

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:04pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Anne Kearney, Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Marcia Perkins, Meg Steimle (via phone).

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Sue Pickering, and Kathy Zalewski

Guests: Ken Woodall – Transit Plus

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (January & February)

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to approve the minutes. Hearing no discussion, Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as written.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ken Woodall reported that Transit Plus is still struggling to hire and retain staff. While January's on time performance was met, February missed the mark, but was very close. Commissioners noted overall they have had good experiences lately with Transit Plus. Commissioner Leigh did report lateness from the taxi service, as well as Commissioner Perkins. Commissioner Steimle noted that on time performance has been better, and even has exceeded her expectations. All complaints can be sent to Lisa Walters regarding transportation issues including taxi cabs. The commission would like to speak with the American United Taxi company regarding the drivers and issues that are occurring.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No Committees Met.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Staff Mike Bonk reported that the Office for Persons with Disabilities is in the process of renewing Tenant Lease agreements with both Adult Day Services at Wil-O-Way Grant, and Goodwill Industries at Wil-O-Way Underwood. Milwaukee County is expected to launch the new website by the end of the month. The Office for Persons with Disabilities met with the Parks department to discuss bike share opportunities within Milwaukee County Parks. The Office for Persons with Disabilities will be having an incredibly busy facility rental season, and has had to hire additional rental managers to help with the additional rental requests.

Zagster presented to the City of Milwaukee their proposal for bike share within the City of Milwaukee. The City of Milwaukee did not request a proposal for the bike share program. Wauwatosa has more usage in their bike share program than the City of Portland. Only 47% of the users were from the City of Wauwatosa. Bucks Sensory Room will be built in the new arena. Staff Ochnikowski could not report whether the changing area would be portable vertically or whether it would be fixed. Commission would like to provide feedback to the accessibility info in the Visit Milwaukee once it is ready.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Staff Mike Bonk reported that Spring Programming is continuing to go well. Bowling programs have over 30 enrolled on each day, and are having consistent numbers on a weekly basis. In addition Dances are continuing to see high enrollments at the Friday Night Dances at the Wil-O-Ways. There has been a trend of participants paying more at the door than preregister for dances this spring. April Newsletters will

highlight the upcoming Sail Away program partnership with the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center that allows individuals and their families to go sailing for free at Lake Michigan.

- B. Chairperson’s Report – Commission discussed a previous constituents question about providing office report on the website for the general public. Commission feels as though the office memo is not needed on the website, but serves as a good information piece to the commission when it is emailed out. This constituent also mentioned the state is working on an Emergency preparedness kit for persons with disabilities. The commission is encouraging to connect with the constituent to present information about the kits. Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec explained there are housing issues for youth with disabilities transitioning into adulthood. Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec will be provide more updates regarding this initiative at future meetings. There is a housing opportunity for persons with intellectual disabilities open house on April 22nd, 2018 at 3:00PM at 68th street. The Commission discussed the need to fill its last available spot on the commission. Damian Buchman has expressed interest of being on the commission. Additionally Commissioner Zalewski has had a guest in the past that was interested in serving on the commission.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Perkins reported on attending the Pedestrian Planning meeting with the City of Milwaukee. The city is looking for feedback on unsafe situations pedestrians are facing. Commissioner Perkins gave feedback on specific cross walks where she has noticed unsafe situations. Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec has heard of a new technology that has something within the paint where a person with a visual impairment would be able to detect the paint lines when crossing the street. Commissioner Koss discussed additional things that were mentioned at the meeting such as one cut out or two at the street corner, walk and don’t walk signs vs countdown signage, and striping patterns people see as more helpful than others. The City was specifically gathering information and data from users on what they view as best practices.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Commissioner adjourned the meeting at 2:33pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be April 9th, 2018, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

