

COD 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2006 was a learning year for the Commission on Disability. We had various individuals as guests share their expertise so the Commission could have a better understanding of current situations.

Scott Doyle introduced us to the new touch screen voting machines and several of our members tried the machine out. The presentation and answers to questions and resulted in a story in the Coloradoan followed by positive responses from the public after the elections.

Mark Beck presented the video, "Practical Housing for All" (PHA), which had been put together by the city's Channel 14 crew. In July Mark turned all PHA materials over to the Commission because most members of his group moved away and he had other obligations. The Commission sees this as a very worthwhile project to pursue for ALL people and hopes someone carries it on.

Mary Warring from the North Front Range Planning Organization spoke about transportation services in rural areas. MPO is responsible for meeting a Federal mandate of bringing Health and Human Services and Rural Transit Services together to improve services and make transportation more efficient.

Marlys Sittner, General Manager of Transfort/DAR, gave an updated report on where DAR stood in the midst of the City budget overhaul.

Ingrid Decker, Assistant City Attorney, is the contact for the Commission on Legalities and introduced herself during a meeting and outlined her responsibilities to COD.

Wendy Williams, Assistant City Manager, visited us to share she is the City's ADA Coordinator and COD's.

Randy Hensley and Marshall Thornberry discussed snow removal policies in the city and answered questions.

Barb Schoenberger from the Senior Center discussed ideas for future art shows.

CERTIFICATES

The Commission started sending recognition certificates to businesses that go beyond ADA or meet an obscure ADA ruling. So far certificates have gone to: SUB-WAY on N. College; Lincoln Center; Library on Peterson Street; Housing Authority; DAR; Kim Guzman – adding instructions to mailed placards on how to use placards and how to use parking spots; PHA; Manager's office; Peggy Lyle, part of the DBA; and Scott Doyle.

MAYOR'S AWARD

Mayor Doug Hutchison presented the Mayor's Awards plaques to the winners of each category in a small gathering at a regular COD meeting. There was a well-written story in the Coloradoan that followed. The winners were:

Dorothy Lasley

Beverly Kyllingstad

Employer of the Year - Paul Michelsen of Taco DelMar

Spirit of Ft. Collins - Mark Beck

Volunteer of the Year - Kelly Walker-Haley

HEAVY DOORS

Terry Schlichting took this project over. A move by Terry created a temporary loss of maps needed to carry out this project in 2006. Our aim is to visit businesses in 2007 to test the weights of doors and also leave educational tools behind.

ART SHOW

A show of art done only by artists with disabilities took a hiatus this year to regroup. Our goal: we will have a show in 2007. We did send out a survey essentially asking, "What would you like?" This netted one response.

EMPLOYMENT

One of the Commission's reasons for existence is to see about employment in our city for people with disabilities. A meeting with Rick De La Costa, Director of Human Resources, satisfied us that there is a group in our city that sends out employment notices to several agencies. We see no need to reinvent the wheel.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/MEDIA RELATIONS

The Commission reaches out to the public through the COD Brochures displayed around the city and through letters to the Editor and wonderful articles done by the Coloradoan and The Forum.

2006 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Susan Williams, Chair; Steve Rierson, Vice Chair; Joan Cook, Secretary; and Terry Schlichting, Historian with City Liaisons Steve White and Anne Houston who do a remarkable job.

2006 MEMBERS

Susan Williams, Steve Rierson, Joan Cook, Terry Schlichting, Beverly Hageseth and Mayor Doug Hutchison as the City Council liaison.

Susan Williams is attending planning meetings with various county and city employees to put together a county wide evacuation plan for people with disabilities.

An Appreciation Ceremony was held by the Commission on Disability to honor previous members, Mark Beck, Jerry Patterson, Laura Burnett, and former City Liaison, Rachel Palmer. We had a nice lunch and each person received a plaque commemorating their service.

The Commission is alive, well, and better informed so it can better achieve future goals.
We turn into 2007 with a very fine, committed group of people.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Williams, COD Chairperson
January, 2007