

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

**Date:** February 8, 2011

**Time:** 6:05 pm

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

**Presiding:** Claudia Rice, Chairperson

**Recorder:** Debrah Underwood, Secretary

**Board Members Present:** Claudia Rice, Cana Farr, Patricia Switzer, Don Gardner, Beth Newlin, Maria Kilgore, Debrah Underwood, Tony Osani, Jane Dow

**Others in Attendance:** Mayor Paul Finley, Councilman Steve Haraway, City Attorney Kelly Butler, City Clerk, Melanie Willard, Emily Lepper

**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.

Claudia Rice turned the meeting over to Mayor Finley and Councilman Haraway to discuss the future direction of the Board and whether or not the ordinance needs to be amended. The board members had questions regarding the Board's authority and how spending issues should be addressed. The need for an annual budget outlining planned operating costs and other anticipated spending was noted. Operating expenses within the budget would be done based on Board approval and handled through the normal invoice/reimbursement process, while spending exceeding the budget or for projects not listed in the budget, would need Council approval. City Attorney, Kelly Butler, suggested that Board funding approvals go through one of the City's Department's to insure that proper visibility is maintained.

Mayor Finley reiterated that the primary function of the Board is to be looking ahead and identifying ways in which Madison can better serve its citizens with disabilities. Any identified projects should be brought to the Council's attention and, if Council agrees, could be considered for funding above and beyond the Board's annual budget.

Board members asked questions regarding other City Boards, such as the Beautification Board, the Greenway and Trails Board, the Industrial Development Board, the Parks and Recreation Board and the Planning Commission, and how they operate. Fundraising, appropriations and grants were discussed and how they would figure into the annual budget. Claudia Rice noted that, due to the fact that the board is not quite two years old, there are still many processes that are being worked out. Maria Kilgore and Debrah Underwood both agreed that the Board's accomplishment's and progress were at a natural place based on its relative newness. Trish Switzer suggested that Board members receive training on normal board processes and procedures. Kelly Butler agreed to provide this training.

The process for open meetings, voting and recusal were discussed. Kelly will provide further information/training regarding these subjects. Kelly also offered to attend the Board meetings and assist with issues as they occur.

The subject of funding the athletic component of the Bob Jones High School Developmental Program for the purchase of wind suits and gym bags for its athletes was discussed. Twenty one students currently participate in this Special Needs program and the purchased items would remain with the school for use in future programs. Don Gardner noted that initial information provided through email correspondence was insufficient. Maria Kilgore came to the meeting with all necessary information. Beth Newlin noted that she would like to see MCDAB have a budget in place and a funding formula for said donation before voting on Bob Jones High School Developmental wind suits and bags. Cana Farr noted that the \$1,500.00 appropriation from City Council for 2011 is not yet in the Board's account.

Jane Dow motioned that the Board request City Council fund the athletic component of the Bob Jones High School Developmental Program in the amount of \$2144.10 to purchase wind suits and gym bags for its athletes. The motion was seconded by Tony Osani. The motion was approved and the vote recorded as follows:

Jane Dow	yes
Don Gardner	yes
Beth Newlin	abstain
Tony Osani	yes
Claudia Rice	yes
Cana Farr	yes
Trish Switzer	abstain
Maria Kilgore	yes
Debrah Underwood	yes

Maria Kilgore will attend the next City Council meeting in the event there are questions regarding this funding when it comes up before council.

**Announcements:** Claudia Rice handed out announcements. Maria Kilgore announced that the next Parent Advisory meeting is March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the topic is wills and guardianship and job coaching. She will email an updated agenda of the meetings to Board members. Maria also stated neither she nor Bob Lipinski may attend our March board meeting as they will be traveling back from the Transition Conference in Auburn that day.

**Minutes:** The last meeting occurred on January 17, 2011. The draft minutes were distributed to board members for review on January 20, 2011, and received comments were incorporated. Claudia Rice motioned that the minutes be approved. With one abstained vote (Trish Switzer), the minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer handed out the report noting that the \$1,500 annual City Council appropriation has not yet been received. The ending balance of \$9633.63 should be adjusted by that amount.

**Committee Reports:**

Employment – No report

Housing – No report

Day Services – No report

Emergency Preparedness – Beth Newlin announced that the next Emergency Preparedness meeting will be on February 28th at the Children National Advocacy Center. She also noted that her committee would be discussing a possible partnership with Madison City Fire Dept. to provide a disability awareness project focus on emergency preparedness at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Recreation – No report

Accessibility – Don Gardner reported that he would be reviewing information with regard to the Madison City Library's need for a handicap entrance.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall, Conference Room 130.