

**August 2011 Minutes**  
**Madison City Disability Advocacy Board**  
**Regular Monthly Board Meeting**

**Date:** August 9, 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, Trish Switzer, Alka Bhargav, Sheila Fuller

**Board Members Absent:** Maria Kilgore, Beth Newlin

**Guest Present:** Cody Phillips, Director of Building Dept. – City of Madison

**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 August.

**Minutes:** The last meeting occurred on July 12, 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 July minutes due to not having a quorum of board members who were present at the July meeting; therefore, the July minutes will be presented for approval at the September meeting. The board voted to approve the June minutes.

The meeting opened with Don Gardner, Chairman of the Accessibility Committee handing out minutes from their last committee meeting. He stated the committee's suggestions for renovations at the Madison City Library which will make the library more accessible to persons with disabilities. Don discussed the proposed changes with Cody Phillips who explained how his department could be involved in the renovation project. Mr. Phillips stated that the budget for library renovations is very limited. MCDAB plans to apply for a grant that is due September 1<sup>st</sup> which would cover the cost of some of the accessibility issues at the library. Mr. Phillips agreed to supply Don with the needed cost estimated from the list he provided so that MCDAB will have an approximate cost to submit with the grant application. The first priority for the library is accessibility at the front entrance. MCDAB and the Accessibility Committee will prioritize the renovations, which may need to be done in stages as funding permits. MCDAB will apply for a grant and seek other funding for this project. Additional avenues of funding were suggested such as approaching the Civitan's Club and requesting donations of materials from Lowe's and Home Depot. Don will check with Sarah Sledge, librarian, regarding accessibility spaces for reading and computer labs.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer, Cana Farr, handed out the report noting an ending balance of \$5,898.99. Claudia Rice stated the balance on the Hand-in-Hand Playground account remains at \$622.57. Therefore, the total amount of MCDAB funds is \$6,521.56.

Claudia Rice stated the board's web site comes up for renewal on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A discussion began regarding whether or not the board should pursue someone to create and manage a new web site. Claudia Rice stated that the cost to renew the current web site for twenty-four months is \$190.80. Alka Bhargav made a motion to maintain the current web site by renewing the contract for twenty-four months at a cost of \$190.80. Trish Switzer seconded. With no opposition, the motion passed. Claudia Rice will contact Beth Newlin and they will follow up on the renewal.

Claudia Rice stated that it is time for the board to request their annual appropriation from City Council. Discussion ensued regarding the board's expenses over the past year and projected activities for the upcoming year. Don Gardner made the motion that the board request \$3,500.00 as our annual appropriation from City Council. Cana Farr seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion passed. Claudia Rice will write a letter requesting the appropriation.

Claudia Rice and Maria Kilgore will coordinate on the specifications for the MCDAB logo contest which will be conducted through Madison City Schools. The board will choose three finalists from the submissions and they will be presented at MCDAB's booth at the Madison Street Festival. The community will vote for their favorite logo at that time. MCDAB will announce a winner and award prizes to the three finalists at a future City Council meeting.

Because of several board members having a conflict with our regular-monthly meeting time, the board discussed the possibility of changing the meeting date from the second Tuesday of each month. Claudia Rice will check with the City Clerk's office to determine what other dates and times a meeting room is available and report back to the board.

Claudia Rice will check with the City Clerk's office to determine the status of the open board seat which has yet to be filled.

### **Committee Reports:**

Employment – Alka Bhargav handed out minutes from the Employment Committee's last meeting. Bob Lipinski will not remain on the committee as he is no longer the job coach for Madison City Schools. Kathy Burris also resigned from the committee as she no longer works at Phoenix Services (aka, HSV Rehab).

Day Services – Cana Farr continues to work on a report in the areas of day services and housing. She will discuss her findings at a future City Council meeting. She stated that Ability Plus is opening a day program on Research Blvd. in Madison soon. Cana Farr's program, Daylife, will add Wednesdays to their Tuesday/Thursday schedule beginning in 2012.

Emergency Preparedness – Trish Switzer discussed the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Fair on August 29<sup>th</sup>. A few changes were suggested for the flyer to advertise the event. Discussion regarding advertising of the event, door prizes, counting attendees, and the schedule of manning the booth followed.

Trish Switzer announced that the training for Emergency Managers & First Responders scheduled for the spring is cancelled due to the sponsor (West VA University) losing their grant.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.at City Hall, Conference Room 130. Any board member who wants to show up at 6:00 is welcome to do so, but the meeting will not begin until a quorum is present.

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