

Commission On Disability

2009 Annual Report

This year we had no member turnover on the COD. Our 2009 board consisted of Terry Schlicting, Michael Devereaux, Mare Franklin-Gaumer, Beverly Hageseth, Michelle Miller, Sam Cavallaro, Kalin Logan, Karen Perry, and Carrie Rogers.

The COD spearheaded an effort to legalize the use of bike lanes by people in wheelchairs when sidewalks are unavailable for use. The COD working with City Traffic Engineer, Joe Olsen and Steve Roy, City Attorney developed a draft regarding bike lane usage that both met the needs of community members who use wheelchairs as well as addressed the safety concerns that were raised by council members. The ordinance was passed by the City Council unanimously. This was a process that took over a year to be recognized. Michael Devereaux attended many City Council meetings and spoke on behalf of this ordinance.

Jennifer Petrik, Project Manager of the North College renovation project, regularly consulted with the COD regarding the improvements that are to be made. She also provided a power point presentation of improvements of streets and appearance of the north college area. COD members preferred option two, which provides a bike lane on the street and an eight foot multi-use path.

Mary Warring from the Front Range Metropolitan Planning office shared a slide presentation on how her office is addressing the mobility needs of the Northern Front Range. She oversees a Mobility Commission that has subcommittees addressing the mobility needs of economically disadvantaged individuals, with those who have disabilities as their focal point. COD member Michelle Miller co-chairs this commission.

Ann Aspen and Paul Mills gave a presentation in order to get the COD's input on the Alley Master Plan Project. This is a project to renovate specific alleyways in the old town area to make these corridors pedestrian friendly. COD gave their approval but asked that cobblestone not be used as a surface.

The COD continues to work towards a compromise to the discontinuation of Transfort route 18 which provided service to EPIC. Currently patrons of EPIC must climb a steep hill in order to use the facility and this presents a problem for many members of the community. EPIC is a facility that was designed with the intention that programs for people with disabilities could be accessed.

This year's Mayor's awards were presented to:

Service provider of the year- Front Range Exceptional Equestrians

Spirit of Fort Collins- Rohan William Goel

Volunteer of the year- Linda Free

Dorothy Lasley Memorial Award- Carmella McDuff

Employer of the year- Petco Fort Collins Mary Preston-Smith, General Manager

Employee of the year- Ed Peterson ATG Rehab

The COD completed the 2010 work plan in November 2009.

Future projects for the upcoming year include, resolution to the Transfort route 18 accessibility to EPIC issue. The COD also wishes to restart the Practical Housing for All Program. This is a program originally started by Mark Beck former COD chair in which the COD worked with local builders to make more new homes accessible to buyers with disabilities.