

**January 2012 Minutes
Madison City Disability Advocacy Board
Regular Monthly Board Meeting**

Date: January 10, 2012

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Conference Room 130

Presiding: Claudia Rice, Chairperson

Recorder: Sheila Fuller

Board Members Present: Claudia Rice, Beth Newlin, Cana Farr, Don Gardner, Sheila Fuller, Maria Kilgore, Alka Bhargav, Trish Switzer, Larry Moxley

Board Members Absent: none

Guest Present: Mr. Jamie Hill

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 provided a printed copy of the announcements for all board members. She also welcomed the newest board member, Larry Moxely.

No other announcements were made.

Public Comments – limited to 2 minutes per guest: Mr. Jamie Hill was the only guest present at the meeting. He did not have any comments.

Minutes: The last meeting occurred on November 8, 2011. The draft minutes were distributed to board members for review and received comments were incorporated.

Claudia Rice noted that there was a quorum present from the October meeting. The board voted on the October 2011 minutes and the results were 6 approved, 0 opposed, and 3 abstained due to not being in attendance at the October meeting.

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The board did not meet in December 2011. There were no minutes to approve for December 2011.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Cana Farr, provided a printed copy of the Treasurer's report to the board members. She noted the ending total balance of \$7335.06. Claudia Rice noted that the balance on the Hand-in-Hand Playground account remains at \$622.57. Cana reminded the board that there will be a need for fund raisers in the future.

Claudia Rice & Cana Farr noted as of this meeting the board does not know the amount of our 2012 appropriation from the City of Madison. Claudia Rice will follow up on this information.

Committee Reports:

Employment: Alka Bhargav reported that the employment committee did not meet in December. She did report the following information from the November meeting.

1. The Employment board met with Mayor Finley to discuss having contracts set aside for the purpose of employing people with disabilities. Phoenix Investments demonstrates the most expertise in janitorial work. Questions concerning the employment contracts were sent to the mayor and his personal aide. It was reported that some of the questions were answered but the committee did have some other questions about some of the answers received. A meeting to clarify the information provided by the City of Madison will be scheduled by the employment committee. It should be noted that the current contracts were renewed in November.
2. There is a possibility to put together a seminar on disabilities for Human Resource Employees and market to different individuals. It is important to offer CEU's for the Human Resource employees to ensure better attendance. The NASHRM (North Alabama Society of Human Resource Management) may be a resource to help with providing CEU's and ask them to be a sponsor. Alka reported that the employment committee will need to have further meetings with to finalize the plans. Claudia Rice stated that the board would like to host the workshop and use it as fundraising opportunity. Alka will meet with her committee and gather more information and how the MCDAB can host this seminar as well as use it for a fundraising opportunity.

Day Services: Claudia Rice provided an update on housing. She reported that she will be attending the housing expo on Thursday, January 12, 2012, in Birmingham. After gathering more information Claudia and Cana would like to recommend to the city of Madison what to do for housing for people with disabilities in Madison City. Glenwood Center for Autism was mentioned as a resource for information concerning housing.

Emergency Preparedness: Beth Newlin gave a brief history of this committee to Mr. Moxely, our newest board member. She also shared that the Madison City Fire Department initiated a special needs registry for the citizens of Madison. An idea the committee is currently pursuing is to help make individuals with disabilities and their caregivers aware of their personal responsibility in planning for an emergency through the use of a video for emergency planning. Another idea is to educate the Madison City School Resource Officers on how to help individuals with a disability during an emergency. Beth also reported that the funding for training in March fell through from FEMA.

Accessibility: Don Gardner reported the following:

1. Funding for the power door openers at library. There was \$8000 donated by local government officials. An additional project taking place is having the measurements taken to help modify the restrooms in the library for better accessibility. Don reported that he is not sure if the funding for the additional project is coming from the \$8000 or is the city giving more money. He reported he will clarify this question. It was recommended for the accessibility committee invite Cody Phillips to their meeting as an option for follow up on the above mentioned projects.
2. Don also reported that the curb cut for the family restroom at Dublin Park has been completed.

3. Don reported that he has developed a draft letter to submit to the Madison Weekly to ask the community for feedback for areas of that may need improvement in accessibility. The MCDAB website has an email and forms for the public to provide feedback.
4. The public awareness campaign update: Ms. Millers class from Discovery Middle School as well as Don's brother in Mobile will work together to produce this video. Don has forwarded a YouTube video for a springboard to generate ideas. As part of the recoding process the accessibility committee will need to develop a draft form acquiring permission for the students to be allowed to participate in the video. The draft should be given to Kelly Butler for approval. The goal is to have the video completed before the end of the school year.
5. Future accessibility: The committee plans to look at other buildings with accessibility issues such as the Municipal Building and the Public Works Building. It was suggested that the committee identify someone knowledgeable on the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) to serve as an independent agent to advise the Board. Shannon Roberts provided the names of Birmingham attorney Ed Zwilling of Schwartz Zweben LLP and Kirk Tcherneshoff of Tcherneshoff Consulting Inc. as potential candidates.

Discussions of 2012: Don Gardner made the recommendation to the board that this year is an election year and MCDAB could invite candidates to our board meetings to brief them on what we do, past projects we have been involved in, as well as future plans. Claudia Rice agreed and suggested that we consider the summer months would be the best time for the candidates to be invited to our meetings.

Claudia Rice brought to the board's attention that five board positions will expire in May 2012. One is occupied by Madison City School's Special Education Department, and that position will automatically renew. The remaining positions are occupied by Cana Farr, Beth Newlin, Trish Switzer and Claudia Rice. Claudia Rice stated her intention is to renew her board seat. Cana Farr stated she is undecided at this time. Beth Newlin and Trish Switzer stated they do not intend to renew their positions on the board. It is recommended that persons interested in applying for the board turn in their applications for the MCDAB board starting in February. The goal is to have the open positions filled by June with the election of officers in the summer months. Claudia Rice also mentioned the election of new officers for the board this year will need to be completed.

Meeting Adjourned

The next meeting will be held on February 14th, 2012 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).