

**October 2010 Minutes
Madison City Disability Advocacy Board
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Date: October 12, 2010

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room

Presiding: Claudia Rice, Chairperson

Recorder: Cana Farr, Treasurer

Board Members Present: Claudia Rice, Cana Farr, Patricia Switzer, Don Gardner, Beth Newlin, Tony Osani, Jane Dow, Bob Lipinski

Board Members Absent: Maria Kilgore, Debrah Underwood

Others in Attendance: Kyle Newlin, Kory Alfred (Parks and Rec. Director), Cody Phillips (Building Director), City Council member Steve Haraway.

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.

Introductions: The Board and others present introduced themselves.

Accessibility Issues: Tony Osani (liaison to the Parks & Recreation Board) discussed the bathroom accessibility issue regarding the new construction at Dublin Park. Kory Alfred responded by discussing costs and Cody Phillips discussed what was and was not required by code.

Don Gardner reminded all that the concrete apron outside the bathrooms needs to be big enough for wheelchairs and scooters to turn and clear the doors. Spring of 2011 is the projected time frame for completion. Cody Phillips and Kory Alfred agreed to speak with the contractor and discuss what is feasible as far as changing the floor plan to accommodate a family-style restroom.

Tony Osani also reported that developing a Miracle League field in Madison would be put on hold. Not only is there not enough players to warrant an extra field at this time, but the funding is not currently available. Tony will continue to work on bringing some of the Miracle League's indoor sports to Madison.

Don Gardner reported results from his meeting with Kory Alfred regarding accessibility issues and the soccer fields at Dublin Park. Kory Alfred stated he recognized that several of the fields are difficult to get to, even for able-bodied people. Kory Alfred discussed that a citizen complained to the Dept of the Interior about ADA compliance regarding accessibility problems at the lower fields at Palmer Park. He discussed having a plan to provide sidewalks and access to all of the fields.

Don Gardner will send Beth Newlin information on how to access the golf carts available at Palmer Park and Dublin Park to help people access the fields. Beth Newlin will post the information on MCDAB's web site.

Don Gardner also discussed the fact that there is a walking track upstairs at the new YMCA, scheduled to open in November, but no elevator or other way to access it except by stairs. Cody Phillips explained the code requires an elevator only if the space is greater than 3000 square feet and if that same service isn't provided on the first floor. The new YMCA has sufficient walking space on the first floor in the gym and the hallways can be used by those who cannot access the walking track on the second floor. Don also discussed the idea of clearly posting how to get to the different floors of City Hall because it also doesn't have an elevator. Beth Newlin suggested that the floor plan for City Hall along with the best entrances to access each area of the building (for people with accessibility issues) could also be posted on the MCDAB web site and the City of Madison's as well.

Don Gardner also asked about the possibility of aquatic programs for Madison citizens with disabilities. Kory Alfred responded that no programs are planned yet but that he is not opposed to it.

Don Gardner also discussed moving the handicapped parking spaces in front of Dublin Park from directly in front of the building where it sits on an incline to a flatter surfaced parking lot. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that the best way to rectify the situation would be to leave the handicapped parking spaces currently available in place, but to add more in the level area of the parking lot. Kory Alfred will check into the best place to add the parking spaces.

Hand-In-Hand Playground: Claudia Rice distributed the invitations to each person for the dedication ceremony to be held October 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at the playground in Palmer Park. She discussed the bark that is the ground cover under half of the playground equipment (part of the playground surface is a rubberize surface and part is rubber bark or engineered fiber). A concern was that wheelchairs can't access the equipment specifically purchased for accessibility because chairs would have a hard time moving over the bark. Kory Alfred assured the board that will not be a problem. Jane Dow added that the bark would mesh together and wheelchairs could roll over it easily and stated it is a similar bark to that at Kid's Kingdom. Claudia Rice also reported the handicapped swing had been stolen and another is broken. Kory Alfred reported it had been reordered, but in all likelihood, not arrive by the dedication ceremony.

Steve Haraway suggested we contact Faye Dyer and ask for donations to buy gravel, asphalt, etc. to help make the parks accessible. Jane Dow volunteered to call.

Brick Wall: Claudia Rice reported that Rhodes Russler can't find the cast stones to be used at the top of the commemorative brick wall. He was donating these stones to MCDAB. Paul Winton, the city employee building the wall, told Claudia Rice he felt confident he could construct it without the stones and it would still look attractive.

Claudia Rice stated the board could look at the funding left in the brick account after the dedication ceremony and get an estimate on the cost to purchase the cast stones to finish the wall. Beth Newlin made a motion the board buy balloons and a corsage for Kayla Beard. Don Gardner seconded it. The motion passed. Beth Newlin also motioned to leave the picnic bench in the pavilion but move it over to the side. Jane Dow seconded it. The motion passed.

September Minutes: Claudia Rice made a motion to approve the September minutes and Beth Newlin seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: No errors were noted. Claudia Rice reported she is working with Otis Spunkmyer to get a \$15 refund owed from the frozen cookie dough order. The company charged MCDAB sales tax which they were not supposed to do.

Cookie Sale: The total profits from the Cookie Sales at the October 2nd Street Festival were \$247.92. There were extra cookies left and Jane Dow motioned they be donated to the Daylife program. Trish Switzer seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements: Claudia Rice distributed announcements.

Committee Reports:

Housing – No report.

Day Services – No report.

Employment Committee – Bob Lipinski reported that the Employment Committee had a booth at the WAFF Job Fair which he attended.

Recreation – Tony Osani stated he is still working on MCDAB hosting a 5K run at the 2011 Street Festival and we will discuss this subject further next month.

Emergency Preparedness - Trish Switzer attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) "Getting Real-2010 Inclusive Emergency Management National Capacity Building Training Conference" on September 22-24, 2010 at the Renaissance Baltimore Harbor Place Hotel, 202 East Platt Street, Baltimore, Maryland. This three-day interactive training conference brought the disability and emergency management community leaders together from across the country to build national capacity for inclusive emergency management practices.

Beth Newlin reported that the next ESM meeting will be Wednesday, November 3rd from 9:30am to 11:00am at the National Children's Advocacy building.

Meeting Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room.

