

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
February 12, 2018

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:00pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Commissioner Kearny led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: John Haupt, Anne Kearney, Denise Koss (via phone), Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Sue Pickering (via phone), and Kathy Zalewski

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Deb Falk-Palec, Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle

Guests: Fran Musci and Ken Woodall – Transit Plus, Roberto Escamilla II – Public

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (January)

Commission did not approve the minutes, due to lack of attendance and the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Fran Musci, the new director of MCTS, shared the Transit Plus Report. Fixed Route ADA Boarding's were 5,224 in 2017 and 4,222 in 2018. Transit Plus on time performance 93% and has significantly improved of the last month. Feedback from the commission was that boarding's are most likely down due to the fact of colder and snowy weather, which make it difficult to get to the bus stops.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No Committees Met.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Commission asked when the office will be moving into their new office space. Staff Mike Bonk reported the move is scheduled for the month of March with no definitive dates planned yet. Commissioner Kearny asked if the county is looking at merging the county and state together into the state building on 6th and Wells. Staff reported there was no workings that he was aware of regarding merging the county functions and state functions all into one building. Staff explained that there are plans to move all administrative staff from the courthouse to the 633 Wisconsin location and bring all court related functions out of the Safety Building in hopes of building a new courthouse that would improve overall security.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Spring Recreation Programs are now in session. Staff have continued to see good enrollment in ceramics classes (13), and bingo classes (16), with lesser attendance with Special Olympics (5), and Color Guard (6). Our first dance at Grant was thirty people which is lower than usual, but also had a lot of walk-ins for the dance. Staff is confident the numbers will rise as word spreads that classes are back in session. The Spring Program guide went out earlier than normal, and gave people more than enough time to register. Community Outings have continued to be a hit and rarely have less than ten people attend. Snowmobile Festival was well attend even though there was not enough snow to ride. Participants enjoyed interacting with the snowmobile club with games, dancing and good food. Staff Mike Bonk also explained a great upcoming opportunity to share with the community. The Milwaukee Admirals partnered with the Milwaukee County Parks to provide The Great Skate on February 28th at 5:30pm, which is a free community event to have fans interact with the players at Red Arrow Park at the skating rink. The great thing about the event is that there are adaptive Ice Sledges which individuals with a disability can use at no cost to skate as well.

The office is again partnering with the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center to provide Sailing opportunities to individuals with disabilities and their families. This year the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center has been extremely gracious and is offering us the most sailing slots we have ever had allowing up to 800 sailors. The office is continuing to look for Rental Managers to help manage our Facility Rentals during our weekend rental hours.

B. Adjustable Height Changing Table
No updates by the Commission.

C. Chairperson’s Report – Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec was not present, however Staff Mike Bonk provided some information regarding the bike share program in the city of Milwaukee, as this has been reported on at most meetings. Staff Mike Bonk explained that the Equal Rights Commission (ERC) has continued to support a similar voice as the commission has previously expressed in that the city of Milwaukee needs to look into alternate bikes, to provide options that would be suitable for persons with disabilities. Zagster has since met with the City of Milwaukee, and gave the city a proposal. The city did not request a proposal, and is now looking into how to handle the proposal.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Zalewski reported there is a group in Wauwatosa that is looking at exploring housing options for young adults with cognitive disabilities. Commissioner Zalewski, or Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec will provide an update at the next meeting.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Roberto Escamilla who is on the Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities Employment and Health Committee. Roberto wanted to extend an invitation to the next Commission Members to attend the next Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities Employment and Health Committee meeting which will be held on Tuesday, February 20th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Roberto Escamilla reported the state is working on emergency prepared kits for persons with disabilities, and will send information to interested parties.

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 1:47pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be March 12th, 2018, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

