

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
December 11th, 2017

MINUTES

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

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: Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Anne Kearney, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Sue Pickering, and Kathy Zalewski

Guests: Damian Buchman – Ability Center, Sarah Knowles – Changing Spaces Wisconsin, and Ken Woodall – Transit Plus

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (October & November)

October & November Minutes – There was a correction on the November Minutes regarding guests that attended as well as typo of next meeting date. Commissioner Koss made the motion to approve the minutes. Hearing no additional discussion Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec approved the minutes as written.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

2017 Eric Hobbs Art Award Winner (Ms. Dawn Green) Dawn Green was not able to attend the meeting. Commissioner Perkins moved to approve the expenditure of \$500 from the Commission's Trust Fund to Ms. Dawn Green, who was selected as the winner of the 2017 Eric Hobbs Award from the annual art show at the Mitchell International Airport. Commissioner Steimle seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion on the matter, the vote was called. The motion passed unanimously. The office will prepare and submit a check request for \$500 to Ms. Green.

[Adjustable Height Changing Tables](#) (Sarah Knowles) Commissioner Steimle introduced Ms. Knowles, and explained they met each other through the school as both their sons have similar needs when it comes to changing their children with disabilities. The Commission then watched a video from Fox 6 which highlighted the issues of changing children with disabilities within public spaces that can no longer be changed on the toddler changing tables. Discussion then ensued regarding the video. Ms. Knowles explained that she reached out to the Wisconsin Center District to ask for an accommodation for her son Matthew. The Wisconsin Center District tried to accommodate Ms. Knowles by providing a training table located within the first aid room at the Wisconsin Center District. Ms. Knowles explained the table was not low enough to meet her needs. The Wisconsin Center district then lowered the table for Ms. Knowles, but still wasn't low enough to meet her needs. Ms. Knowles highlighted that Summerfest and the Milwaukee County Zoo have great changing spaces, as they are low enough to make easier transfers from the wheelchair to the changing table. Ms. Knowles also reports she has made connections with the Milwaukee Bucks in regards to their new arena, and has been told they will definitely provide an adjustable height changing table at the new arena. Commission will continue to put this on future agendas as a topic for discussion.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ken Woodall from Transit Plus provided the Commission with an update. Mr. Woodall explained that the ADA Boarding's on the bus for month of November were 6,824 riders compared to 8,955 a year ago. The year to date numbers are also down as there have been 91,738 in 2017 compared to 99,443 riders in 2016. Mr. Woodall explained that there will be fare increases for 2018. Van and taxi rides are up from \$3.50 in 2017 to \$4.00 per ride in 2018. In addition the New Freedom riders will now be required to pay for \$1 per day where as previously New Freedom riders did not have a charge to ride the bus. Mr. Woodall reported that Transit Express is still struggling with on time boarding, but is improving. The goal is to reach 92% of on time boarding. The past two months have been 82% and 88%.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No Committees Meetings.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Commission did not have any questions regarding the Office Report.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Staff Mike Bonk reported that the Wil-O-Way Ticket Program partnerships between the Admirals, Bucks, Brewers, and Wave have all continued, and Key Card members are continued to enjoy the perks of the limited free tickets, and discounted ticket offerings. Mr. Bonk also reported that the Fall Recreational Season has just ended and had over 60 participants at the Holiday Pancake Breakfast to close out the season. Dances continue to be well attended. Mr. Bonk will be getting more details numbers from Easter Seals soon. Spring Programming planning has already taken place and Program Guides will be sent out soon. Mr. Bonk has also been working the Damien Buchman of the Ability Center, specifically Ramp Up MKE in regards to making sure the community is aware of the adaptive equipment that was lend to the Milwaukee County Parks Department to be utilized at County Facilities. Ramp Up MKE has provided three hand cycles to Wheel Fun Rentals at the lakefront, multiple beach wheelchairs to Bradford Beach, and ice sledges to both Red Arrow, and Wilson Park. Mr. Bonk has been in on several discussions with both the Parks Department and Ramp Up MKE to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities to make sure the equipment will be maintained, accessible, and marketed to the public so people with and without disabilities are aware this equipment is available, instead of keeping it within storage areas. Mr. Bonk has also been working on the new county website project, and continues to advocate for departments to use the proper accessibility features such as alternate text, and not scanning in .pdf's.

B. Chairperson's Report

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec is encouraging the Commission to attend the next Equal Rights Commission Meeting for the City of Milwaukee on Wednesday, December 20th, 2017 2:30pm City of Milwaukee City Hall Room 301-A to advocate for alternate bike options within the City of Milwaukee.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner McGrath continues to recognize that the audible signals throughout the City of Milwaukee are currently not working, and ones that have been said to be fixed are not currently fixed. Commissioner McGrath will invite City officials to a future meeting in February to discuss the regulations, and discuss the process for fixing the broken signals.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Damien Buchman expressed his interest in being a commissioner, and is looking forward to attending future meetings. Damien described his involvement with the Ability Center, and Ramp Up MKE and goals for getting the adaptive equipment utilized within the Milwaukee County Parks system. Ramp Up MKE is always looking for additional partners to improve accessibility within Milwaukee County.

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be January 8th, 2018, 1:00pm at St. John's on the Lake (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

