

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Tim Ochnikowski, Director  
September 14, 2015

### MINUTES

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

#### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the September 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 everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Luis Arroyo, Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri Mc Grath, Marcia Perkins, Susan Pickering, Kathryn Zalewski

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Meg Steimle, Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Staff: Mike Bonk, Tim Ochnikowski

Guests: Kristin Bennett – City of Milwaukee, Kate Block – CCHD (Interpreter), Shirin Cabraal – DRW, James Davies – Bublr Bikes, Kevin Hardman – Bublr Bikes, Tracy Harrington – MTS, Phillis King – UWM, Brian Peters – Independence First, Jeff Polenske – City of Milwaukee, Barbara Simon – UWM

#### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June & July)

Commissioner Arroyo moved to approve the June and July minutes. Hearing no discussion, Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as written.

#### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

Chair Falk-Palec introduced the topic of accessibility to the bike share program in Milwaukee. An overview of the accessible bikes that are used at Ohio State University was given. The relationship between the office and UWM regarding accessibility projects was mentioned. Persons in attendance were asked to give an overview of their organization and their interest in the topic of accessibility in the bike share program.

Mr. Peters gave an overview of the services and programs at Independence *First*. Specifically mentioned was the bike borrowing program that they offer.

Ms. Cabraal gave an overview of Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW). DRW is a protection and advocacy agency for persons with disabilities and disability law.

Ms. King and Simon gave an overview of the services and programs at the Accessibility Resource Center and UWM to students with disabilities.

Commissioner Zalewski gave an overview of the UWM Physical Therapy program and the relationship with MCTS and providing assessments with Transit Plus applicants.

Mr. Polenske indicated that he has taken on the role of implementing the transportation system, including bikes and the bike sharing system. He's working with Milwaukee County and MCTS to make things work. He's also working on the street car system.

Mr. Hardman, Executive Director of Bublr Bikes, gave an overview of the company. This bike share program is a classic public / private partnership.

Mr. Davies, Manager and Legal Advisor for Bublr Bikes, indicated that his job is to make sure that things work.

Ms. Bennett, manages the bike share program for the City of Milwaukee, gave a power point presentation regarding integrated transit systems and services.

Following the power point presentation there was discussion regarding how the program works, using the BublR app for information, making written materials available in alternate formats (audio, Braille, etc.), training staff on disability etiquette, the Planetizen program, Ohio State University’s bike share program and the three different specialized bikes that they use in their program, modifying a hand-cycle with a wheelchair attachment system, using the Federal funds received to increase accessibility to the system, using the national Disability Rights group to help with increasing accessibility to these types of programs, the relationship between BublR Bikes and Trek Bikes, Milwaukee could be a great pilot program with alternate bikes for persons with disabilities, working with Trek on supplying the alternate accessible equipment to cover the need, and any potential grant possibilities.

Chair Falk-Palec indicated that she’s like a committee of volunteers to continue to meet and work on this issue. A meeting will be set for next month, 12pm, prior to the full commission meeting.

**ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT**

Next month.

**ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (July & August)**

Next month.

**ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, October 12, 2015 at 1:00pm at St. John’s Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk and Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission

