

Minutes - MDC Circle of Friends
Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 3pm
621 Park Avenue, Wilmette, IL
www.mattscircle.org www.yikesbev.com

2017 Saturday 3pm Meetings

Saturday, March 18, 2017
Saturday, April 29, 2017
Saturday, June 24, 2017
Saturday, September 9, 2017
Saturday, November 18, 2017

Present, via Google Hangout and @ Liz's home : Liz, John, Jean McClaren (John's wife), Lee, Courtney, Barb, Allister, Jan and Nicole (who helps with YIKES! , deliveries and tutors Matt)

Quality of Life! All Things Matt (Liz) and others

Colin wasn't at the meeting, so Liz gave an update. Colin and Matt are making YIKES! deliveries every Tuesday and all is going well. Colin has trained Nicole, one of Matt's tutors, to help with deliveries. Debra, Liz's sister, is helping with the ordering. Liz updates Matt's personal FB page and his YIKES! Beverage page. Liz clarified that his personal FB page be used for photos of Matt's life and that postings about disability issues, etc., be placed on Matt's YIKES! Beverages page.

Matt has a new full-time lead staff named Kingsley. Matt likes Kingsley and his behavior keeps getting better. According to John, Matt has had a long period of consistent, good behavior. Kingsley is getting Matt out of the apartment 3-4 times/week. Kingsley also sends Liz lots of photos.

The Christian Science Nurse/family friend, comes almost every week and is reading to Matt, which he enjoys.

Liz asked Lee to send another email. reminder to Matt's property manager about fixing/replacing the blinds. There was a suggestion that a photo be sent with the email.

Flip talked about 'many things Matt':

--**The Christmas visit:** It was fine. They had fun decorating the tree. The closet telephone was fixed. The apartment was cleaned, thanks to the microboard.

The issue of the exhaust fan in the kitchen...Flip did some research and there is no way to mount or currently fix it. Matt's DVDs were cleaned out and organized, and Liz said that the DVD situation is so much better. All in all, it was a calm weekend.

--**The bowling party:** It went well. Pictures were posted on Matt's FB page. Matt was thrilled that his cousins Andrew and Chase came. Matt was a little confused, as the bowling party in the past was closer to his birthday, so he was looking for some presents. There was a suggestion (maybe from Flip?) that there be another bowling party in spring, 2017.

--**YIKES! Clothing for Matt on Matt's Circle of Friends website:** Flip is having trouble with Amazon which he says is 'not friendly to sellers.' Flip will make this work, which includes Matt getting a commission on the sales of clothing, etc.

--**Reminder to Liz to pay tax returns:** Liz and John will take care of the payment ASAP

--**Matt's cell phone:** There was a discussion about Matt's cell phone and his cell service provider. Lee suggested cancelling his current carrier and paying the fee. Flip said that Matt could be on his carrier, reducing his monthly cell phone fee.

This was a preliminary discussion that should be continued between Flip, Matt and Lee, I suggest.

Courtney and Allister

Courtney was able to get a scholarship for Matt for the YMCA for \$33/month. Kingsley, Matt's new full-time lead staff, loves to work out and so he takes Matt often to work out with him. He also sends Liz photos of Matt working out, etc.

Courtney is also attending a TASH (The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps) conference in San Diego on March 3rd and 4th. Here is a link: www.tash.org

Courtney will report back at the March or April microboard meeting.

Courtney and Allister also talked about Matt living with them in the future, when the time is right.

Barb

Barb talked about a couple in Texas who have a FB about an autistic community they have established. Barb will look into it.

Nicole

Nicole said that Matt is a funny guy, is curious and is an 'explorer. She helps Matt with YIKES! Deliveries. Nicole requested a YIKES! Polo shirt and Flip will follow through with her.

Nicole mentioned that Matt's bed is broken and may need a screw to fix it. Liz suggested that Adam (a handyman?) might be able to come and fix it.

Not sure who is following through with this.

Nicole also mentioned that family is very important to Matt. It was suggested that family/friends email Matt. His email address is: matt116@me.com
Liz suggested that those who email Matt first send a picture of themselves so that Matt knows who is emailing him. Matt is very visual and loves pictures to be included with all emails sent to him.

Courtney said she would also Facetime with Matt.

Liz also suggested that other family members' phone numbers be placed on Matt's wall. Perhaps Nicole could do this?

Jan thanked Nicole for all her input and suggestions and recommended that Nicole be included on planning for Matt's future.

Update from John (Treasurer's Report)

John emailed the most current MDC Circle of Friends Revenue and Expense, YTD, Projected 2016 and 2017. Matt is projected to run out of cash by September 2017. There was lots of discussion around lowering some of Matt's current and future expenses, including his cell phone expenses. Those involved in the discussion included Flip, John, Lee, Liz and Allister.

The fundraising committee of the microboard will meet and come up with some fundraising options. Matt currently needs \$5,500 to meet his budget needs.

Jan

Jan reported that the Chase Bank small business grants were discontinued. She asked for suggestions from the microboard about other organizations, etc that might offer grants to individuals with disabilities who own small businesses.

Jan will not create another MailChimp campaign until Matt's fundraising committee meets.

New Business: Preliminary discussion regarding long-term planning for Matt

John asked that the microboard take a look at a [succession planning special needs attorney website](#) before the next meeting. Their website is www.rubinlaw.com

John urges all the microboard members go to the site before the March 11, 2017 meeting and to pay special attention to the articles in the Resources section.

Jan offered to help the microboard create an action plan (or series of action plans) around long-term planning for Matt.

John also sent an email to microboard members on Monday, Jan 23rd, with more details about this attorney website.