



2022 Wil-O-Way Planning Committee Meeting

December 2nd, 2022

Committee Members

Deb Falk-Palec
Ann Kearney
Meg Steimle
Denise Koss

Guests

Lauren Daniels Easterseals

Milwaukee County Employees

Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Michael Bonk, *DHHS*
Supervisor Willie Johnson Jr.

Meeting recording started:

Mike Bonk took attendance:

Present were Deb Falk Palec, Anne Kearney, Meg Steimle, Denise Koss, Marietta Luster from DHHS and Lauren Daniels from Easterseals.

Deb thanked Mike and Marietta for their help with the Movie Unseen event.

Anne gave her thanks as well and Mike agreed that the participation was excellent.

Mike stated they had 56 people register for the live event and 125 signed up virtually. Ike then went over the three main resources they wanted to share and asked to extend the virtual session through the week of December 5th-December 11th. He said the feedback was really important and the fact that some of the panelists could share their personal experiences.

Anne asked Marietta about a support position that will build on the work done at the event. Marietta stated that yes there is a position and that person will be starting January 9th. They will assist with caregiver support. It was then suggested that a caregiver event be presented every November as there was so much positive feedback..

Deb agreed and stated that there are many different counties in WI and a lot of passion for keeping this going. She commented on working on next year's event and get some of the panelists together. Deb would like to schedule a meeting for staff to attend state meetings.



Anne spoke about Covid and how parents were paid to be caregivers and suggested they speak of their experiences at these meetings.

Marietta agreed to have a caregiver meeting and suggested starting a caregiver committee, and to send out Thank you notes to the panelists and let them know this committee's intent to partner with them. Marietta suggested they could meet 3rd week of January and Anne Kearney stated she would chair.

Deb asked about next steps:

Anne asked if the resources this group discussed could be sent out or added to Handy News and Notes.

Mike Bonk said he could do a quarter page and add this info to Handy News and Notes newsletter, this would be on the first page. It would go over the movie itself and letting people know different resources that are out there.

Anne suggested the County Executive's team could maybe highlight this as well in their weekly note sent to county employees.

Second Item:

Meg spoke about the summer camp and will rely on this committee and discussion. There will be a lot of work ahead to make this happen.

Deb agreed and asked Mike to pull up the info from Easterseals with the requirement and then this group can start. She then thanked Lauren and her team for getting the info to this committee. Next she discussed the piece written by the American Camp Association and asked when they would be coming out to do the inspection of the camp area.

Lauren stated she was not sure and said that some of the course work had a March deadline but she was unsure if that is the time frame. A walkthrough can get that information through.

Mike stated that Shelly Reynolds is working on this and that Shelly had to be out of today's meeting unfortunately due to the time frame so Lauren is filling in for her and will try to answer any questions for this subject. Mike said there is a lot of chapters regarding the entire American Camp Association and the American camper credit. Mike has requested to see if any additional information was needed from this group additional items the Association requested was regarding Emergency Planning and Mike has reached out to DAS facilities team to get the Emergency Plan updated.



Deb asked who needs to see this within the county regarding the American Camp Association to ensure that when the auditors or inspectors inspect that all boxes are checked. Mike then stated based on what he read in the document, it talks about everything being in good repair at this time. So until they do a walk through and tell this group what is not up to standards. Mike was not sure if they would have a list ahead of time as to what needs to be repaired. Mike is trying to get more details.

Anne asked how does this group go about separating the two pieces not just emergency planning/safety planning but also the maintenance piece. She wondered if this would be useful to start on with the Parks Department so everyone knows what the procedures are and so that Easterseals knows as well and that this group would have the ability to get things moving at least in that area. Anne suggested a written letter from their commission outlining things for whomever it is in the Parks Department. Anne asked Mike if he thought this was appropriate to list in bullet form the situation and some timeline to have someone come out and do acts such as view the property and giving a good description and a timeline to get things fixed.

Mike spoke about what current procedures are in place. He stated they have DOTS facilities and Darrell White who manages the facilities is their contact. Also noting that Goodwill and Easterseals have been tenants at Wil O Way. Darrell is contacted directly to input any type of Maintenance issues or concerns. Darrell will then decide if he should work with internal trades within the Milwaukee County whether it is plumbers, electricians, or and outside agency to get the repairs completed. Mike stated there has been a bit of delay with email, text, or phone calls with Darrell but there is a new maintenance package that was put in the county where individuals working for the county could get a login and submit their requested issues. Mike also explained how the process of making the requests works and he will be advocating to meet with DAS Maintenance Department and Darrell's boss to try to get more City Works inclusion as he feels it would be helpful for communication between Darrell and this committee and also for the daytime tenants within that space Goodwill and Adult Day Services. Mike stressed the point of being able to have multiple Plumbers and HVAC people available for repair needs.

