

**June 2013 Minutes**  
**Madison City Disability Advocacy Board**  
**Regular Monthly Board Meeting**

**Date:** June 11, 2013

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** City Hall, Conference Room 130

**Presiding:** Claudia Rice, Chairperson

**Recorder:** Claudia Rice

**Board Members Present:** Claudia Rice, Don Gardner, Joni Haas, Cynthia Allison, Keith Bedsole, Gerald Clark, Kathy Burris, Tracy Butterfield

**Board Members Absent:** Jamie Hill, Dena Johnson

**Guest Present:** none

**Call to Order:** The Chairperson, Claudia Rice, called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present. It was noted that sufficient prior notice of the meeting was given, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

**Announcements:**

The board welcomed new board member Joni Haas. Claudia Rice distributed the announcements to members present and reminded members to submit their monthly articles for the Madison Weekly News in a timely manner. Claudia Rice stated that Asbury Methodist Church is preparing to begin a Sunday school class for young adults with disabilities and when she has more information she will pass that on to the board.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Claudia Rice noted a quorum was present from the regular April 2013 meeting. Claudia Rice made the motion that the minutes, previously distributed to the board, be approved. Don Gardner seconded. There was no opposition so the motion passed. Joni Haas abstained from voting as this was her first board meeting.

Claudia Rice noted that a quorum was not present from the May meeting and because Sheila Fuller has now rotated off the board, there will never be a quorum from that meeting. Therefore, the board agreed to record in the minutes that the May minutes were distributed, corrections were suggested and completed, and the minutes will now be sent to the City Clerk's office to be recorded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Gardner provided a copy of the Treasurer's report to all board members present. He reported a balance of \$13, 010.92 and noted that the only change from last month was the \$300.00 spent to secure a booth and tent at the Madison Street Festival. Discussion ensued regarding the need to adopt a policy prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> to draft a budget which limits total budget based on current balance and anticipated income. Claudia Rice stated that once the board decides on how this will be worded the board needs to add this stipulation to MCDAB's bylaws. Don will draft a policy and present it to the board prior to October.

**Election of New Officers:** Claudia Rice expressed her desire to step down as Chairman after four years at this position; however, she stated it is not her intent to leave the board. Claudia Rice made the motion to nominate Keith Bedsole as Chairman. Kathy Burris seconded and the motion passed with no opposition or abstentions. Don Gardner made the motion to nominate Claudia Rice as Vice-Chairman and Tracy Butterfield seconded the motion. The motion passed

with no opposition or abstentions. Claudia Rice made the motion to nominate Joni Haas as Secretary and Tracy Butterfield seconded. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions. Don Gardner will remain as Treasurer.

### **MCDAB Awards:**

**Faith Award:** Madison Academy was nominated for this award due to the annual carnival they provide to area citizens with disabilities. They have sponsored this free event for many years, and consider it a service project to the community for their 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Kathy Burris made the motion to award Madison Academy the Faith Award and Cynthia Allison seconded. The motion passed with no opposition or abstentions.

**Personal Service Award:** Cana Farr was nominated by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Underwood of Madison for the Personal Service Award. Cana realized the need for a Day Program for young adults with disabilities in Madison post high school and created a part-time program. Cana's family sponsors the program with their own funds plus donations, and she does not receive a salary for running the program. This program services approximately twenty adults with special needs. Kathy Burris made the motion to award Cana Farr the Personal Service Award and Don Gardner seconded. Claudia Rice abstained from voting, but no opposition was made and the motion passed.

**Inspiration Award:** John David King and Matthew Scarborough were the nominees for this award. After board discussion, Tracy Butterfield made the motion to award both nominees an Inspiration Award. Kathy Burris seconded and with no opposition or abstentions the motion passed.

Tracy Butterfield inquired about the Employment Award and Claudia Rice explained that the board awards it in October in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Claudia Rice will make arrangements for ordering the plaques and setting up the awards ceremony at a future City Council meeting.

