

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Mike Bonk, Interim Director
February 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, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, Sue Pickering and Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Barbara Leigh

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January)

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

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported Para Transit rides for the year of 2020 were 235,783 rides, down 46% from 2019. Taxi service is down 42% and had 36,376 rides in 2020. Transit Plus received a complaint regarding social distancing because social distancing was not observed. Due to staff limitations, they cannot deny anyone a ride based on social distancing. Transit Plus eligible drivers and drivers over the age of 65 have started getting their vaccinations. Drivers for MCTS are expected to start getting their vaccinations starting April. Mask signage will be updated to match the federal mandate. Department on Aging will be hiring a Mobility Manager. Department on Aging will also be providing transportation for Seniors to get groceries, visit senior centers and go to medical appointments. Transportation will be provided through a contract with First Transit. 5310 Grant Funding for 2-year cycle, travel training, mobility training, etc. has been approved. Department on Aging is also helping coordinate rides for vaccination process. MCTS Next will be starting in March. Goal is to offer more frequent stops in higher utilization areas.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Facilities Access Committee

Facilities Access Committee met regarding setting goals for 2021. The Facilities Access Committee discussed several ideas regarding Accessibility Improvements within Milwaukee County which include the possibility of adding an adult changing table at the Wil-O-Ways, add more Accessibility Guides for additional county facilities, and tracking the implementation of Kulture City within additional Milwaukee County Facilities. Ultimately the Facilities Access Committee chose to help track the implementation of Kulture City at the Boerner Botanical Gardens, Mitchell Park Domes, Cogs Human Services Building, and the Wehr Nature Center

B. Wil-O-Way Committee

The Wil-O-Way Committee met regarding setting goals for 2021. The Wil-O-Way Committee discussed several goals. The first of these goals was to review the RFP that goes out regarding our Summer Camp and Recreation Programs. The second goal discussed was to look at getting Adult Changing Tables at Wil-O-Way Facilities to help provide better accommodations for our Summer Camp, as well as other users that could benefit from the facility. The third goal was to look at Grant Opportunities within the community that could help implement more accessible equipment within Milwaukee County.

C. Program Access Committee



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The Program Access Committee did not meet, but Program Access Chair, Commissioner McGrath, explained the commission should consider following program access issues, such as Election Access, Transportations Access regarding the implementation of MCTS Next, and the Bus Rapid Transit system.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (January)

Interim Director Bonk provided the Office Report. Both Wil-O-Way Facilities are closed. The Office for Persons with Disabilities had 2 Sign Language Interpreter Requests. There was also one request for an Auditory Listening Device.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Staff met virtually with the Sailing Center regarding Summer Sailing Opportunities. Capacity levels will be less to encourage social distancing, and masks would be required. The Office has also been discussing recreational programming opportunities with EasterSeals. We will not be supporting Spring programming at this time, but are looking into Summer, and Fall Programming. Summer Camp will not be happening this summer, and families have been notified.

B. Chairperson's Report

Four Commissioners are up for reappointment and need to send in their updated resumes. Haupt, Johnson Jr., Perkins, Steimle,

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commission Members had a discussion regarding the roles of the commission, and who should assume the roles for 2021 for the Chairpersons, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Commissioner Pickering made motion to nominate Commissioner Falk-Palec to continue as the Chair of the Commission. All voting members approved Commissioner Falk-Palec as the Chairperson. Commissioner Pickering nominated Commissioner Steimle as the Vice Chair of the Commission. All voting members approved Commissioner Steimle as the Vice Chair. Commissioner Falk-Palec made a made a motion to nominate Commissioner Perkins as the Secretary of the Commission. All voting members approved Commissioner Perkins as the Secretary.

Commissioner Duckworth discussed with the Commission a way to honor teachers who go above and beyond teaching students with disabilities. Commissioner Duckworth highlighted a teacher within the Shorewood District who is doing an outstanding job and discussed if this is something the commission would consider for an award or recognition.

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 8th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission