

# MILTON DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE (MDAC)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Executive Conference Room, Milton City Hall

Attendees: Ann Coggins, Tib Holland, Gary Arnold, Dara McMillan, Van Black, Cyndee Bonacci, Jason Wright, Sudie Gordon

Welcome and Introductions

Updates:

## Report on ABCD Training

- Ann
  - Jason, Joe, Chris and I had a great meeting in Warner Robbins.
  - We are so lucky to have Jason with us.
  - Milton is one of the only communities working within city government locally to create a city that's welcoming for all citizens.
  
- Jason
  - An interesting idea presented was something called "living room conversations," which was essentially a way to build good communities.
  - This idea was attractive to us because I'm all about doing the leg work to get out into the community. This is a no pressure situation where you invite 10-15 people to your home, have refreshments and we come to talk about subjects of interest to those in attendance.
  - We want to test this out in 1 or 2 situations where you invite people to your home and let them know they will be getting information about their city. We will get comfortable with the concept and then roll it out to the general public in the city.
  - They also talked about involving churches. I'll make an initial inquiry to see if there is interest in us coming to talk to members.
  - The idea of small grants was mentioned, but it may not be feasible or necessary in our community.
  - One thing we're looking at doing on the web site is a complete staff directory.
  
- Ann
  - When GCDD was here with us we talked about asset mapping and associations directory. Our goal is to make it possible for all people to get out and get involved in their community. So an association directory will

make it easy to find other groups that have like interests. They offered to help us do those things.

- Asset mapping can be broad (all assets here) or directed to a certain area, such as merchants.
- There are groups working with their community but we seem to be the only ones working with the government.
- While in Warner Robbins, members of other groups asked me how to get their local government involved.
  
- Jason
  - Volunteered to work on the association's directory after he gets the web site launched. That's something that goes along with other contacts he's been making.
  - Question asked as to what "associations" encompassed." Any clubs or neighborhood associations (garden clubs, scouts, homeowner associations, PTAs, church activities).
  
- Ann
  - We would like to get young people involved, but Resolution says you must be at least 18 years old to be involved in the Committee. Specific individuals were discussed as good prospects.
  - We could have a junior MDAC club in the schools. Van Black will reach out to Principal Tesch at Milton High School to invite him to an MDAC meeting.

#### Next Meeting

- **March 31, 2010**

#### Future Events in Milton

- Update by Cyndee Bonacci, Parks & Recreation Director
  - Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey will be going out to every residential household in Milton very shortly. This should only take about 5 minutes to complete. We're sending out 11,385, 2,200 of those are apartments.
  - Special Events for the year include Earth Fest on April 17, Memorial Day ceremony on May 31 at City Hall, free outdoor movie on 9/11/2010 at Birmingham United Methodist Church, Crabapple Arts & Antiques Festival in October, Milton Round-up on October 23 at Birmingham United Methodist Church, Christmas in Crabapple and Christmas tree lighting the first Saturday in December.
    - A sidewalk connection from the parking lot area to the back area was added at the church to make it more accessible. We'd love to have your attendance at our Milton Round-up committee meetings to add your input. First meeting is March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., and then meetings will be monthly thereafter. Sudie Gordon can represent MDAC at the meeting.

- We are moving forward on implementation and funding strategies for the Milton Trail Plan. The accessibility issue will absolutely be factored in to every aspect to make everything ADA compliant, even to the extent of signage, colors, patterns, etc.

CIT Training (Crisis Intervention for police officers and firefighters) through NAMI.

- 1-2 hours of training.
- The part we do is just on disability.
- Funding is a big consideration.
- We could get some of the other communities involved, such as Johns Creek and Sandy Springs. Roswell and Alpharetta are already involved every year.
- We should consider putting an article in the Georgia Council publication.

Update by Dara McMillan (Licensed Social Worker)

- She and her husband own and operate a company called My Accessable Home, which they started at the end of 2008.
- It came about as a result of her work in rehab medicine and geriatric care management. She saw a need after going into people's homes for more accessibility to rooms and areas in the home for seniors and young people with disabilities, as well as safety issues.
- They do home modifications and offer a unique perspective. Not only do they look at it from a modification issue, but also what other resources are needed.
- They provide free in-home assessments, which takes about an hour. They look at being as creative and cost effective as possible.
- After providing their service, they follow the client for life.
- She would like to offer her insight to MDAC from a psychosocial perspective.

Summary of Action Items

VAN

- Invite Principal Tesch at Milton High School to one of our meetings. Inquire with Jessie about a MDAC group on the high school level.

CYNDEE

- Let us know at what point the Committee should be involved with Parks & Recreation activities.

SUDIE

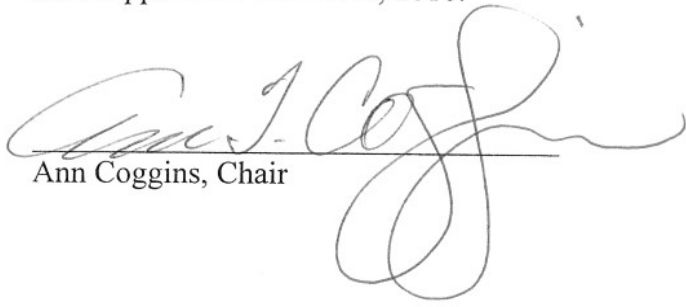
- Attend Round-Up Committee Meeting on 3/24/10 to represent MDAC.

MDAC BOARD MEMBERS

- Once MDAC, Jr. is formed and up and running, MDAC will network with NGCSU and other universities/colleges for potential mentorship to MDAC, Jr. HS Students.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Date Approved: March 31, 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Coggins", written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

Ann Coggins, Chair