

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Mike Bonk, Interim Director  
April 2021

### MINUTES

Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Conference Line: 414-436-3530  
Passcode: 660 353 019#

#### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:00pm

#### ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Norma Duckworth, Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, and Marcia Perkins.

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Sue Pickering, and Meg Steimle

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus, David Locher, Michael Schneider, Michael Zabel - MCTS

Staff: Mike Bonk

#### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March)

Commissioner Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Leigh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All other commissioners present were in favor of approving the minutes.

#### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Teacher Recognition  
Teacher was unable to attend. Commission will recognize the teacher at the next Commission Meeting scheduled for May.
- B. David Locher from MCTS provided the Bus Rapid Transit Presentation (BRT) Update. BRT has many benefits that will speed up the trip and increase efficiencies. There are dedicated lanes for the buses that will be added, transit signal priority that will keep lights green longer, level boarding for passengers with disabilities, the fare boarding gets collected outside the vehicle instead of inside the vehicle to speed up boarding, fewer stops along the way, and increased frequency of stops. Construction is expected to begin in 2021, with vehicles being secured in 2022, and starting service in the fall of 2022. MCTS will use electric vehicles with the Quantum securement system, which will give the passenger the independence to secure themselves as well as being a safer securement system. In addition, passengers with disabilities will be able to board in both the front and the rear of the bus with the level boarding system which features accessible ramps. Other accessibility features include, a platform snowmelt system, audible updates during the ride, detectable warnings on the platform for individuals with visual impairments, Braille Signage, and ADA compliant drainage.

Attachments: BRT Presentation

#### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported the MCTS Next initiative started on March 7<sup>th</sup> which is to improve the reduction of wait times and streamline routes. The second wave of changes will come in June, and third wave of changes to come in August. Fran explained that ridership on the van service was at 21,102 rides for the month of March. In addition, MCTS has implemented the Federal mask mandate. The only people who would exempt from wearing a mask would include individuals with cognitive disabilities, physical disabilities, or a language disability where an individual would have trouble asking to remove a mask. Individuals will be now be able to submit electronic files for Paratransit eligibility. Commissioner McGrath explained that some stops are proposed to be eliminated on Kane and Royal near the St. John's property. Commissioner McGrath explained these stops are crucial for the residents of St. John and would appreciate to be heard regarding keep the stops available. Staff Musci, explained MCTS will be reaching out to her directly and work on a solution.

#### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (March)

Interim Director Bonk provided the Office Report. Both Wil-O-Way Facilities are now approved for Private Party Rentals at a 50% capacity which is 90 people. The Day Programs are now approved for reopening on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Wil-O-Way Grant's main hall space will be repainted before the reopening as well as the kitchen. SailAway program will continue in 2021 with 2 people per boat. Will be submitting our Easterseals reopening plan for summer recreation programs soon.

**ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

A. Recreation Report

The Wil-O-Way Key Card Program will be on hold until ticket availability becomes available.

B. Chairperson's Report

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Duckworth will be extending an invitation to a teacher within the Shorewood District who is doing an outstanding job working with students with disabilities throughout the pandemic to the next Commission Meeting to recognize the teacher for their outstanding work.

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:04pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be May 10th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission