

# MILTON DISABILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE (MDAC)

## Meeting Notes

3/22/07 6:30 p.m., Milton City Hall Conference Room

### Attendees:

Tina D'Aversa	Milton Councilwoman <a href="mailto:Tina.daversa@cityofmiltonga.us">Tina.daversa@cityofmiltonga.us</a> 678-457-0677
Ann Coggins	Parent Leadership Support Project, Partners in Policy Making, and parent <a href="mailto:arkcog@bellsouth.net">arkcog@bellsouth.net</a> 770-619-4008
Mark Johnson	Director of Advocacy, Shepherd Center <a href="mailto:Mark.jonson@shepherd.org">Mark.jonson@shepherd.org</a> 404-350-7490
Marcia O'Shaughnessy	Experience with adaptive recreation programs, advocacy, and parent <a href="mailto:oshaughnessys@bellsouth.net">oshaughnessys@bellsouth.net</a> 678-762-1538
Neal O'Brien	Milton Councilman <a href="mailto:Neal.obrien@cityofmiltonga.us">Neal.obrien@cityofmiltonga.us</a> 770-826-8899
Gary Arnold	CFO Canine Assistants, Inc. <a href="mailto:garyarnold@canineassistants.org">garyarnold@canineassistants.org</a> 770-664-7178 x 206
John McLaughlin	Executive Director North Metro Miracle League <a href="mailto:jettjock@mindspring.com">jettjock@mindspring.com</a> 770-777-7044
Laura Basham	Occupational Therapist <a href="mailto:lauranhope@hotmail.com">lauranhope@hotmail.com</a> 404-915-3255

### Purpose of 3/22/07 meeting:

An opportunity for experts involved with physical and mental disabilities populations to guide the Milton City Council as we embark on planning to serve and include people of all abilities. Attendees met to identify topics and prepare an agenda of speakers to present to the Milton City Council at workshop meeting April 26, 2007.

Key concepts:

- Opportunity to do the right thing from the ground up
- Proactive instead of responsive
- Inclusive
- Universal design
- Framework/foundation to build from the bottom up
- ID concept of no to low cost items that can be addressed immediately and present framework for future programs and projects

Key Points identified:

- Accessibility
  - Use “Tool Kit” at no cost,  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/toolbikmain.htm>
  - Website accessibility
  - Telephone accessibility
  - ADA requirements
    - Ramps to houses
    - Curb cutouts
    - Sidewalks
    - \*\* Crabapple area
    - \*\*Bike path project
  - Protection of accessible parking
    - Deputizing citizens to patrol parking
    - Fines for misuse
  - ADA requirements should be on checklist for business license application
- Awareness education and training
  - Police Department
  - City employees
  - Human resources
  - ID point person on disabilities education, inclusion policy, and programs (“who to call with concerns, etc.)
- Protection ordinance for service animals
  - Assistants Dogs
  - Police Dogs
  - Fine for interference or harm
- Recreation opportunities
  - NMML expansion
  - Bike path
  - Building of future parks

- Canine Assistants
  - 501-C3
  - Trains and provides service dogs nationally for children and adults with physical disabilities.
  - 700 Education and disabilities awareness programs provided around Atlanta area in 2006.
  - Reading program in local schools.
  - Animal assisted therapy through on and off site visits.
- Fulton County Schools
  - Resources and programs for children
- Assure opportunities for children, adults, and seniors
- Importance of a “welcoming community” that is caring and inclusive
- Encouragement for businesses and not-for-profits to provide recreational, therapy, and medical services/opportunities to persons with disabilities, in order for these persons to participate in recreation and receive rehabilitation and care within our city.
- Encouragement and support for Fundraisers, Walks, Runs, etc. held in Milton, demonstrating our city’s support for organizations and foundations supporting the disability community.

Outline for April 26<sup>th</sup> presentation to Council:

1. Introduction
  - a. Purpose and outline of topics
  - b. Goal: Identify a foundation to create a strong and inclusive framework for accessibility, opportunity, and participation for all citizens of the city of Milton.
  - c. Outline: Foundation, What Milton has to offer..., What Milton Wants..., and Necessary Policies/Laws
2. Foundation (Mark Johnson)
  - a. Introduce “Tool Kit” for cities.
  - b. ID accessibility needs.
  - c. ID education needs.
  - d. ID no to low cost action items for immediate attention.
3. What Milton already has...
  - a. Canine Assistants, Inc.

- b. Advocates, parents, professionals.
  - c. Fulton County Schools.
4. What Milton wants...
- a. Accessible parks and recreation centers.
  - b. Venues and buildings using universal design.
  - c. Businesses and organizations based in Milton that serve persons with disabilities.
  - d. City wide support for organizations and foundations raising money, awareness, and support for disability community.
5. Necessary Policies/Laws
- a. Protection of accessible parking and curb cutouts.
  - b. Service animal protection ordinance.
  - c. ADA guidelines, and rising above with use of universal design.
  - d. Including ADA guidelines as part of business license applications.
  - e. Human resources—assure city is reaching out to persons with disabilities for employment.
6. Closing
- a. Restate immediate action items.
  - b. Present Community Partnership Program.
  - c. Present Accessible America Award.
  - d. Identify support to come from our committee.
  - e. Challenge our city to “do it right”, going above and beyond to support citizens of all abilities.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Date Approved: 3-4-09

  
Ann Coggins, Chair