

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:03pm

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, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle.

Commissioners Absent or Excused: John Haupt, and Sue Pickering

Guests: - Julietta Henry – Milwaukee County Elections Commission, Wendy Heyn – Disabilities Rights Wisconsin, Fran Musci - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February)

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

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Director Henry showed a [video](#) on how the Express Vote machine works. Over 200 Express Vote machines are in Milwaukee County and 125 machines in the city of Milwaukee. Braille Ballots can be requested by March 10th and would need to be returned by March 30th.
- B. Wendy Heyn from Disability Rights Wisconsin discussed various ways to support individuals with disabilities who would like to vote in the Spring Election. The Spring Election includes voting for the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Circuit Court Judges. Disability Rights Wisconsin has resources available for free voter ID, absentee ballots, transportation assistance, and curbside voting. Commissioner Duckworth mentioned it might be good to present this similar information. Wendy Heyn was open to the idea, and said presentations have been done in the past, and Commissioner Falk-Palec mentioned she could connect Wendy with MCTAB which could get the information to the transition coordinators within the school districts.

Attachments: [Make your plan to vote](#) | [Wisconsin Circuit Court Fact Sheet](#) | [State Superintendent of Public Instruction Fact Sheet](#)

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported the MCTS Next initiative started on March 7th 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 17,019 rides for the month of February. In addition, MCTS is working on signage and implementation of 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.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (January)

Interim Director Bonk provided the Office Report. Both Wil-O-Way Facilities are now approved for Private Party Rentals at a 25% capacity which is 45 people. The Office has been promoting the MCTS Next changes on social media, as well as sharing a survey based on transportation to get to the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Office has reconnected with Kulture City to see the status of all of the sites within Milwaukee County that requested to be a site. Five of the county locations (Boerner Botanicals, BHD, Coggs, Mitchell Park Domes, Wehr Nature Center) are at the

social story phase, while two other locations only need a few more employees to take the training to become a certified site(Owen’s Place & Wraparound Clinic).

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

SailAway program will continue in 2021 with 2 people per boat. EasterSeals will not be hosting their Summer Camp this year. Adult Summer programming is a possibility. The Wil-O-Way Key Card Program will be on hold until ticket availability becomes available.

B. Chairperson’s Report

Chairwoman Falk-Palec asked if staff could explain how the Department on Aging and Disability Services Division are merging under the Department of Health and Human Services, and if the word Disability will be left out of the title of the Department. Staff Bonk explained that the Division on Aging and the Division of Disabilities Services Division will all be under the Department of Health of Human Services and will all be centrally located through the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

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 2:36pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be April 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

