

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
March 9th, 2020

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:03pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Norma Duckworth (via phone), Deb Falk-Palec John Haupt, Denise Koss (via phone), Barbara Leigh, Cheri McGrath, Meg Steimle (via phone)

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Marcia Perkins, Sue Pickering

Guests: - Chris Fox - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk, Timothy Ochnikowski (via phone)

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January & February)

Commissioner Leigh made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Haupt second the motion to approve the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Mr. Chris Fox provided the Transit Plus Report. Transit Plus had 36,553 rides for the previous month and had an on-time percentage of 96.03%. 4,625 taxi rides last month. Mr. Fox explained that they will be meeting with the DNC again to discuss transportation and drop offs regarding the DNC and will provide a more in depth update next month. Mobility ridership is up 7,604 for the year thus far. Bus orientation programs are available where MCTS would bring a bus onsite to businesses, group homes, etc. to explain how fares work, answer any route questions, and gives users the ability to Two travel trainers are available to go door to door and help with travel training. Last month 997 minutes were used utilized on the Aira app which was used on 130 calls with 29 unique users. Wheelchair securement trainings are available and can be scheduled at locations or at MCTS as well.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Facilities Access Committee (Kletzch Park)

Commissioner Haupt presented to the Commission that the Federal Grant money has expired due to not proceeding on the project by the specified time. Staff Ochnikowski explained that the neighbors are requesting the fish ladder be east side of the river, but due to federal law of how much the flood plain can rise the ladder can only go on the west side of the river. Staff Ochnikowski also explained that Milwaukee County is moving forward with Kulture City to be sensory inclusive by designating quiet areas, and sensory zone for individuals with PTSD or individuals on the Autism spectrum at various county locations including Boerner Botanical Gardens, Mitchell Park Domes, Wehr Nature Center, and the Milwaukee County Zoo by next month. Future locations include the Behavioral Health Division, Owens Place, and the Wraparound Clinic.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (February)

Aira is now located at all Senior Centers.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Staff Bonk reported that the 30th Anniversary of the ADA will be celebrated on July 26th, 2020. The Office is working on promoting the 30th Anniversary in a variety of ways including awareness posters, as well as



trying to work on local events in the community. The Office partnered with the Milwaukee Admirals to designate a home game to Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the ADA on February 19th, at 7:00pm. The Admirals were generous and offered 2 free tickets to individuals with disabilities and their families, and if additional tickets were needed could be purchased for \$10 each. Over 200 tickets were distributed for this event. At the game itself the Admirals had Sign Language Interpreters available for the National Anthem as well as did a variety of in game promotions related to the 30th Anniversary of the ADA such as interviewing the Director of our Office between periods regarding the ADA, and had a variety of disability related organizations setup throughout the arena for more information on the programming. Similarly, the Office has coordinated a similar event with the Milwaukee Wave on March 15th, at their 1:07pm game. Again, Sign Language Interpreters will be available for the National Anthem, and a variety of promotions will go on throughout the game such as Fact or Fiction regarding the ADA and honoring a Hometown Hero. Other ADA celebration events include, game with the Milwaukee Milkmen on July 25th, Disability Pride Festival at Gordon Park on August 8th.

B. Listening Sessions

Commission discussed having two listening sessions, one at IndependenceFirst, and then possibly a northside location either at Washington, McGovern, Gordon Parks. Commission had discussion regarding all of the disability related serviced government provides. The Commission thought it would be best to have information meetings the next few months, inviting the ADRC, Youth Services, and Aging Resource Center to gain more knowledge before going through with a Listening Session.

C. Chairperson’s Report

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec mentioned that Sharin Cabraal, cannot be a Commissioner until she can meet with the County Executive or a member of his staff face to face. Sharin is currently out of the country and can be considered once she is able to meet with the Milwaukee County Executive.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:38pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be April 13, 2020, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

