



## **Commission for Persons with Disabilities May 9, 2022**

The **Commission for Persons with Disabilities** convened virtually on Monday, May 9, 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*  
Margaret Steimle, *Vice Chair*  
Marcia Perkins, *Secretary*  
Damian Buchman  
Norma Duckworth  
John Haupt  
Anne Kearney  
Denise Koss  
Barbara Leigh

### **Commissioners Excused:**

County Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr.  
Susan Pickering

### **Milwaukee County Staff:**

Michael Bonk, *DHHS*  
Michael Bonk, *DHHS*

### **Attendees from the Public**

Fran Musci, Transit Plus  
Paula Schultz, MCTS

## **MINUTES**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL**

Chairwoman Deb Falk-Palec called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Director of Persons with Disabilities Michael Bonk took roll call. Chairwoman Falk-Palec announced that Commissioner Cheri McGrath has resigned from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. There was not a quorum.

### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10, 2022, FEBRUARY 14, 2022, MARCH 14, 2022, and APRIL 11, 2022, COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.** Minutes were approved after Item 3's presentation.

MOTION: To approve January 10, 2022, February 14, 2022, March 14, 2022, and April 11, 2022, Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting minutes. Minutes approved upon the start time of the meetings to state 1 p.m. for the February, March, and April minutes.

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

### **III. TRANSIT PLUS AND MILWAUKEE COUNTY TRANSIT SYSTEM (MCTS) REPORT: FRAN MUSCI AND PAULA SCHULTZ**

Fran Musci reported on Transit Plus's ridership. March 2022 has been the highest in ridership since February 2020 pre-pandemic, and the month of April plateaued to 28,000, averaging about 900 riders a day with paratransit. She reported that the vendors are still short of staff and continue looking to hire more drivers. The construction on Transit Plus's office is now complete, and staff is transiting back into the office. One week from today, Transit Plus will return to processing in-person edibility assessments. Ms. Musci briefly discussed how they are going to process assessments. Transit Plus has a triangular review with the FTA coming up **on June 2, 2022, through June 16, 2022**. Also, at the end of April 2022, MCTS launched their new UMO APP titled "WisGO," which allows riders to create an account to purchase electronic fares.

Paula Schultz, MCTS's Mobility Manager, oversees the travel training program, Bus Operator ADA Sensitivity training, and classroom bus training. Ms. Schultz provided a PowerPoint presentation on Milwaukee County's Transit System's "WisGo," which is the local brand name for UMO. UMO is a nationwide app. Riders need to download the UMO app from the Google store to access "WisGo," which is the same. "WisGo" allows riders to plan their trips, track their bus, and pay their fares. Ms. Schultz explained the entire process to the Commission using "WisGo" and its features.

#### IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Current Chair Deb Falk-Palec was nominated to continue to serve as Chair of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

MOTION: To approve Deb Falk-Palec as Chair of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Steimle Moved, Buchman Second).

Also, Vice-Chair Deb Margaret Steimle was nominated to continue to serve as Vice-Chair on the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

MOTION: To approve as Vice-Chair of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

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

And current Secretary Marcia Perkins Steimle was renominated as Vice-Chair of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

MOTION: To approve Marcia Perkins as Secretary of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

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

**V. REVIEW APRIL OFFICE REPORT; MIKE BONK, DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

- Director Bonk provided a report on public accommodation requests. There were four sign language interpreter requests, one assisted listening device in the courthouse, and one brail request. Director Bonk informed the Commission that he is continuing to telework from home unless needed in the office. Milwaukee County's employees are either working a hybrid schedule or will transition to working onsite full-time soon. County employees who are no longer teleworking will return to work onsite **by September of 2022** unless there are changes again with the pandemic.
- Director Bonk also reported on the social story he's working on for the Coggs facility, which is part of the cultural city initiative.
- Summer camp registrations are now closed for the Easter Seal Summer Camps to secure transportation for existing registered campers. Wil-O-Way Underwood has 40-campers registered, and Wil-O-Way Grant has 25-campers. Wil-O-Way Key Card Members continue to receive discounted ticket offers from Fiserv Forum Milwaukee tickets and Marcus Center through the Office for Persons with Disabilities (Examples: Milwaukee Brewers, Bucks, Hog festival, Hockey tournament, and Marcus Center Performances).
- The Sale-O-Way reservations Happy Genoways morning sales are good. We are providing waitlists if needed.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**a. Chairpersons Report:**

The Chair reminded Commissioners that they should use their county email accounts to access email communications (meetings, emails to other members, and County staff). The Commission discussed a tutorial on using their county email accounts and having a Q and A at their next meeting. The Chair asked Director Bonk to investigate having something scheduled.

Chair Falk-Palec informed the Commission that Easter Seal's camps no longer have contracts with IRIS (IRIS isn't funding/paying for campers unless they meet a specific accreditation to receive funding to attend camp). Director Bonk will contact Easter Seals and IRIS to see if he can have someone attend the Commission's June meeting to discuss this issue. Also, the Camp Wil-O-Way Committee was discussed.

The Chair wants to present Commissioner McGrath a letter of commendation for her service on the Commission. Director Bonk has contacted the County Clerk's office to inquire about Commissioners Pickering and McGrath's tenure to have a proclamation for them.

**VII. OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS:**

A Commissioner asked about the status of the sailing pier's Hoyer lift which he was informed isn't operational. Why? Director Bonk informed the Commission that the lift was broken and needed replacement; however, there wasn't any funding available to replace it. Director Bonk is going to revisit this issue with the Sailing center to see if they can have it fixed and report back at the June meeting.

**VIII. OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC: NO OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

The next Commission for Persons with Disabilities meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2022, at 1 p.m., a virtual MS Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vonda Nyang  
Executive Assistant