Don Gardner offered to rework the MCDAB Awards nomination forms to make them easier to complete.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Fishing Rodeo for Special Needs:** Keith Bedsole reported that the fishing rodeo was well attended and a great success. He complimented Gayle Milam of Madison Parks & Rec for her hard work in planning and working with the board on this event. Cynthia Allison reported that 32 people registered for the event with 28 attending. Many family members and volunteers also attended. Leading Edge Trophies and Gifts donated six trophies and Pepsi donated drinks. Additional drinks and snacks were made available by MCDAB. Outdoor Alabama donated the use of their fishing equipment. Each participant received a certificate plus a snack bag and drinks. Face painting was available for participants. The board may make this an annual event. Discussion regarding potential changes to the venue revolved around the registration process. Some changes could make this process quicker and easier if we repeat the event next year.

**Making Waves – Special Needs Swim at YMCA:** Tracy Butterfield reported that the event, held June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., went well. More lifeguards were on duty at this event than

the first time it was held in April. This second event did not have as many attending as the first event; however, there were issues confirming the event with the Y that did not allow as much time for advertising. The next event is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> at the same time and location. Tracy will send out an email to remind everyone of the event. Pre-registration is required as there is a maximum number of people who can swim at one time. Tracy will provide the dates for the remaining swim times for this year to Cynthia who will put the information on MCDAB's web site.

**Accessibility:** Don Gardner stated that the down town renovation is currently at a standstill. Mr. Clark will share at his next meeting the recommendations Don and the committee suggested after touring the area. Mr. Clark said there is a \$500,000.00 grant for Phase II of the downtown renovation project and they will do what they can to make the area more accessible to people with disabilities. The next meeting to discuss the downtown renovations will be June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, as per Mr. Clark. Kathy Burris asked if there is a public restroom downtown and Mr. Clark stated there was not.

Don Gardner also discussed MCDAB's handicapped-parking/accessibility video and his hope of having it become a part of the Driver's Ed curriculum in Alabama schools. Tracy Butterfield mentioned that there are monitors at the Division of Motor Vehicles offices that continuously play advertisements, etc. and wondered if we may be able to have MCDAB's video play on those monitors. Even though there is no sound coming from the monitors, our video is closed captioned. Mr. Clark stated he will check on this for the board.

**Day Services and Housing:** The third community-wide meeting was held June 7, 2013. Kathy Burris stated that the Day Services subcommittee has determined they want to start a non-profit in order to move forward with creating a new Day Program. Claudia Rice added that there is a parent willing to lead a program and a local church has agreed to provide a space; however, the church does not want to funnel the program's funding through their accounting department. If the program is not considered a ministry of the church it will have no liability insurance. Therefore, the only viable option is to obtain a non-profit status. Keith Bedsole stated he may be able to help the group obtain the non-profit status and will check into this possibility.

Claudia Rice also reported that four people from the committee attended a Knights of Columbus meeting to discuss the needs of adults with disabilities in our community and the purpose and priorities of the committee. The group donated \$400.00 towards the start-up of a new Day Program. When the funding is received it will be placed in MCDAB's account and earmarked for a new Day Program.

Claudia Rice reported that the Housing subcommittee has been researching local, state and federal laws regarding housing options for people with disabilities and there is still much work to be done before they determine which course of action to recommend to the committee. A map of the City of Madison showing its zoning requirements can be printed out for \$35.00 and the subcommittee is interested in knowing the locations that are available for this type of housing. Land in eastern Limestone County and Madison County was also discussed.

Andrea Williams of 305 8<sup>th</sup> Street group home was the guest speaker and very helpful in explaining some state and federal laws and shared how her program operates. Cynthia Allison reported that all three community-wide meetings have continued to be well attended with approximately 30 people at each meeting. Claudia Rice stated the date for the next community-wide meeting has not yet been determined, but will probably occur in August.

**Transportation:** Claudia Rice reported that she recently inquire of Kory Alfred the status of the TARCOG grant the City applied for to improve the MARS Program. A decision has not yet been made on awarding the grant.

**Recreation Advisory Board:** No report

**Madison Street Festival booth:** Claudia Rice reported a booth and tent package have been secured for MCDAB. Keith Bedsole suggested having an Alabama vs. Auburn sports-themed fundraiser in order to draw people to the booth and encourage donations. Details will be worked out at a later meeting.

**Other business:** Mr. Clark noted that Claudia Rice had made a notation for him to approach the City's attorney regarding the expiration dates of MCDAB's board positions as several positions expire at the same time which could be a potential problem for the board. Mr. Clark will contact the attorney regarding this request.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Next meeting is July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 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).*