

1.20.2024 MINUTES  
MDC Circle of Friends

[mattscircle.org](http://mattscircle.org)

[yikesbev.com](http://yikesbev.com)

[YIKES! Instagram](#)

[Amazon Wish List](#)

Present: Liz, Jan, Courtney, Allister, Cami, Barb, Flip, and Alyssa

2024 Microboard Meeting Dates

Saturday, April 6, 2024 3pm CST

Quality of Life Updates from Liz

- Liz reported that everyone on Matt's staff received their Christmas gifts and James specifically shared his thanks to the microboard for the generous gift
- Matt has some gift cards for Whole Foods, so he has been going there for lunch with Paul as a replacement for their basketball meet-up while the weather is cold
- Swimming continues weekly and Matt enjoys that activity so much that he makes sure to ask Liz each Sunday if he will be swimming in the coming week! A holiday gift was sent to Liz's friend *from Matt* to thank her for the regular use of her pool
- Liz purchased several new necessary clothing items for Matt, including shirts and a winter coat. She expressed her gratitude for the microboard's budget that allows her to get Matt these necessities instead of adding more to the list of expenses she covers

Apartment Refresh Details from Liz

- One rug is still needed for the apartment- Flip suggested pulling a rug from his storage to fill the space in the apartment. Gabrielle later suggested that they will purchase a rug and have it delivered to the apartment to streamline the process. Liz shared the details for [Loloi](#), which will provide a rug that can withstand the wear and tear of the location with a reasonable price.
- Nataiya hung up Christmas lights throughout the apartment, which not only adds a nice ambience, they serve as general lighting since there are no overhead lights- it looks so nice that the product information of the lights were requested at the last pizza party!

**ACTION:**

-Flip, Gabrielle and Liz to move forward with purchasing a rug from Loloi

Apartment Needs + Repair Report from Liz

- Liz made note that the summer trip to Michigan is set to take place, so any necessary repairs/projects can be completed when Matt is out of the apartment then
- Additionally, the blinds will not be replaced because they keep breaking

### Treasurer's [Report](#) from John

- John shared the [summary of the financial report](#) that he prepared for the end of 2023
- A new topic was discussed regarding the importance of collecting amounts for any microboard expenses, even if reimbursements aren't needed. Examples are staff appreciation gifts and payments to Nataiya, just so that we can track what is spent from year to year.
- The grant through Wilmette has been filed and approved- the check is forthcoming

### ACTIONS:

-Jan will write a thank you note for the recent Wilmette grant approval and will include a brief update on Matt

-John will collect information from the board moving forward on any payments connected to the microboard- please share all of your expenses with him for longevity purposes!

Lee, please send copies to John N. of your 2024 paid invoices for Nataiya as Assistant to Liz

### YIKES! Update from Liz

- Liz discussed the current state of Yikes! and included that she connected with the owner of Matt's apartment building about providing a vending machine in the basement laundry room. She is waiting to hear back from him
- It was discussed that a new machine would be helpful if the apartment building opportunity moves ahead- Liz pointed out the importance of the machine being new instead of used so that repairs don't become a recurring issue
- We are coming up on Yikes! being in business for 10 years- what an awesome milestone!!
- After the meeting, Colin also sent an apology that his update didn't make it in-time for the meeting but he knows that Liz "has a pretty good handle on where everything is with Yikes."

### ACTION:

-Flip will look into a donation or wholesale cost of a new vending machine

### Staff Appreciation Discussion

- Barb completed the holiday gifts for all of the staff (gift cards)- thank you to Barb!
- Alyssa will work on the next staff appreciation gift for Valentine's Day- options for a food item, notepad, or other Valentine theme item were discussed

For reference, the contact information for Joshua at Active Visions is:

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### ACTIONS:

-We will schedule the timing and volunteer for the next staff appreciation gift at the next meeting

-Alyssa will drop off items at Active Visions before Valentine's Day

In closing of the meeting, Cami shared that the recent CBS Sunday morning special about the Broadway Musical "How to Dance in Ohio" was wonderful. The show is based off of a documentary that shares the journey of several autistic individuals getting ready to go to their first prom and also represents autistic individuals on-stage. If you haven't seen the segment, you can find the link to the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyR0Jk675xA>

#### ADDITIONAL ACTIONS:

-Liz will send out a survey for additional 2024 meeting dates