



Commission for Persons with Disabilities February 13, 2023

A quorum of the **Commission for Persons with Disabilities** convened virtually on Monday, February 13, 2023. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Anne Kearney, *Chair*
Margaret Steimle, *Vice Chair*
Allison Caudill, *Commissioner*
John Haupt, *Commissioner*
Willie Johnson, Jr., *County Supervisor*
Barbara Leigh, *Commissioner*
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*

Commissioners Excused:

Daman Buchman
Denise Koss

Milwaukee County Staff:

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*
Vincenza Doyne, *DHHS*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Fran Musci, *MCTS*

Attendees from the Public

Felicia Clayborn
Sherry Mickelson
Leon Todd

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL-Director Mike Bonk**
- II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE January 9, 2023, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

MOTION: Supervisor Johnson moved to approve, including reflection of election held for new commissioners. Commissioner Caudill Second.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent

- III. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS- Deb Falk-Palec**

Commissioner Falk-Palec explained that all communication goes through the Office for Persons with Disabilities. Each committee is outlined by name and what the committee does. Commissioners should consider the following Committee's to be involved with: Executive Committee, Trust Fund Committee, Facilities Access Committee, Program Access, and Wil-O-Way Committee. The trust fund does have funds set aside to utilize by the commission to fund a project and in the past has made small grants.

1. Facilities Access, this committee reviews accessibility, and monitors improvements.
2. Program Access committee reviews accessibility for election processes, economic support programs and transportation.
3. Wil-O-Way This committee oversees development of RFP for services, recreational programs, monitors repairs, renovations, and improvements. Currently, Wil-O-Way is waiting to get a response on who will step in and replace Commissioner Steimle who will be retiring. Commissioner Falk-Palec will follow up and requested those interested submit their committee intent by the next meeting on March 13th. Commissioners Steimle and Commissioner Kearney

IV. Special Report :

a) Transit Plus Report:- Transit Plus- Fran Musci

Ms. Musci reported that Para Transit ridership is coming back, but the numbers are still less than before the pandemic. Musci also stated that she has been meeting bi-weekly regarding the transition from Transit Express to First Transit about staffing needs and new vehicles. Tracy Harrington, who was the general manager of National Express which is part of Transit Express has resigned, and Quinton Aberhart is now the interim General Manager. Musci stated that Milwaukee County Transit System met with the Vice President to discuss the transition, and also the Department of Transportation and the DHHS are working on a taxi alternative. Nick Todd put in for an extension of the current contract until a new taxi program is utilized and decided. Nick Dodd of the Taxi Task Force is sending out letters to see what agencies want to designate to represent them on the task force. IBDI which stands for Industry for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Musci stated that RFP's will be sent out, but when asked about American United Taxi, she stated that their RFP would need to be restructured as metered rides would not be feasible for citizens.

V. WIL-O-WAY COMMITTEE UPDATE: Commissioner Anne Kearney

a) Camp Accreditation:

Commissioner Kearney gave an overview of what they discussed at the last meeting. She stated the immediate deadline to get in the request for ARPA is next week. The request will include the features that the Wil-O-Way committee is looking at such as accessibility, and safety with items such as the ramp, the park benches and lastly the water feature for the splash pad. Commissioner Falk-Palec stated that a resolution has gone out to commissioners and the County Executive, along with responses from Supervisor Vincent and Supervisor Rolland. Photographs of the areas in question shall be included in the ARPA proposal. Commissioner Falk-Palec stated to this group there will be another meeting on

Monday February 20th, of the Wil-O-Way committee at noon to finalize the proposal to be sent out on the Tuesday the 21st of February. The ARPA Task Force meeting will be live on March 7th at 9:00 a.m. and there will be a link provided to join virtually. Commissioner Falk-Palec has requested the support of county staff and Director Bonk has asked for letters of support from Goodwill and Easter Seals. Administrator Marietta Luster asked if a representative from Easter Seals would be present, or someone who uses Easter Seals services at the Wil-O-Way sites. This will be added to the February 20th agenda.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Commissioner Falk-Palec reported Rebecca Rabatin from the City of Milwaukee reached out to her to let her know the letter of Support the Commission wrote for the Safe Streets Grants was approved for the City of Milwaukee.

Director Bonk stated that currently Commissioner Buchman is working several projects that the Commission may be interested in learning more about. Commissioner Buchman will provide informational updates the April 10th Commission meeting regarding updates the Universal Park at Wisconsin Avenue Park, and the Opportunity Center. Director Bonk will be inviting Matt Fortman who is Fiscal Administrator for DHHS to present for March 13th. Director Bonk also said that Easter Seals would be attending the March 13th Commission meeting as well.

Commissioner Falk-Palec asked if there were any new commissioner updates. Director Bonk said he spoke with Shanika Fitch and Sherry Mickelson and Leo Todd have been forwarded to Health and Human needs for consideration. Director Bonk also introduced a guest at this meeting named Felicia Claybourn who was invited and will express her interest. Ms. Claybourn spoke briefly about her background of advocacy for people with disabilities.

a) Other Commission Business: None

b) Other Matters by the Public: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023, at 1 p.m., a virtual MS Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincenza Doyne
Office Support Assistant II
Aging and Disability Services