Seals is actively recruiting for other supervisor and management positions. Mr. Bonk gave a brief mention about Amy Look and her history with Easter Seals and her connection with the office. Ms. Look gave an overview of her background and experiences. Discussion took place regarding the turnover rate at Easter Seals becoming a bit concerning and Ms. Look's workload.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Natzke indicated that he's very appreciative of the people who came to the December 11 event at the Kelly Senior Center and Southridge Mall regarding the moving of the bus stop at the mall. That day had many challenges including the bad weather, the distances and the obstructions. The events of the day were briefly reviewed. A bus rider coalition is being put together by Supervisor Jursik and its looking like a good group to work on this issue. The activities of some other groups were highlighted. So far, after all the efforts to this point, there's been no movement or change of action from the mall management. Discussion took place regarding the mall management's action and their lack of understanding how this impacts people with disabilities.

Chair Falk-Palec indicated that we have one opening on the commission and one individual interested in the position (Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki). Commissioner Steimle has asked Mr. Walz-Chojnacki to attend our meeting today and share his background and interest in serving on the commission. Mr. Walz-Chojnacki gave a brief tribute to Commissioner Shovers. Following the tribute he reviewed his background, his interests and experiences and his interest in serving on the commission. Discussion took place with Mr. Walz-Chojnacki regarding aspects of his experiences, etc. Chair Falk-Palec indicated that the Executive Committee will be having a meeting at the conclusion of this meeting to take up the topic of the opening on the commission.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Natzke indicated that there is a new procedure for persons wanting to be re-appointed to boards and commissions. Those re-appointments now need to have resumes attached with the request. As such, please forward your resumes to the office so that we can share those with the County Executive's office for re-appointments. Re-appointments still do not have to reappear at the committee of the Board of Supervisors like original appointments are required to do. Discussion took place regarding the requirements.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:07pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, February 10, 2014 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission