

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Mike Bonk, Interim Director
September 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, John Haupt, Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr., Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath, and Barbara Leigh

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

Guests: - Fran Musci - Transit Plus, David Locher – MCTS, Aaron Hertzberg – Milwaukee County Department of Administration Services, Director

Staff: Mike Bonk

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July)

Commissioner Johnson Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Leigh 2nd the motion. All other commissioners present were in favor of approving the minutes.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORTS

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 65% of pre-covid levels. Transit Plus looking to hire drivers, dispatchers. The federal mask mandate has been extended until January 18, 2022. Phase 3 of the MCTS Next Initiative to improve rider wait times started August 29th. MCTS will be following the County's guidance regarding vaccine mandates for all employees.

David Locher provided an information update regarding Bus Rapid Transit. MCTS has installed a Bus Rapid Transit Test platform for training purposes. RFP's for real time signage, and Bus fare ticket vending is out for bid. MCTS bus drivers will be trained on both MCTS routes, and BRT routes, learning both of the rider securement systems. BRT is projected to be live October 2022.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (June)

The Office had 6 Sign Language Interpreter requests from the previous month. In addition, Wil-O-Way sites have updated the Facility Guidelines as masks are required for Vaccinated individuals now. Director Bonk also explained that he has been in contact with the Wehr Nature Center regarding getting Kulture City fully implemented. Staff expects to get this implemented before the end of the year.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

A. Recreation Report

EasterSeals Fall Recreation Programming will be starting back up this Fall. Wil-O-Way Key Card Membership has a discounted rate through the end of the year of \$12. The Wil-O-Way Key Card Discount Tickets has started back up with offers from the Milwaukee Brewers. The current contract with EasterSeals of Southeast Wisconsin ends December 31st, 2021. The Office for Persons with Disabilities is working on drafting the Request for Proposal, and will be looking for feedback from the Wil-O-Way Committee, before putting the RFP out.

B. Office for Persons with Disabilities integration to DHHS update

The County Executive’s office may be proposing the Office for Persons with Disabilities to be integrated with the Department of Health and Human Services. Currently the Office for Persons with Disabilities reports to Facilities Management through the Department of Administrative Services. The Department of Health and Human Services could potentially be a better fit for the Office as there are many synergies working with individuals with Disabilities. The County Executive’s Budget is expected to be release on October 1st, 2021. The Department on Aging recently integrated with the Disability Resource Center, all under the Department of Health and Human Services. This alignment with the County Executive’s strategic focus of Intentional Inclusion, will ensure there is an improved customer experience that can occur all throughout an individual's life.

C. Chairperson’s Report

Commissioner Haupt reported Commissioner Buchman is hoping to start the Opportunity Center

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chairwoman adjourned the meeting at 2:22pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be October 11th, 2021, 1:00pm by virtual meeting. Please check the agenda for the link, and phone number.

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission

