

February 2013 Minutes
Madison City Disability Advocacy Board
Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: February 12, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Conference Room 130

Presiding: Claudia Rice, Chairperson

Recorder: Claudia Rice

Board Members Present: Claudia Rice, Don Gardner, Tracy Butterfield, Dena Johnson, Cynthia Allison, Kathy Burris

Board Members Absent: Jamie Hill, Keith Bedsole, Sheila Fuller

Guest Present: None

Call to Order: The Chairperson, Claudia Rice, called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. It was noted that sufficient prior notice of the meeting was given, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. New board members Cynthia Allison and Kathy Burris were welcomed.

Announcements:

1. Claudia Rice passed out the announcements to members present.
2. Claudia Rice will email a copy of MCDAB's ordinance and bylaws to all members.
3. New members were encouraged to read the last six months of minutes in order to familiarize themselves with board happenings. The board's minutes are on the City of Madison's web site.
4. Claudia Rice will send the new board members info on how to obtain a MCDAB polo shirt.
5. Dena Johnson stated that Merrimack Hall is hosting a big game night on a regular basis. She will send the contact person's info to Claudia who will then distribute the details.

Public Comments – limited to 2 minutes per guest: none

Approval of Minutes:

1. Claudia Rice noted a quorum was not present from the regular November meeting. The November minutes will be approved at the next meeting when a quorum from the November meeting is present. Claudia noted that the board cancelled the December 2012 meeting; therefore, no minutes were recorded.
2. Claudia Rice noted a quorum was not present from the January board meeting. The January minutes will be approved at the next meeting when a quorum from the January meeting is present.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Don Gardner, who took over the Treasurer's position after Cana Farr's resignation in December, presented the report obtained from the City Clerk's office. The current balance of MCDAB's account is \$12,429.04. Don reported that he had met with Lisa Bullock and will begin his accounting from October 1, 2012 since that coincides with the City of Madison's fiscal year.

Committee Reports:

Housing:

Claudia Rice announced that the Housing Committee held its first meeting on February 1st. She, Cana Farr, and Rhonda Lustig met to discuss MCDAB's charge of planning a community meeting to discuss housing and day services in Madison. Claudia Rice made a motion that the board approves the meeting to be held April 6th from 9 to 11 a.m. at Trinity Baptist Church on Hughes Road. Don Gardner seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion so the motion passed. A second motion was made by Claudia Rice to approve up to \$150.00 for expenses related to hosting the meeting. Cynthia Allison seconded the motion and with no opposition or abstentions the motion passed.

Claudia Rice announced the next Housing Committee meeting will be held February 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the Madison Library. Some board members indicated an interest in attending the meeting. The board agreed that the topic of discussion for the March board meeting will be the upcoming community meeting on April 6th.

Accessibility:

1. Don Gardner reported that our accessibility video on You Tube has received over 3000 hits in the three weeks since it was posted. Board members are encouraged to post a link to the video anywhere possible. Don is working with Graham Sisson on getting the video added to the Governor's Office on Disability's web site. He is also working with the University of North AL's ADA Coordinator in an effort to add it to their web site. Claudia Rice reported that Mr. Lance, Human Resource Director of The Westin Hotel in Huntsville stated he will use the video during new employee orientations.
2. One issue that has been mentioned regarding the video came from ADRS (AL Dept. of Rehabilitation Services) who stated they would not add the video to their web site because it is not closed captioned. Don is working with Daniel Whitt at with Madison City Schools to see if the current video can be converted to closed captioned or if we would have to redo and repost the video.
3. Don set up a Twitter account and is investigating how to use Twitter to advertise the video.
4. Jason Colee of the city's IT Dept. told Don the video cannot be placed on Channel 42, but if we can pull some snapshots from the video he should be able to post those.
5. The Accessibility Committee met last week. Lt. Wayne Kamus of the Madison City Police Department will check into putting our video on the MCP's Facebook page. In questioning what can be done about people parking illegally in handicapped parking spaces, he stated if a violation of the fire lane or a handicapped parking space occurs, the violator can be cited. The accessibility committee feels they need more information on the specifics of the city's parking ordinances.

Recreation:

Tracy Butterfield is working with the Madison YMCA on hosting a family swim time dedicated to people with disabilities. This is an opportunity offered periodically by the southeast Y and the board wants to host the same type of event in Madison. Tracy will update the board when she has more details.

Claudia Rice is continuing discussions with Kyle Parker of the Madison Parks & Recreation Dept. Mr. Parker wants to begin swim classes specific to people with disabilities and MCDAB is planning to host an in-service training for the employees in preparation for the classes.

Planning for 2013:

Claudia Rice presented MCDAB's first official brochure which was developed in 2009 and the board compared and contrasted it with our newer, temporary brochure which sports the new logo. The board needs to decide if we want to adopt the temporary brochure as permanent, or develop a new one. Kathy Burris stated she would take the lead in developing a draft of a new brochure and bring it to a future board meeting. Claudia will email the electronic version of the brochures and the board's logo to Kathy.

Claudia Rice announced that she spoke to Major Cooke of the Madison City Police Dept. regarding the "A Child is Missing" Program. Last month the board agreed to approach the police department to see if they would be interested in joining the program because it assists law enforcement in locating missing children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Other programs currently in use do not specifically serve people with disabilities. After researching the program, Major Cooke contacted Claudia to state that the Madison Police Department decided to accept MCDAB's recommendation and add this program to their protocol for missing persons.

In the past MCDAB has discussed purchasing a tri-fold display board for use at the Madison Street Festival and any other event where MCDAB is present. Claudia Rice presented suggestions for the size and type of board that might meet our needs. Deena Johnson made the motion to purchase the Show Style Briefcase Display with a black background. Tracy Butterfield seconded the motion and with no opposition or abstentions the motion passed. Claudia Rice will take care of ordering the display.

Madison Weekly News: The sign-up sheet for monthly disability-related articles for the Madison Weekly News was distributed for members to choose a month to write an article. Discussion ensued regarding possible topics for the articles. Claudia Rice will email the finalized sign-up sheet will to members. Members who were absent are encouraged to choose a month to write an article if they have not already done so.

Don Gardner discussed the Scholarship Program with the Space & Rocket Center and reported that he has spoken to Alexis Smith. The board has considered providing a scholarship to Space Camp to a Madison resident with a disability. Don reported the cost of the scholarship is \$1,000.00, and the camp for special-needs is held in August each year. After discussion, the board decided more information is needed such as when the payment is due, as well as the criteria for the selection process. Don will gather the additional information and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting will be March 12, 2013 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).