

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

**Date:** March 20, 2012

**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, Maria Kilgore, Alka Bhargav

**Board Members Absent:** Trish Switzer, Beth Newlin, Larry Moxley, Sheila Fuller

**Guest Present:** Jacqueline Wilson-Bradley

**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. The announcements included a letter for The Forsythe Firm who represents residents needing assistance obtaining Social Security disability. They would like to give a presentation. Maria Kilgore and Claudia discussed MCDAB and Madison City Schools cohosting this group for one of the Parent Advisory meetings this fall. A date will be chosen later.

Maria Kilgore announced that their next Parent Advisory meeting will be held April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Office. The AL Dept. of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) as well as Jacqueline Wilson-Bradley will speak.

Claudia Rice announced that \$6,500.00 is needed to purchase a handicapped lift for the outdoor pool at Dublin Park due to ADA regulations. The board discussed some potential avenues for funding this project and will keep each other up-to-date on the progress of those leads.

**Public Comments – limited to 2 minutes per guest:** None

**Minutes:** The last meeting occurred on February 14, 2012. The draft minutes were distributed to board members for review and received comments were incorporated. Claudia Rice noted that there was not a quorum present from the February meeting; therefore, the February minutes will be approved in April.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Cana Farr, provided a printed copy of the Treasurer's report to board members. She noted the ending total balance of \$ 7812.80. The balance on the Hand-in-Hand Playground account remains at \$622.57. Alka Bhargav reported a \$500.00 donation was received from the North AL Society of Human Resource Managers (NASHRM). Claudia Rice reported that MCDAB's annual appropriation from the City will be \$1,500.00. These amounts will be credited to our account when received.

**Annual Appropriation:** Claudia Rice presented a draft of the board's agreement with the City of Madison for our annual appropriation. Discussion ensued and changes were made. Claudia Rice made the motion that the agreement, labeled Exhibit A, be approved and presented to City Council pending the incorporated changes. Don Gardner seconded the motion. There were no

abstentions or opposition so the motion passed. Claudia Rice will type the changes to the draft and email it to the board members. The date for the presentation to City Council will be in April and when the date is established Claudia Rice will email the board members.

**Parks & Recreation Dept.:** Claudia Rice reported that the Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks & Recreation Dept. are developing a brochure listing sports and recreational opportunities in the City of Madison. Claudia Rice developed a draft for MCDAB to submit listing opportunities for special needs. The page itself will be simple, but will direct people to MCDAB's web site where a more complete listing of recreational opportunities within the City of Madison and the surrounding area can be found. Maria Kilgore made a motion to accept the draft and Don Gardner seconded. With no abstentions or opposition the motion passed. Claudia Rice will submit the draft to Kory Alfred before the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The Recreation section of MCDAB's web site will be updated.

**Web Site:** Claudia Rice announced that Sheila Fuller has agreed to take over MCDAB's web site after Beth Newlin leaves her seat in May. Sheila will contact Beth to find out the particulars of how the web site is set up, etc.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Employment Committee:** Alka Bhargav reported that her presentation to the NASHRM resulted in a \$500.00 donation to MCDAB which is earmarked for a disability-related training. The committee's tentative plans are to hold the training on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Several locations are being investigated. Topics will include the ADA, reasonable accommodations and disability awareness, and the committee is looking into suggestions for speakers. The training will coincide with National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The committee will keep the board updated on their progress.

**Emergency Preparedness:** No report

**Day Services & Housing:** Cana Farr announced that she had attended the open house of the new Ability Plus location in Madison. The day program currently serves about fifteen clients. She also stated she and Claudia Rice had met with the Madison County 310 Board to discuss day programs and housing in Madison County. This board serves citizens of Madison County, Huntsville City and Madison City who have disabilities. They receive funding annually from Madison County and Huntsville City, but not from Madison City. Claudia Rice stated this requires further investigation and will be discussed at a later date.

Cana Farr, Claudia Rice and Larry Moxley will meet to organize a family meeting with parents and caregivers of people with disabilities in Madison who are interested in discussing day programs and housing. Afterward, MCDAB will facilitate a meeting with 20 to 40 parents of children with disabilities to determine the path needed for Day Services and Housing.

**Transportation:** Claudia Rice and Kory Alfred met with personnel from Huntsville's Handiride Program. They discussed how the program operates including funding, hours of operation, eligibility and more. A second meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meetings is to gather information for the MARS Program.

**Accessibility:** Don Gardner gave an update on the Public Awareness Campaign. The draft documents were sent to Kelly Bulter, the city attorney for Madison, in February, but to date, there has been no response. These drafts are to cover the waiver for Discovery Middle School students to both participate and allow a distribution of their likeness to be used in the public awareness campaign. Maria Kilgore stated she would give the documents to the Madison City Schools attorney on Thursday night for his review. The project must be completed prior to the end of school.

Don Gardner then discussed the accessibility issue at the Municipal Building (City Hall) in Madison. The building does not have an elevator so citizens with accessibility issues cannot move from one level of the building to another without first going outside, traveling a distance, and then reentering the building. Suggestions were made that included a map of the building on the City's web site to allow people to see the layout of the building in advance. Channel 42, signs at the entrance doors, MCDAB's web site and a newspaper article were also recommended. Don will discuss this issue further with the committee and bring recommendations to MCDAB.

The committee will continue to oversee the continuing accessibility improvements at the Madison City Library. The ribbon cutting to announce the newly-installed push plates to make the front doors accessible to the library was held and well attended. An article was written in The Huntsville Times.

**Additional Comments:** Alka Bhargav suggested that a board member shadow the chairman so that the board will be better prepared when we elect new officers. The board agreed this is a good idea because we have five seats that expire at the same time.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

The next meeting will be held on April 10th, 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).*