

# City of Fort Collins Commission on Disability

## Annual Report

**2013**

The City of Fort Collins Commission on Disability consists of nine members and two city staff liaisons. For the calendar year 2013, the following individuals comprised the commission:

Jeffrey Coon – Chairperson

Michael Devereaux – Vice-Chairperson

Jennifer Arndt – Secretary

Hettie Hueber – Historian

Michelle Miller – Board Member

Thomas Klender – Board Member

Terry Schlicting – Board Member

Rose Luna – Board Member

Wendie Robinson – Board Member (Resigned September 2013)

Rosanne McDonnell – City Staff Liaison

Ethan Cozzens – City Staff Liaison

Bob Overbeck – City Council Liaison

### Summary

The following highlights the many issues addressed by the Commission on Disability during the calendar year 2013:

#### **Hearing Loops**

The City of Fort Collins continued its commitment to expanding hearing loop technology for the hearing impaired in our community. Over the course of 2013, the following city facilities had hearing loops installed:

Lincoln Center

Northside Aztlan Center

Police Services Building

Museum of Discovery

In addition, the Senior Center is undergoing renovations and will be fitted with a hearing loop system.

### **Transportation**

The commission provided input on the Front Range Transit Vision Project and formally recommended that the cities of Fort Collins and Loveland pursue integration of both fixed route and paratransit operations

The commission also was approached by a group of community members asking that we consider advocating for Dial a Ride services to be expanded to serve a larger geographic area. This issue will be further discussed as part of the 2014 work plan.

Board member Devereaux served on a panel discussion in conjunction with the Transportation Board regarding issues impacting people with disabilities in the Fort Collins community

### **Affordable/Accessible Housing**

The commission has deemed the issue of affordable/accessible housing to be a priority in making the city of Fort Collins a great place to live for people of all abilities. During the course of 2013, the commission began discussions with the Affordable Housing Board, the city Housing Commission, the city Affordable Housing Office, the MS Society and Accessible Spaces, Inc. on how to best address this issue. Further discussion is planned as the commission moves into 2014 with the ultimate goal of working with these and other agencies to increase the availability of affordable/accessible housing in our city.

In addition, current and former commission members were highlighted in the Fort Collins Coloradoan regarding the issue of Practical Housing for All (PHA). The commission will be considering whether to make recommendations to city council on updating building codes to include accessible features.

### **Boards and Commissions Collaboration**

A request was made by the Human Relations Commission to pursue combining the annual Mayor's Awards with the HRC and Women's Commission awards. After much deliberation, the COD voted unanimously against the HRC request.

### **Accessibility in Fort Collins**

Upon the recommendation of the commission, the Housing Authority made repairs to the Northern Hotel by extending the hand rail for the entire staircase in the main lobby.

### **Disability Pride Fest**

The Commission collaborated with and supported the Disability Pride Fest that was sponsored by Disabled Resource Services. This event included a parade and outdoor concert. Several Commission members participated in the parade, attended the Fest and provided information on the COD. In addition, the 2012 Mayor's Awards recipients were recognized at the event

### **Mayor's Awards 2013**

The annual Mayor's Awards ceremony took place in October in conjunction with National Disability Awareness Month. This year saw a record number of nominations, and Mayor Karen Weitkunat presided over the ceremony. The following groups and individuals were recognized:

Dorothy Lasley Memorial Award	Roy Mutart	Akton Club of Northern Colorado
Employee of the Year Award	John Schmidt	Hewlett Packard
Employer of the Year Award	King Soopers	North College Avenue Store
Service Provider of the Year	CM Cares	Colorado State University
Spirit of Fort Collins Award	Sarah Jane Kyle	Fort Collins Coloradoan
	Deborah Spotts	CSU Center for Community Partnerships
Volunteer of the Year Award	Donna McBroom	Fort Collins resident