

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Mike Bonk, Interim Director
September 14th, 2020

MINUTES

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

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

1:20pm

ITEM II ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath (via phone),

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Damian Buchman, Norma Duckworth, John Haupt, Barbara Leigh, Sue Pickering, Marcia Perkins, and Meg Steimle

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July)

No Quorum

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Staff Fran Musci reported Para Transit 17,592 rides this past July were 98% on time. Ridership is down 45% for the month. FTA states access to transit is more necessary social distancing. Currently the fleet allows for 4 riders per van. If all vans are being utilized in the fleet, they would be allowed to take on more than 4 riders. Fixed route allows up to 15 passengers due to COVID-19, where it was previously 10 passengers. Supervisor Johnson Jr. asked if masks, or hand sanitizer are available for van rides. Masks are provided if a rider requests one, but no hand sanitizer is available on Transit Plus vehicles. MCTS offices will be under construction to renovate the main entrance. Department on Aging has applied for a 5310 Grant, for Seniors or persons above the age of 65. Fixed route will be installing mask dispenser and hand sanitizer dispensers on the vehicles this week.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

No committees met since the last meeting.

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (July)

Staff Mike Bonk stated that Private Party Rentals are being considered for the Wil-O-Way Facilities. The Office will submit their plan to the ReOpening Steering Committee to be considered for reopening. The Wil-O-Way capacity for reopening will be at 50% which is 90 people for the main hall space at the Wil-O-Ways. Social Distancing rules will apply regarding 6-foot social distancing. The Office will be looking into adding Bi-Polar Ionization units to our current HVAC units will help mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

Easterseals is continuing programs Fall Programs at their other locations. The Wil-O-Way Programming has not started back up, and we are considering starting the programming back up in Spring. The Wil-O-Way Key Card Program started back up for the remainder of the Milwaukee Milkmen regular season. We will continue to add discounted and free tickets as venues continue to reopen. The Forest Exploration Center and Wisconsin State DNR collaborated to install a new Trail just East of the Wil-O-Way Underwood. There is a one mile accessible loop within the wooded area, and additional connection trails for individuals without disabilities. The Wehr Nature Center has made some accessible upgrades to the facility, adding an accessible pier, and accessible boardwalk. In addition the bathroom located within the Wehr Nature Center has added and adult changing table.



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B. Chairperson's Report

Supervisor Rolland, and the previous Director Timothy Ochnikowski, along with Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec worked with the Wauwatosa School District in regard to accessibility and improvements needed for children with disabilities during the summer, and during the school year where they utilized an inaccessible apartment building for their programming. The District is looking at moving the program to a more accessible location for the future. Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec mentioned that Wauwatosa has one trike, no other accessible bikes throughout the city. The Village is looking into what happened to the rest of the bikes. Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec asked what the plan was for adding a Disabilities Recreation Manger for the Office for Persons with Disabilities. Staff Mike Bonk explained that the Office would look at adding a Disabilities Recreation Manger back on staff once the Wil-O-Ways are fully reopened, and the Recreational Programs are approved for reopening.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be October 12, 2020, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission