

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Mike Bonk, Interim Director  
October 11, 2021

### MINUTES

Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Conference Line: 414-436-3530  
Passcode: 660 353 019#

#### 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, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Barbara Leigh, Sue Pickering and Meg Steimle

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Norma Duckworth, John Haupt, Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath, and Marcia Perkins

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus, Anne Kearney

Staff: Mike Bonk

#### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September)

No Quorum present to approve the minutes.

#### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

- A. Opportunity Center – Informational Report Postponed until November Meeting

#### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT & BUS RAPID TRANSIT UPDATE

Staff Fran Musci provided an informational report regarding Transit Plus. Van service is trending upward and is 70% of pre-covid levels. Transit Plus provided 25,019 rides. Due to driver shortages, individuals can expect longer ride times. Transit Plus looking to hire drivers, and dispatchers. MCTS is also looking to hire drivers. Chris Fox has accepted a new role within MCTS as the Paratransit Compliance and Audit Manager. MCTS is looking to hire a mobility manager.

#### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

- A. Wil-O-Way Committee

Commissioner Steimle provided an update on what was discussed at the Wil-O-Way Committee Meeting. Wil-O-Way Committee reviewed the RFP and overall thought it looked good. Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr asked to make sure the Targeted Business Enterprise (TBE) Requirements were being met. In addition the Committee wanted to make sure all forms of payment were accepted from Children's Long Term Support Waiver, Family Care, IRIS, etc. The RFP was published October 8<sup>th</sup> and will close October 29<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Committee Goal Updates

Staff Bonk provided an informational update regarding the committees and their goals. The Facilities Access Committee goal was to fully implement Kulture City at the Wehr Nature Center, Coggs Human Services Building, Boerner Botanical Buildings, Mitchell Park Domes, and the Milwaukee County Zoo. Kulture City has been implemented at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Wehr Nature Center is close and needs to submit pictures over to Kulture City to be included in the app. Other places like the Coggs facility are delayed due to still being closed. The Wil-O-Way Committee's goal was to help facilitate RFP process regarding the Recreation Contract and has been involved in achieving that goal.

#### ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (September)

Staff Bonk explained the proposed integration to DHHS was proposed in the County Executive's Budget on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is having ongoing discussions with both Facilities Management as well as DHHS regarding the duties assigned on how the budget will be allocated to address the services needed.

**ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

A. Office for Persons with Disabilities integration to DHHS update  
Please refer to Office Report above. No additional information provided.

B. ARPA Funds  
Milwaukee County is looking for community feedback as to how to best utilize the ARPA funds. Individuals can visit the [Milwaukee County ARPA Funds website](#) to provide input where the money should be spent.

C. Zoo Accessibility Regarding Mobility Devices  
Commission discussed the rates regarding mobility devices and is it a financial barrier for individuals with disabilities. The current fees for mobility devices are \$7 stroller, \$10 for double strollers, \$30 mobility scooters, and then free wheelchair usage. Staff Bonk reported that these prices are standard across the country, and have a contract in place in which the zoo pays on average between \$7,000 to \$10,000 per year. The zoo has to pay each time a free wheelchair is utilized within the program. The commission also discussed the idea of including an accessible route map for individuals with disabilities that could highlight the best route to take while at the zoo.

D. Chairperson Report  
Commissioner Steimle mentioned that she has seen the accessible bikes within the Bublr Bike system at various stations throughout Milwaukee County.

**ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:04pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be November 8th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