Meg asked about the need for others to understand and Mike agreed. Meg mentioned Parks accommodating Campers from Easterseals who hopefully will get their camping paid for through Family Care, Iris or CLTS programs and that these entities have these requirements to approve payment. Meg then asked if a document should be put together to spell out that this is a potential loss of revenue.

Anne called for urgency and wanted to know how to get that urgency across and get these repairs to the top of the list. Anne mentioned that Mike would be a great advocate but also knowing that his time is stretched thin.



Mike agreed that this subject is important and a document should be made stating they are going for an accreditation and referred to a recent meeting with a maintenance perspective discussing different things like policies and does that department re visit their policies, procedures. Mike stated he will advocate and since moving to DHHS space he has continued to work collaboratively. This is very crucial.

Deb asked who some of the important players are and who can they contact with minimal time at hand. She talked about the proposals she went through and listening to some of the meetings for AARPA funding where requests were made for different items. She mentioned that Mike was told that these requests did not meet AARPA requirements and that there is a way to write up the submission of requests to get the point across of importance. She talked about Supervisor Rollins who stated that a request must be submitted to be considered.

Discussion continued about how to do this correctly and how this ties in with Health Equity and engagement in community and the variety of legitimate reasons to request these repairs such as these are disabled children who while other kids began to come back from covid and do activities, this group has been the slowest to return to normal activities. Persons with disabilities have really lost out. She also mentioned Supervisor Johnson stating that last year funds allocated were at 50 percent while this year it is at 80 percent. Deb stated Supervisor Rollins will follow up on this day as well. He had toured the sites but again this group must submit something for them to take any action. Deb talked about the different areas in the county requesting funds in the meetings she listened to and she felt that it is possible to submit something to the board.

Lauren from Easterseals mentioned of fence that DOT had in need of repairs last year and where it was on the list of priorities as it is on the grounds close to the camping area. This brings p a safety issue.

Marietta wondered if Supervisor Johnson could be of assistance to leverage this request. Also county workers could chime in and Supervisor Rollins as well. Marietta briefly explained some of the process the requests go through and that she had been told a request they are in process with must go through the Capital Improvement Committee. Marietta stated camp is coming and suggested this group could speak to Supervisor Johnson to see if he is willing to assist as he is passionate about this subject. Marietta brought up that the young people with disabilities need to be able to have camp and that we want them to do that safely. She stressed lighting a fire under people as camp is coming up soon. No promises being made as another request is also being made for Capital Improvement in 2024.



Mike Bonk also said that Shelly is covering the applications side of things and she has reached out to him with bits of information.

Meg asked what are the hot items that must be fixed. After much discussion the group felt the ramp at Wil O Way must be rebuilt or replaced as well as the snow fence earing the highway which poses a danger for disabled individuals. Reaching out to get this done and letting people know that we want to be accredited.

Anne suggested sending emails to the County Supervisors and the County Executive. Letting them know that people are unhappy about the fence and the ramp at the camp facility. The safety issues that exist.

Mike stated he can help and has specific ideas about the safety concerns . The group continued to discuss the type of repairs that they would request and meeting with Darrell as well as Parks Dept. who take care of park benches and any other items needing repair or replacement that are outside of the building.

Anne brought up the possibility of legal liability if repairs are not made. Meg stated as well getting the message across that these hazards must be fixed.

Next Steps:

Mike will be reaching out to DAS and sending out an email to get a team together to meet and review accreditation process, meetings to be held weekly or bi-weekly. Marietta added that Corporate Council should be included as they would be good to consult with on legal concerns. This will start internally with our county workers.

Supervisor Johnson and Rollins will be asked to assist and Deb will follow up with Supervisor Rollins.

Mike continued conversation about the fence which is 90 feet south of the playground and near the freeway.

Plan:

Mike to share the document on the screen today with others letting them know about the safety issues and Anne will also reach out to Supervisor Johnson, and she will also call Supervisor Shea, who covers district 8.

This group talked about getting more areas of the county involved Mike also brought up forming groups with DAS DOT, Parks and the Senior Centers within the county.



Committee members continued discussing and the important issues of repairs to the Asphalt, Ramp and fence were included in this discussion as well as Resin Park bench replacing which Parks would handle.

Lauren from Easterseals stated that the restrooms only had shower curtains for privacy and changing and assisting disabled persons. In the long run perhaps doors or a more permanent solution could be brought up.

Mike hopped off the meeting at 4:11pm

In closing:

Anne asked what are the tree things to focus on?

1. Ask other community members to write in about safety and repairs.
2. Anne will talk to Supervisor Johnson
3. Deb will talk to Supervisor Rollins

Timeline would be to pull this together by early next week. They will look at the ARPA Commission task force to submit requests online. Anne will Chair or Co-Chair.

Denise also guest on the call thanked the guests from Easterseals

Meeting Adjourned at 4:27pm

Vincenza Doyne

Office Support Assistant II

Aging and Disability Services

