



COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES July 8, 2024

The Commission of Persons with Disabilities convened virtually on Monday, July 8, 2024. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and conference call.

Commissioners Present:

Shanika Baldwin
Allison Caudill
John Haupt
Willie Johnson Jr., *County Supervisor*
Anne Kearney, *Vice Chair*
Barbara Leigh
Sherry Mickelson
Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*
Leon Todd

Commissioners Excused:

Felicia Clayborne
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*

Milwaukee Co. Staff Present:

Mike Bonk, *DHHS*
Jay-Sun Bowman, *DHHS*
Jacqueline Formanek, *DHHS*
Julie Lara, *DHHS*
Sarah Toomsen, *ADP*

Attendees from the Public

Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Christopher Fox, *MCTS*
Rose Onama

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair, Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1p.m. Mike Bonk, Deputy Administrator Services took roll. A quorum was present at the start of the meeting.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE June 10, 2024, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the June 10, 2024, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes. Corrections/Changes were made by Chair, Deb Falk-Palec.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Leigh Moved, Todd Second)

III. SPECIAL REPORTS:

- a. **Introduction:** Michael Bonk, Deputy Administrator introduced Jay-Sun Bowman as the new Director of Office for Persons of Disabilities. His qualifications include Teaching, Vice Principal, and Special Education Director in Milwaukee Schools. Tina Anderson, Administrator Disability Services speaks about her previous rolls as the ADRC Director, Medicaid Policy Analyst, helped open the BH within Milwaukee County. Tina mentions her being a Realtor Developer as she supports housing for those with disabilities.

- b. **Informational Item, Wisconsin Avenue Park Improvements:** Deb Falk-Palec, Chair requested to learn about more measures on the Universal Fields. Sherry Mickelson asked for park fencing updates. Damian Buchman introduced Sarah Toomsen to give information. Sarah states the design is 50-60% complete. The park is to be renamed Moss Universal. There is a partnership with the Ability Center to pursue grant funding for various aspects of the project. Grants come with strings one of which is fencing such as how open site will be to the public. Still in process of resolving and getting definition to meet funding expectations as well as what is wanted for this public amenity. Damian Buchman adds they must run through 30/60/90% officially 100% process before anything is approved. Damian said the entire field is fenced in. Numerous disability related organizations and individuals impacted by disabilities have been consulted to help determine design of the spaces in places within the park. Damian credits the Ability Center on having the most visionary ideal concepts that will be implemented in this park. A screen presentation was then viewed to show updated renderings. Damian lists Game Time, Play Core, and Vision Forward working to develop the Universal Park. Hoping to break ground by Spring 2025 and open by Fall 2025. Damian offered to host any Commission Members a walk through the park for a better understanding.

- c. Transit Plus Report:** Christopher Fox, MCTS filled in for Fran Musci. On June 25, 2024, some of the route 30 bus stops were dedicated with Memorials to Cheri McGrath who ran the ADA sensitivity training for MCTS. Transit plus riders were slightly down from May 2024 and June 2024, with 29,499 for ridership. KPI's in second half of June 2024 was better than first half. Transdev was about 91% on time, just below 93% goal. There are 60 new employees hired and training, 20 starting this week as well as 18 out of town drivers. July has exceeded 93%. An experienced General Manager is still needed. Since June there have been over 240 users. Ridership for Summerfest was up 31% from last year 2023. Transit Plus will use the same location from the past 5 years for State Fair Park. Vans enter on 84th Street, Gate 5. No freeway flyers this year, but local routes are available.
- Taxi Program:** The taxi replacement program has been progressing and a Vendor has been identified as VIA. They run transit operations around the country. The target date is September 1, 2024. Chris shared his screen to view the RNC impact which is available online at onlineridemcts.com/rnc. Paratransit's KPI are being tracked for and evaluated monthly: missed trips, failed appointments, denial productivity, and ride duration.
- d. Recreation Update, Informational Item:** Jacqueline Formanek, ADS Recreation Services Coordinator updates that two weeks into camp. New picnic tables, benches, wheelchair slabs, toys, 3 types of activities, and a sand pit have been added. There are portable sensory tables for inclement weather. Pickle ball mats for indoors and out have been set up. Campers have been planting seeds in cups to be transferred into raised garden beds. Jacqueline states that the Friday free Summer Sailing sessions are all full. Having 804 participants, above last years 2023 of 350 participants. Summer Rec started June 4, 2024, and ending August 29, 2024. The ADA Celebration will take place on July 26, 2024, at Gordon Park from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. There will be over 30 Vendors attending. Jacqueline gives the Underwood construction update stating all programs are back in building and facility is used to capacity. Deb, Chair asked if the study for wading pools will be converted into splash pads. Mike Bonk answered \$31,000 for each location has been set aside for this. Additional Capitol was requested to continue with design phase. The goal is to break ground in 2026.
- e. ADA Celebration, Information Item:** The ADA Celebration will take place at Gordon Park on July 26, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- f. Joint Listening Sessions, Informational Item: Mike Bonk gave update about the listening session project. Tina Anderson got an agency to help facilitate joint listening sessions through RP. Commissioners were encouraged to join as advocates in regard to gap in services. Tina states the ADRC Listening Sessions involves listening to the concerns and gaps in services from the community. And it is used as a quality improvement process.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. **New Topic to Discuss for Future Commission Meetings:** HACM and Program Access.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Deb Falk-Palec, Chair To adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE September 9, 2024, AT 1 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lara

Office Support Assistant