

October 2013 Minutes
Madison City Disability Advocacy Board
Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: October 8, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Conference Room 130

Presiding: Keith Bedsole, Chairperson

Recorder: Joni Haas

Board Members Present: Claudia Rice, Don Gardner, Joni Haas, Cynthia Allison, Gerald Clark, Keith Bedsole

Board Members Absent: Jamie Hill, Tracy Butterfield, Kathy Burris

Guests Present: none

Call to Order: The Chairperson, Keith Bedsole, 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: Claudia Rice announced the Making Waves Swim was coming up on October 19, and that all the information is on our website and facebook. All participants have to pre-register with Tracey Butterfield. Claudia reported that information had been received regarding an opportunity to have a booth at Athens State Annual Disability Expo on Saturday November 9 from 9 to noon. We will not be able to participate this year but will consider it for next year.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Claudia Rice noted a quorum was not present from the regular September 2013 meeting so approval will be postponed.

Treasurer's Report: Don Gardner provided a copy of the Treasurer's report to all board members present. He reported a balance of \$12,508.73, with no changes this month. Don explained all proposed budget line items to budget 80% of the current balance recognizing we continue to have flexibility to move funds if necessary. Don Gardner motioned to approve the proposed budget, Cynthia Allison seconded. Motion passed, no opposition, no abstention. It was determined that it is too late for MCDAB to file for an appropriation from the City of Madison for the 2014 Budget.

MCDAB Employer Award: Last month we voted to award the MCDAB Employer Award to the Botanical Garden. Claudia Rice has ordered the plaque and it will be presented at the October 28 City Council meeting.

Board Opening: We have received several applications for the open board position which is a person associated with a business affiliated with disability services. Further discussion on each of the applicant's qualifications ensued. Keith Bedsole and Claudia Rice will check references and their availability to attend meetings is a top priority.

Committee Reports:

Accessibility: Committee continues to be unable to attend a meeting because most are care-givers. Don Gardner gave up his meeting slot at City Hall but will continue to keep in contact with the committee by e-mail.

Day Services and Housing: Cynthia Allison reported that the Committee met September 21 and decided on a name for the non-profit – EPIC (Exceptional People In Community) Alabama. Committee began looking at like organizations to facilitate the process of development of articles of incorporation/by-laws and a mission statement. Committee proposed having a garage sale at the Madison Senior Center on November 2, to cover cost that will be incurred in the filing for the non-profit status. Keith motioned to permit the garage sale and allocate funds of \$200 to execute the sale in order to raise funds for the project expenses. Don Gardner seconded. Motion passed, no opposition, no abstention.

Transportation: None

Recreation Advisory Board: None

Madison Street Festival Booth: The sale of bags resulted in \$32. Lessons learned ideas included 1) making our table more focused, determine what the message we want to convey, 2) possibly have a children's game in order to get more to visit our booth, 3) start early in the year to plan/prepare for next year's booth. Keith Bedsole volunteered a PR expert to help next year with securing items and ideas for fundraising.

Madison Weekly Articles: Kathy Burris completed her article for one of the October issues. She focused on the board opening and included a synopsis of the Board activities. Keith Bedsole will be providing the November article and Claudia Rice suggested the article could be about the MCDAB Employer Award, highlighting the winner and possibly including a picture. Joni Haas has the December article.

Scholarship Proposal: Don Gardner provided the details for the scholarship MCDAB is awarding to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) for \$1000. MCDAB will establish criteria for selection consistent with criteria already established by the USSRC. The USSRC will provide scholarship application packets and the Board will forward these to the Madison City school system. The USSRC will make the selection based on the criteria established by MCDAB and once a winner is selected, the student would attend the camp that best fits their individual needs (hearing impairment, visually impaired, mobility impaired, family weekend, etc) as determined by the parents of that child. After lengthy discussion it was determined that Don will continue conversations with USSRC about revising the USSRC application requirements in order to broaden the pool of possible candidates. He will craft a memo/letter to parents, easy to understand, to accompany the application that will be forwarded to the schools. USSRC has a schedule for their usual scholarship process and we will try to also conform to this timeline with an award early in 2014. Don will forward the application packet he received from the USSRC for all to review and discuss at the next meeting.

MCDAB Donations: Cynthia Allison proposed a location in the pamphlet for the note to indicate where donations to MCDAB would be made. She passed around a sample of the proposed location on the cover of the pamphlet.

Meeting Adjourned: Keith motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Don Gardner seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Next meeting is November 12 , 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)