



Commission for Persons with Disabilities April 11, 2022

The **Commission for Persons with Disabilities** convened virtually on Monday, April 11, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and or conference call options (computer or telephone).

Commissioners Present:

Deb Falk-Palec, *Chair*

John Haupt

Marcia Perkins

Denise Koss

Barbara Leigh

Susan Pickering

Norma Duckworth

Anne Kearney

Cheri M. McGrath

Margaret Steimle

Commissioners Excused:

County Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr.

Damian Buchman

Milwaukee County Staff:

Michael Bonk, *DHHS*

Vonda Nyang, *DHHS*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 9: 02 a.m. Director of Persons with Disabilities Michael Bonk took roll call. There was not a quorum.

II. THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH, 2022, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES WERE TABLED UNTIL THE MAY MEETING.

III. SPECIAL REPORT

IV. TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Christopher Fox reported on the following:

Freeway Flyers: The Festival Flyers and Brewers line will not be available this summer due to driver shortages.

Ridership Program: In March, Transit Plus provided 28,362 van rides (A 75% pre-COVID number impacted by weather). Currently, MCTS has a shortage of drivers in both their paratransit and the taxi programs.

Transit Plus Office Construction: Construction is almost complete. MCTS is expecting they will restart in person assessments on May 16th.

Tri Annual Review: MCTS goes through a Tri Annual Review in which the Federal Government reviews Transportation offerings in addition to paperwork that is utilized. The Review will take place June 2nd – June 16th.

New Fare Collection System Later this fall: On April 30th the Ride MCTS App will be discontinued. The new app, UMO, is already in the app store, and can be downloaded now. Balances will not be able to be transferred from one app to the other. Chairwoman Deb Falk Palec thought a walkthrough on the app would be helpful.

Careers: MCTS is in need of hiring a wide variety of positions from drivers to mechanics, in addition administrative staff. MCTS will train drivers without previous commercial driving experience.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES: NO COMMITTEE UPDATES

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: TABLED FOR THE MAY MEETING

VII. REVIEW OFFICE REPORT

Director Bonk reported 7 Sign Language Interpreters were requested, 1 assisted listening device, and one braille menu.

Facility Rental Guidelines have been updated as of March 9th. Face masks are no longer required. The Wil-O-Ways are now back up to 100 % capacity. Milwaukee County is still encouraging social distancing.

Wehr Nature Center will be adding Outdoor All Terrain Wheelchair. Healthy County MKE.

Summer Camp applications have been sent out. A little less than half of Campers have signed up at this time. Camp registration deadline is April 15th. Recreational programming and community-based numbers are on the rise and almost returning to pre-covid numbers. We've hosted as many as 40 people at one of our Wil-O-Way Dances. Bowling still seems to be the most popular recreation program. The Milwaukee Brewers have again formed a partnership to provide discounted ticket offers to Wil-O-Way Key Card Members. Sail Away Registration Forms are now available and can be found in the Handy News & Notes Newsletter, as well as Office for Person with Disabilities website.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Recreation Update:

Director Bonk reported that 40 campers are registered between the two Wil-O-Way sites. The maximum capacity for camp is 55 campers each location. Recreation Programming has had good attendance and has had as many as 40 people attend the weekend dances.

Director Bonk also reported there are options to take advantage of free adaptive equipment within Milwaukee County. Adaptive Equipment includes an adaptive Paramobile Golf Cart, Beach Wheelchairs, and Handcycles.

b. Chairpersons Report:

Chairwoman Falk-Palec mentioned she heard they are remodeling a courtroom within Milwaukee County and wanted information on the types of hearing aids that can be provided within the Courtrooms. Milwaukee County utilizes a pocket talker, in addition to neck loop system that are installed into the courtrooms audio systems.

IX. OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC: THERE WERE NO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC.

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m. The next Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting is scheduled for May 9th, 2022, at 1 p.m., a virtual MS Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bonk
Director Office for Persons with Disabilities