

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
September 12th, 2016

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

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, Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Johnson, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, Sue Pickering, Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki (via phone)

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Meg Steimle, Kathryn Zalewski

Staff: Mike Bonk, Tim Ochnikowski

Guests: Tracy Harrington – MCTS, Chris Fox – MCTS, Jon Janowski – Milwaukee County Executive's Office

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July)

Commissioner Jacobs moved for approval of the minutes, and Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as printed.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

Jon Janowski of the Milwaukee County Executive's Office presented information regarding the County Executive's budget and how it can create a sustainable transit system. Mr. Janowski briefly described the Bus Rapid Transit and how that will benefit Milwaukee County. Jon then talked about the Go Pass and the benefit it is having in the community as people are able to get around more. However it is not sustainable the current way it is being served. Go Pass loses 3 to 4 million dollars per year for the county budget. The County Executive's office is looking to change eligibility for the GO Pass and will work with ADRC's to determine criteria. In addition Mr. Janowski discussed the possibilities of either a Vehicle Registration Fee, Sales Tax Increase, or increase in ridership fares are all additional options for additional revenue. Bus Rapid Transit has not had any surveys done regarding BRT, and whether staff on the Medical Campus would use it. Mr. Janowski stated that he believes the County Executive will introduce a VRF in the amount of \$20 to \$50 in the budget to help with the budget shortfall from GoPass, and other Transit Services.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington from MCTS introduced the new Mobility Training and Mobility Manager, Mr. Chris Fox. Chris briefly described his previous experience at MCTS working on improving Accessible Bus Stops. Ms. Harrington explained that New Freedom will hit 100,000 rides this year for the first time since its inception in 2009.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Trust Fund request was made for up to \$150 for Jim William Mooney, local piano player to play at the Tap the Potential Fashion Show at Wil-O-Way Underwood. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve the spending of Trust Fund money for up to \$150 for a piano player to play during the fashion show at Wil-O-Way Underwood. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Following no discussion, ACTION: the motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Update(s)

Mr. Bonk indicated that the Summer Sailing Program was wrapping up and that participation was again great at the Sailing Center. In addition Mr. Bonk talked about the comparison of the two Wil-O-Way Camps and how Wil-O-Way Grant had more experienced staff, and less aggressive campers, whereas Wil-O-Way

Underwood had less experienced staff, and more aggressive campers. Mr. Bonk indicated also that staffing was an issue at camps this year as Easter Seals how to cut back on the number of campers served due to poor planning and hiring from Easter Seals. In addition to these problems both lead staff at Easter Seals left and now were replaced with Chelsea McCracken. Mr. Bonk has since had addition meetings with Easter Seals to address these issues in hopes to prevent this from happening in the future. Mr. Bonk also discussed the upcoming Tap the Potential Events scheduled for October. Events include Mitchell International Airport Art Show, White Cane Safety Day Flash Mob at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Fashion Show at Wil-O-Way Underwood, and additional art shows hosted by MCFI and IndependenceFirst

- B. Bus Stop at St. Francis Hospital
St. Francis Hospital is not responsive to the idea of trying to get a bus stop closer to the hospital.
- C. Eric Hobbs Award
A Trust Fund request was made to again support the Eric Hobbs award which would give a \$500 top prize at the Mitchell International Airport Art Show. Commissioner Pickering presented the request and the commission made a motion to support the \$500 request and supported the approval of the request.
- D. Chairpersons Report
Chair Falk-Palec explained that Wauwatosa is taking the lead on Alternate Bikes and will be adding some to their system. They are still in the planning phase and are suggesting trikes, hand cycles, and side by side bikes. The Office will reach out to city ADA coordinator to invite to our next meeting. Commission hopes to make her aware of the Bublr bike program, not being programmatically accessible. Chair Falk-Palec explained the MKE Film Festival is back and that their big opener is Notes on Blindness.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner McGrath explained that the talking crosswalks still not working.

Commissioner Haupt took a 2 day bike ride to raise awareness for MS. Commissioner raised over \$11,000 and rode 65 miles on day 1 and 50 miles on day 2 with his hand cycle.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:40p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, October 10th, 2016 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission