

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
September 11th, 2017

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, Anne Kearney, Denise Koss (via phone), Cheri McGrath, aMarcia Perkins, Sue Pickering, and Supervisor Willie Johnson

Commissioners Absent or Excused: John Haupt, Tom Jacobs, Barbara Leigh, Meg Steimle, Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki, and Kathy Zalewski

Staff: Mike Bonk

Guests: Maggie Tate-Techtmann – Life Navigators, Tom Kenney - MCTS

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINTUES (July)

Minutes could not be approved due to no quorum.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

Maggie Tate-Techtmann gave a special report regarding what Life Navigators does in the community for individuals, and families with disabilities. Life Navigators serves in a variety of ways including Leadership Training, Basic Living Needs, Guardianship Program, Short Term Support, Transportation, Housing, Social Supports, Long Term Support, Long Term Care Programs, and Futures Planning. More information can be found on their website at www.lifenavigators.org

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Tom Kenney provided the Transit Plus Report as Tracy Harrington was on vacation. Tom is involved in the New Freedom programs that provides training to individuals who want to learn how to ride the bus from schools to individuals with disabilities. Tom explained that last year was an all-time high for riders with disabilities on the bus systems as over 100,000 rides were used. MCTS is applying for grants that would help the Transit Plus System become more innovative. They are seeking grants to have the MCard to be able to be used on Transit Plus, and accounts could be reloaded online, instead of its current tickets system. In addition they are seeking grants that would fund an automated calling system to call riders 5 minutes before their ride will arrive, so they can be ready to go. Tom also provided an update on the Quantum QStraint System that has been added to one bus in Milwaukee County to speed up securement time for riders in mobility devices from 3 minutes to 30 seconds. Tom reported that the bus has been traveling to various community centers and events showing the new system. Rider feedback has all been positive so far as this gives the riders the ability to secure themselves and speeds up the process. The new bus will be available to see the new securement system at the Open Doors Milwaukee event at MCTS. Tom also reported Tracy Harrington will be leaving MCTS to pursue a new career with the City of Milwaukee's Street Car. Sandy Kellner, Tracy's boss will fill in her role in the interim until someone else can be hired. Commission McGrath questioned MCTS regarding partnering with Bublr Bikes on the Buslr Card as Bublr is not open to working with individuals with disabilities to provide access to their programs.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Update(s)

Mike Bonk explained that UW Extension was in need of their votes in order to win a grant through an online competition. UW Extension applied for a grant for therapeutic gardening, and is a finalist. 1st place will win \$3000 and

2nd and 3rd places will win \$1000. Voting will go through September 15th. You can vote by visiting: <http://ngb.org/garden-grant-voting-2017/>

B. Chairpersons Report
Chair Deb Falk-Palec

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be October 9th, 2017, 1:00pm at St. John's on the Lake (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission