

July 2011 Minutes
Madison City Disability Advocacy Board
Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: July 12, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Conference Room 130

Presiding: Claudia Rice, Chairperson

Recorder: Claudia Rice

Board Members Present: Claudia Rice, Cana Farr, Don Gardner, Maria Kilgore, Beth Newlin

Board Members Absent: Alka Bhargav, Sheila Fuller, Patricia Switzer

Guest Present:

Call to Order: The Chairperson, Claudia Rice, called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. It was also noted that sufficient prior notice of the meeting was given, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Announcements: Claudia Rice handed out announcements for the month of July. Maria Kilgore reported that Madison City Schools Special Education Department's monthly Parent Advisory Meetings will resume on September 12th. The meetings are held at the Central Office on Celtic Drive from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and are open to the public. The meetings are held the first Monday of each month. In addition, she announced that Madison City Schools obtained a grant to provide training on Transition Issues for Youth with Disabilities beginning in September. These trainings are cosponsored by the AL Department of Rehabilitative Services, the AL Disabilities Advocacy Program, and Family Voices of AL. Each session will be held from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office of Madison City Schools. Dates for the sessions are August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 1st, January 10th, February 7th, and March 6th. MCDAB will advertise these opportunities on both the web site and the Facebook page.

Beth Newlin announced that a realtor from Huntsville who has a teenage son with a disability is interested in starting a group home in Madison. Beth will turn his info over to Cana Farr. Beth also announced that she will attend the AL Association for Persons in Supported Employment's conference later this month and provide a synopsis of the conference next month.

Minutes: The last meeting occurred on June 14, 2011. The draft minutes were distributed to board members for review and received comments were incorporated. The board was unable to vote to approve the minutes due to having only 4 board members present from the June meeting; therefore, the June minutes will be presented for approval at the August meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Cana Farr, handed out the report noting an ending balance of \$8,159.06. Claudia Rice stated the balance on the Hand-in-Hand Playground account remains at \$622.57. Therefore, the total amount of MCDAB funds is \$8,781.63.

Committee Reports:

Recreation – No report – July meeting rescheduled from July 5th until July 18th.

Employment – No report

Day Services – Cana Farr continues to work on contacting citizens to determine their needs in the areas of day services and housing. She will discuss her findings at the August meeting and plans to speak to the City Council in August.

Accessibility – Don Gardner provided a written copy of the minutes from the last accessibility committee meeting. The committee is working on accessibility issues related to the Madison Street Festival and the Madison Public Library. The committee is looking for funding to help finance some of the accessibility issues we would like to address. The committee is considering giving an award to local businesses or organization that goes above and beyond to help citizens with accessibility issues. Claudia Rice suggested making a list of accessibility issues – including projected costs - at the Madison Public Library and inviting Cody Phillips (Director of Building Department) to attend a meeting where we can discuss these issues. She also recommended that the committee consider applying for a grant from the Madison Street Festival to help fund the cost of improvements.

Emergency Preparedness – Beth Newlin handed out flyers for the Madison City Disability Advocacy Board's Emergency Preparedness Fair. The fair will be held August 29th at Dublin Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. All board members should attend and help out at the booth. Claudia Rice will contact board members to determine which session each can attend. Beth Newlin asked if any MCDAB balloons were available for use at the fair. Claudia Rice will check the supply and get back to her. The purpose of the fair is to provide information to help citizens prepare for an emergency. NOAA radio programming assistance will be provided and door prizes given away. Board members should encourage people to attend.

Board Discussion Regarding Activities for 2011:

Claudia Rice brought to the floor discussion regarding the Madison Street Festival. Ideas were presented as to whether or not the board should provide any free items at the booth, such as bags, pens, etc. Discussion ensued as to whether or not the board should solicit cookies and brownies from volunteers to sell. The board also discussed the fact that we currently do not have a logo. Maria Kilgore suggested that we have a contest involving school children and have our top three choices on display at the street festival where the public could vote for their favorite logo. She will check with Dr. Fowler for approval and get back to the board.

Claudia Rice stated that MCDAB's web site expires in October and we need to decide if we want to renew the site or consider hiring someone to develop and maintain a web site for the board. Cana Farr stated she felt that because the web site's main function is to provide resource information to the community that spending a lot of money on a web site would not be a good use of our limited resources. The board will need to address the web site issue again in August.

Meeting Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Conference Room 130.

NOTE: Underlined text indicates an action to be taken by a board member(s).