

City of Fort Collins Commission on Disability

2014 Annual Report

The City of Fort Collins Commission on Disability consists of nine members and two City staff liaisons. For the calendar year 2014, the following individuals comprised the commission:

Michael Devereaux – Chairperson

Jeffery Coon – Vice-Chairperson

Jennifer Arndt – Secretary

Hettie Hueber – Historian

Michelle Miller – Secretary

Michael Marr – Board Member

Leslie Efrid – Board Member

Tommy Klender – Board Member (Resigned)

Ethan Cozzens – City Staff Liaison

Rosanne McDonnell – City Support Staff

Bob Overbeck – City Council Liaison

Summary

The following highlights the many issues addressed by the Commission on Disability during the calendar year 2014:

Hearing Loops

The City of Fort Collins continued its commitment to expanding hearing loop technology for the hearing-impaired in our community. The Senior Center has undergone renovations and fitted with a hearing loop system.

Transportation

The Commission on Disability worked closely with Transfort in 2014 helping with the milestone event of opening the MAX bus route. COD members and Chairperson Michael Devereaux were there for the Inaugural Run of Transfort's MAX bus route. Devereaux served as MAX Ambassador with the Transfort's introduction of the MAX and subsequent route changes with the addition of the MAX bus route.

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 2014,

the commission continued 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 with the ultimate goal of working with these and other agencies to increase the availability of affordable/accessible housing in our city. In addition, the commission will be considering whether to make recommendations to city council on updating building codes to include accessible features.

Person First Festival (formally the Disability Pride Fest)

The Commission collaborated with and supported the Person First Festival 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.

Mayor's Awards 2014

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	Julian Wang
Volunteer of the Year	Roxann McKenzie
Employer	Columbine Health Systems
Employee	Loretta Haskett
Service Provider	Foundation Music School
Spirit of Fort Collins	Poudre School District Unified Basketball Team
Partnership	Disabled Resource Services/Person First Festival

Submitted by: Michael Devereaux, 2014 Chairperson