

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
January 8, 2018

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, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, Sue Pickering, and Kathy Zalewski

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Anne Kearney, and Meg Steimle

Guests: Damian Buchman – Ability Center, Dawn Green – Eric Hobbs Award Winner, and Ken Woodall – Transit Plus

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (December)

Commissioner Koss made a motion to approve to the December minutes. Commissioner Pickering 2nd. Minutes Approved.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

2017 Eric Hobbs Art Award Winner (Ms. Dawn Green)

The commission presented Ms. Dawn Green with the Eric Hobbs Award. Ms. Green graciously accepted the award. Ms Green explained this artwork was very spontaneous, she wanted to make a piece of artwork that represented freedom. She started to sketch the eagle, and then was inspired to use a variety of colors. Ms. Green explained that the various colors represent all the different nationalities in the United States. Her artwork, "Out of the Minds Eye" was accepted by the commission, and presented Ms. Green with a \$500 check for her award winning artwork.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Fran Musci is the new Director of Transit Plus. MCTS hired her from within. Fran was previously a travel trainer for MCTS. Mr. Woodall explained the partnership he previously had worked with UWM to help provide Transit Plus Assessments. ADA Boarding's December 2017 5,263 riders up 4,723, YTD 97,001 for total rides 2017, 104,176 in 2016. Transit Express has been having issues with on time performance. On time performance November 83.2%, goal is 92%. December on time 84.6% performance.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No Committees Met.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

The Spring Recreational Program Guide was just mailed out to participants. Classes at the Wil-O-Way Sites will continue such as Special Olympics and Ceramics classes will continue at Grant, and Color Guard and Bingo Night at Underwood. In addition we have continued to host Friday Night dances at the Wil-O-Ways. Community Outings will continue on Saturdays. Snowmobile Festival will take place on February 3rd, 11:00am – 4:00pm regardless of weather. Activities will be setup indoors in case we do not have enough snow. The Office for Persons with Disabilities is looking for Rental Managers to help host our parties on the weekends at the Wil-O-Way Sites. Hours vary depending on requested rental times, but work mostly weekends, and can be long hours at times. Interested parties should contact Tim of the office.

B. Adjustable Height Changing Table

Ms. Knowles did not attend this meeting, but Ms. Knowles did contact the Bucks in regards to having an adjustable height changing table in the new Bucks arena. She expressed her interest in having an adjustable height changing table, and suggested the table be located the sensory room, they are planning on developing. Tim Ochnikowski has been in contact with the Bucks organization to ensure they are still planning on creating a sensory room as well as creating a room that will be sufficient for persons with disabilities to utilize for personal needs. Commissioner Falk-Palec explained that the Autism society is offering training to the Bucks Staff on how to handle situations that may arise.

C. Chairperson’s Report

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec reported that the City of Milwaukee is looking for individuals to participate in a pedestrian plan survey to get feedback on how Milwaukee is doing. Information can be found at <http://city.milwaukee.gov/MilwaukeebyBike>. Survey will be posted until January 31st, and is hosted by the Department of Public Works. Commissioner McGrath explained that audible crosswalk signals have not been working properly within the area, specifically the locator buttons can rarely be heard.

Chairwoman Falk-Palec reported on attending the City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission Meeting to speak about the bike share program. On January 17th Zagster will attend the next ERC meeting to explain their new PACE Program on how it could benefit Milwaukee by adding alternate bikes into the program. Commissioner Palec highlighted a front page article regarding the current vendor BublR Bike and how a local rider logged over 1,500 miles in one year, and uses the bikes mostly for recreational purposes instead of only a form of point to point transportation. Previously the Commission was told the program is meant for point to point transportation. Staff Mike Bonk explained that the Equal Right Commission is stressing to the City of Milwaukee that additional options need to be explored to offer alternate options to include everyone within the community.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be February 12th, 2018, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

