

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
October 14th, 2019

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:00 pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Norma Duckworth, Deb Falk-Palec, John Haupt, Cheri McGrath, Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Barbara Leigh, Marcia Perkins, and Sue Pickering

Guests: - Sharin Cabraal, Stefan Dostanic – Deputy County Clerk, Fran Musci - Transit Plus, Rebecca Rabatin – City of Milwaukee, Tony Snell – City of Milwaukee, Monica Spaeni and Gary Stott- Access Ability Wisconsin,

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September)

No Quorum present.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

Access Ability Wisconsin (Monica, via phone), All-Terrain Motorized Wheelchairs

[Journal Sentinel Article 092519](#)

[Free Off-Road Wheelchairs Mean Adventure for All](#)

AAW, offers initial training, and continual service, and maintenance on all vehicles. Host Application needs to be filled out. AAW will provide marketing ideas, and MOU for the equipment. Commissioner Steimle has asked the AAW has reached out to the three Independent Living Centers in the State. Monica stated that they did reach out to the independent living centers, but there is not as much interested as when the organizations reach out to AAW. Gary Stott stated that most organizations previously have reached out to them due to word of mouth and works better that way as they have more of a vested interest, and will provide the volunteers, and training while AAW will provide the equipment. AAW has successfully partnered at 7 locations at this time. Commissioner Haupt asked if one of these pieces of equipment would fit in a van. Gary explained that this does not fit in a minivan and would not recommend putting in a full-size van. Rebecca Rabatin from the City of Milwaukee asked about the battery life of the motorized wheelchairs to see if it varies on conditions. Gary Stott explained that battery life can vary depending on how cold it is outside as well as if there is more terrain to climb.

Oath of Office (Buchman, Haupt, Johnson, Perkins, Steimle) – County Clerk Christenson
Commissioner Haupt and Steimle were present and sworn in for Oath of Office.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

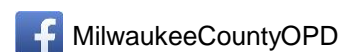
Fran Musci provided the Transit Plus Report. Transit Plus rides for the previous month were 32,752 with an on-time percentage of 94.48%. Ridership is down about 2% on Transit Plus. Ridership is down across the board whether it be taxi cab rides, or bus rides. There are possible route cuts for 2020, based on the budget proposed at this time.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (September)

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. County Wide Listening Sessions



3 separate countywide listening sessions. Survey questions to be developed and locations to be discussed at next Commission Meeting.

B. Recreation Report

Staff Mike Bonk provided the Recreation report. OPD is working with the Milwaukee Admirals, Bucks & Wave to distribute tickets again this fall as a part of the Milwaukee County Sports Ticket Program. We will also be offering free Holiday Folk Fair tickets. We will offer six tickets for individuals and their families, and thirty tickets for organizations that would like to attend the Holiday Folk Fair. In addition, October is Disability Awareness Month. OPD has been coordinating three big events for month which include the White Cane Safety Day Flash Mob on October 15th, 11:00am at Clas Park outside the Milwaukee County Courthouse, the Tap the Potential Mitchell International Airport Art Show which will run October 21st - November 1st, and the Tap the Potential Fashion Show which will take place on October 25th at 11:00am at Wil-O-Way Underwood.

C. Chairperson’s Report

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec invited Sharin Cabraal an opportunity to speak about her background working at Disabilities Rights Wisconsin. Ms. Cabraal explained that she is a lawyer that has recently retired and would be interested in serving on the Commission in the future.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Duckworth brought up an issue regarding qualifications for persons with disabilities to serve on Jury Duty. Commissioner Duckworth will follow up with the Office after the meeting.

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Rebecca Rabatin from the City of Milwaukee will be involved in planning a Pridefest for individuals with disabilities during the festival season.

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:37pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be November 11th, 2019, 1:00pm at St. John’s on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

