

## MCDAB November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with the following attendees present:

Dawson Brown  
Jenny Evers  
Gene Velez  
Matt McLellan  
Amy Patterson  
Michelle Hyams

Matt called the meeting to order and began by updating the board on our IRS status. The paperwork will be sent off Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Matt felt that the process should be smooth and timely with reinstatement happening in the near future.

Next, Matt opened the floor for discussion around MCDAB's impact. Many felt it was necessary to look at our mission, our intent and purpose and determine if events and sponsorships that we had been involved with in the past were beneficial and worthwhile. We had discussions around Making Waves, Trunk or Treat and other events. Many were concerned about the attendance at events and if we were making the greatest impact.

Conversations were had around being proactive rather than reactive. The example of being involved with the stadium playground was given. In summary, we missed our opportunity to provide direction to the architect because plumbing was already in place and they were unable to accommodate a family restroom. We all felt that it would be beneficial and ideal for the Mayor and his office to involve us in the forefront of planning versus us contacting him when we hear of things occurring within the city.

We spent additional time talking about Making Waves and how we could improve that event. Dawson made the recommendation that we provide a meal after the event as a "social gathering" for the attendees. We also threw around ideas such as: giving the attendees goggles or other items. We touched on marketing the event because there was concern that the community does not even know it exists. Matt made a motion to have a \$50 ad budget for Making Waves to help "spread the word." Amy seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Our next topic of discussion involved a Christmas initiative. Michelle informed the group that there are many families within the city that are in need. They have transportation, food and resource needs. She specifically talked about a family that has a wheelchair bound son and they need an accessible van. This is a costly process and the group agreed to extend resources to be able to assist the family. Phoenix has a "Grants to Other Nonprofits" program whereby MCDAB could write a grant to be able to have funding to assist the family (and potentially others) with the equipment to make a van accessible. Michelle was going to gather specifics from the family and Matt found a company (MobilityWorks) that might be able to install the adaptive equipment.

We also decided to sponsor a certain number of families, providing them with items they need and Christmas gifts. Matt made a motion to spend \$1,500 on our Christmas initiative and Michelle

seconded. All were in favor. Michelle was going to reach out to the special education teachers at each school and ask for a list of families and their needs. Our goal is to have this information before the week is over and shop and assemble gift packages in the very near future.

Lastly, we all agreed on the idea of having a monthly emphasis on specific diagnoses/disabilities and highlighting community resources available based on those disabilities. Perhaps we need to spend time connecting families and citizens to the resources that are available within the community and acting as a support system. We talked briefly about respite care and how great that need is. Many churches have hesitation around the idea of offering respite care but there is a large need in the community.

Michelle also made the group aware of a family, the Colsch family, who recently lost a loved one. The mom put together a pamphlet (based on her personal experience with her child) around trach care and how to care for someone with certain needs. We all agreed that it would be beneficial to have her speak to the group and to provide us with some education around resources and ways to assist families with needs that were similar to hers.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: