

MCDAB Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019

6pm

- I. People present: Jennessa Crosswy, Gene Velez, Willard Brooks, Dawson Brown, Matt McLellan, Jenny Evers, Michelle Hyams, Amy Fruchtnicht, Amy Patterson, Dr. Maria Kilgore and Mayor Paul Finley.
- II. We started by going around the room and introducing ourselves to Mayor Finley. Mayor Finley then told us about the history of MCDAB. The idea came about when he was asked a question about the MARS bus not going to a certain area and then he started researching what boards were in place to help those with disabilities. He formed MCDAB in 2009, a year after he took office, to give those serving on the board a way to meet and prioritize the best way to use the city's money in regard to the special needs community. For the first couple of years, MCDAB suggested and money was used on playground and sidewalk improvements. From 2012-2016, when Mayor Finley was not in office, the board didn't do as well at reporting situations that needed to be addressed. The city budgets \$100,000 a year to work on making things ADA compliant and we want to use those funds to make the most impact as possible to our city. The new fiscal year starts on September 30th, but they start meeting at the start of July to discuss and put the budget together for the next fiscal year.
- III. Michelle and Dr. Kilgore brought up an issue with Project Search in Madison City Schools. 17 people have applied and there are only 12 slots. They are partnering with Decatur Morgan Hospital, but have no way of getting the individuals to Decatur to work. There were several suggestions being made, one of which was seeing if the students could work at Madison Hospital instead.
- IV. Willard suggested having a city intern program to help adults with disabilities find jobs. Jennessa then brought up our concerns with the lack of family restrooms and adult changing tables in restrooms. We talked about the need for them in many public settings such as Palmer Park and the new stadium being built. Jennessa asked if we needed to do the research on how much things would cost that we wanted to implement. Mayor Finley said that wasn't necessary, but it would certainly help the city if we got as much information as possible and made

their job easier. Michelle Hyams volunteered to get a quote for an adult changing table.

- V. Mayor Finley said Dustin Riddle is the Director of Building for the city and is in charge of the ADA budget. Dustin Riddle's email is: dustin.riddle@madisonal.gov and his phone number is 256-772-2894
- VI. While in office during 2008-2012, Mayor Finley started a nonprofit called, Madison Visionary Partners as a way for people to donate money to the city while getting tax benefits. It hasn't been active lately but will become active again in 2-3 months.
- VII. Jennessa suggested another improvement which would be encouraging businesses to provide Caroline's Carts so special needs families with older children or adults could shop while their child was securely riding in a specially designed shopping cart. Mayor Finley said the city would be happy to promote things like that. The city has it's own channel on WOW, Channel 42 and has in-house video production that we can take advantage of to promote things.
- VIII. The mayor's main message was to make a list of improvements that are needed and prioritize. We discussed how strongly we feel about the need for family restrooms and adult changing tables and asked how we could get involved in the planning stages of new projects. Mayor Finley said Mary Beth Broeren, whose title is Director Development Services, A.I.C.P., would be the person to contact. Her email is: Marybeth.broeren@madisonal.gov and her phone number is 256-772-2885. Amy F. has emailed her to see if there is a way we can get a list and get involved in new projects during the planning stages so we can try and get them to incorporate family restrooms and adult changing tables.
- IX. Mayor Finley said that he would get anyone we needed to come to our board meeting and talk to us about how we can be involved and make an impact in our special needs community. Mayor Finley had to leave due to a traffic situation that needed to be addressed.

- X. Michelle told us that there are currently 1.355 special needs students in the Madison City School System. Since the start of school in August, they have enrolled 200 special needs students.

- XI. We discussed Ready Fest on March 30th from 9am – noon. Gene can volunteer from 9-11am and Amy F. volunteered to help as well and will be able to stay until noon to clean up.

- XII. Amy F. then talked about the De-escalation Kits that Tennessee Valley Unite is providing to all 1st responders that go through their special needs training. The board discussed funding some kits for Madison City SROs (there are 11) and other Madison City 1st Responders. Michelle motioned that MCDAB donate 15 De-escalation kits to TVU. Gene seconded it. All were in favor (Amy F. abstained from voting). The money will be earmarked to be spent on Madison City 1st responders.

- XIII. Willard talked about the treasurer report and our accounts. We currently have a checking account balance of \$2,070.24 and our savings and checking together is \$17,140.31 He discussed the proposed budget for this fiscal year. Jennessa motioned to adopt it. Michelle seconded. All were in favor.

- XIV. Willard and Matt had to leave, but we still had a quorum.

- XV. Michelle told us about an upcoming fundraiser for Best Buddies, a program in the school system that pairs neurotypical students with special needs students and they do fun activities together. The fundraiser is called the Best Buddies Concert Inclusion and it's happening on April 26th. The board discussed donating money to Best Buddies for their fundraiser. \$200 is required to get your logo on the shirt which will provide great advertising for MCDAB. Amy F. motioned to give Best Buddies \$200 for their fundraiser. Amy P. seconded. All were in favor (Michelle abstained from voting).

- XVI. Willard needs to write a check to Tennessee Valley Unite for \$450 for the 15 De-escalation Kits and a \$200 check to Best Buddies for their fundraiser.

XVII. Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 6pm.