

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
February 10, 2020

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:05 pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Acting Chairwoman Marcia Perkins led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Damian Buchman, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Sue Pickering (via phone), Marcia Perkins, Meg Steimle (via phone)

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Norma Duckworth, Deb Falk-Palec

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk, Timothy Ochnikowski (via phone)

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January)

No minutes were available, and will be voted on in March

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Fran Musci provided the Transit Plus Report. Transit Plus had 35,246 rides for the previous month and had an on-time percentage of 95.21%. Total rides on the van service for 2019 was 437,466. Overall for the year last year bus ridership is down 1%. Taxi ridership is down 13.5% compared to the year before and down 22% since 2015. Ms. Musci explained that a soft zone has been declared for the DNC and vehicles will not be allowed in from Clybourn to Cherry, and Water to 10th street. This will apply from July 10th thru July 17th. MCTS, the County Executive, and Milwaukee County OPD held a press conference on February 5th, 2020 making the announcement that Aira was now available to be used on public transportation and can be used door to door.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Facilities Access Committee (Kletzch Park)

Commissioner Haupt presented to the Commission that the Facilities Access Committee would like to draft a letter of support for the Kletzch Park Fish Passage, and Accessibility improvements. Commissioner Leigh explained that the friends of Kletzch Park are not being heard on their issues, which is location of where fish passage should go. Commissioner Buchman then stated the commission should write a letter of support but be specific in regard to the access for persons with disabilities and not discuss fish passages. Commissioner Haupt said he would have the facilities access committee meet again and discuss drafting a letter.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (January)

Staff Mike Bonk explained that the Office for Persons with Disabilities continues to improve the Wil-O-Way facilities. Wil-O-Way Grant finished installing double pane windows installed in the main hall area. Wil-O-Way Underwood has been painted on the inside of the facility in the main hall area, main hallways, as well as coat room. New Aira locations have been added to the website, and continue to be updated with DNC locations, transit, etc.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

30th Anniversary of the ADA is this year, so the Office for Persons with Disabilities has been highlighting ADA on a monthly basis by putting out monthly awareness flyers that high celebrities, athletes, and famous people whom you may never thought had a disability. Each month there is a new tagline at the top

of the flyer, and different individuals listed at the bottom each month. The Milwaukee Admirals collaborated with OPD to provide a 30th Anniversary of the ADA Celebration night at UW Panther Arena. Disability related organizations have an opportunity to setup information tables throughout the concourse to explain their services. The National Anthem will have a sign language interpreter, and other information will be shared throughout the game through interviews, and other in game promotions. The game will be on February 19th at 7:00pm. Snowmobile Festival will take place on February 1st from 12:00pm – 3:00pm at Wil-O-Way Underwood. Individuals were not able to ride snowmobiles due to the lack of snow, but the party still went on. Over 120 people attended the event and was a still a great success.

B. Chairperson’s Report

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 March 9, 2020, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission