

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Mike Bonk, Interim Director
June 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: Damian Buchman, Norma Duckworth, Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Barbara Leigh, and Sue Pickering

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus, Karin Bachman Disability Resource Center, and Jonathan Heider

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May)

Commissioner Steimle. made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Perkins 2nd the motion. All other commissioners present were in favor of approving the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Teacher Recognition – Brian Hartwig
Commissioner Duckworth Thanked Brian Hartwig for all his dedication and service as a special education teacher within the Shorewood School District. Commissioner Duckworth explained that Mr. Hartwig goes above and beyond as a special education teacher and needed to be recognized. Mr. Hartwig thanked the commission for the recognition.
- B. Disabilities Services Division Update
Karin Bachman was seeking input regarding ADRC. Commissioner Steimle had questions regarding if staffing levels will be changing and how training would work so people have information for resources for both Aging and Disability related services. Karin explained the cross training has begun, and staffing levels will remain the same. Karin explained all the resources will be available through one number going forward instead of two separate numbers. ADRC is still teleworking 100% currently. Milwaukee County will be making renovations to increase accessibility and stay at the Coggs Building going forward. Commissioner Johnson Jr. commented he would do his best to make sure all benefits specialists would maintain their positions going forward and will do his best to make sure the department is made whole. Commissioner Falk-Palec commented it would be nice to have a nice drop off zone, and parking could be improved. Commissioner Falk-Palec also noted some transfers go to voicemails where callback do not happen. Karin explained that one phone number will be used for both Aging and Disability Resource Centers.
- C. Ramp Up MKE – Bradford Beach Update
Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec presented the commission with a plaque from the Ability Center thanking them for their generosity towards supporting increasing accessibility at Bradford beach by creating an accessible pathway down to the beach, as well as adding mobi-matting on the sand, and four beach chairs. Commissioner Buchman provided details on the scope of the project and explained that with all of these details Milwaukee put itself on the map as one of the most accessible beaches in the county.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported 21,685 rides in May. Licenses in Milwaukee had staff changes and has been caught up. Currently there are driver shortages. Summerfest shuttles will not run this year. Federal Mask mandates until September 13, 2021. 20 Person Capacity on buses currently. MCTS Next June 6 phase two, phase three will happen in September. Groundbreaking last week. Hiring Bus Drivers

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (May)

Interim Director Bonk explained that he would remain Interim Director for the next 3 to 6 months, and now has the ability to search for help through temporary employment to hire for someone to help with the Recreational Programming. Wil-O-Way Hall Capacities have increased to 120 people and are expected to go back to 100% capacity (180 people) in July but has not been confirmed yet.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

The Wil-O-Way Ticket Program has started back up with offers from the Milwaukee Brewers. Wil-O-Way Recreational programming will resume this fall. Sail Away Programs do have some openings for the remainder of Summer.

B. Chairperson's Report

Chairwomen Falk-Palec introduced Jonathan Heider who she met at the Bradford Beach Grand Reopening Event. Jonathan introduced himself to the commission, and explained he would consider future membership with the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

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

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:28pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be July 12th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission