

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Tim Ochnikowski, Director  
December 10th, 2018

### MINUTES

St. John's On the Lake  
1800 N. Prospect Ave.

#### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:00 pm

#### ITEM II ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Sue Pickering Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle (via phone).

Commissioners Absent or Excused: John Haupt, Denise Koss

Guests: Damian Buchman - The Ability Center, Fran Musci - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk

#### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October & November)

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Perkins made a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to approve the minutes. Hearing no objections, Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as written.

#### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

##### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

In 2018, 408,000 Transit Plus Rides occurred which is on pace with last year. Tracy Harrington is the new General Manager at Transit Express. Some changes coming to the New Freedom and GoPass programs for 2019 will be increasing fares from \$1 a day to \$2 per day starting January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Route 61 to Menomonee Falls has been eliminated, but Route 57 will extend to Menomonee Falls until August of 2019. MCTS is looking for feedback regarding their MCTS Next Initiative. The goal of MCTS Next is to decrease rides times. MCTS has two proposed ways to achieve this and is looking to get public feedback on the best way to improve the system. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is still within the budget. Electric Buses may be introduced when the BRT starts. In May of 2019 MCTS will put out a RFP for Taxi service. MCTS is also working on producing an informational video on snow removal to promote safety and good egress. Bus driver Natalie of MCTS has been contacted by Inside Edition, Time Magazine, Ellen, and other shows regarding her good deed to help a homeless man get shelter and food for the day.

##### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Trust Fund Request – The Trust Fund committee met prior to the Commission meeting to discuss the request of a \$500 expenditure to be written to the winner of the Mitchell International Airport Art Show. Angeline Tesch was the winner of the Mitchell International Airport Art Show, for her 1<sup>st</sup> place Artwork known as “The Beginning”. The Commission has previously supported the Art Show winner and has named the award the Eric Hobbs Award. The Trust Fund Committee Chair Sue Pickering explained the Trust Fund committee moved for adoption, and is requesting the approval from the full Commission. Supervisor Willie Johnson made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$500 to Angeline Tesch as the Eric Hobbs Award winner of the Mitchell International Airport Art show. Commissioner McGrath made a 2<sup>nd</sup> motion for adoption. 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. Angeline Tesch. Commission then discussed possible county locations that would be nice to display the artwork. Commission discussed having staff reach out to county department heads, specifically locations such as the Disabilities Services Division, Airport, and the Zoo. Additional non county locations that were discussed were the Boys & Girls Club, MPS, and MCTS.

##### ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Staff Mike Bonk explained the new service the county will be providing for individuals with disabilities. Milwaukee County is now working with Aira to provide assistance to an individual with visual impairments in wayfinding throughout county facilities and grounds. Aira connects people who are blind or have low vision with a trained professional agent that helps individuals navigate through unfamiliar places using the camera on their smartphone through the Aira app or through a pair of smart glasses which utilize the app. Aira is free for constituents to use when within Milwaukee County locations.



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**ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

**A. Recreation Report**

Staff Mike Bonk reported that Easterseals has hired a Recreation Coordinator who is Mikayla Savaglio. Our Holiday Pancake breakfast that was scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at Wil-O-Way Grant had 60 participants registered and only 36 people attend the event. The cost of community outings will have an increase for 2019, in order to prevent cuts to programming. The Red Arrow Park Ice Skating rink will open mid-December this year, and will be offering the adaptive Ice Sledges free to individuals with disabilities. Staff provided and update regarding the games that would be available for the Wil-O-Way Key Card Program with the Milwaukee Admirals, Bucks, & Wave. In addition the program has expanded to include the new Professional Baseball team in Franklin the Milwaukee Milkmen. The Milkmen will provide a limited number of free tickets for Key Card members per game. The Snowmobile Festival will again be held at Wil-O-Way Underwood on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**B. Chairperson’s Report –**

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec discussed the city of Milwaukee initiative to include adaptive bikes in the Bublr Bike system. Bublr has designed a locking mechanism that would be able to be attached to adaptive bikes to allow the adaptive bikes to dock within the current stations. Bublr is looking for possible locations to pilot bikes and meet and talk with people regarding the bikes and opportunities.

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commission members discussed the need to seek out additional members for the commission. Commissioners discussed possibly adding Sharin C. or Dan I. to the commission.

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be January 14, 2019, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

