

City of Fort Collins
Commission on Disability
2016 Annual Report

The City of Fort Collins Commission on Disability is charged with advising the City Council on issues relating to citizens with disabilities. Throughout the year, this 9-member commission hears and responds to citizen concerns, meets with housing, transportation, and other City departments to discuss issues relevant to citizens with disabilities, and partners with local agencies to address vital needs. During 2016, the Commission members were as follows:

Terry Schlichting - Chairperson

Marilee Boylan - Vice-Chairperson

Leslie Efrid - Secretary

John Morris - Historian

Michael Devereaux

Michelle Miller

Michael Marr

Hettie Hueber

Sherri Reichow

Activity Summary

Transportation

Transportation issues are always at the forefront, from the need for Sunday bus service to developing safe, efficient ways to remove snow at bus stops. Because transportation is so essential, the COD actively supported the Arc of Larimer County as it undertook the task of conducting a community transportation survey. COD members shared the survey with their contacts and colleagues to gain a better understanding of what changes or improvements will meet the needs of all Fort Collins citizens, especially those who depend on public transportation due to disability. Information gathered was shared with Transfort and City Council.

Snow removal - particularly at bus stops - is an ongoing problem that hinders use of public transportation and the safe passage of pedestrians. It is especially problematic for those using wheelchairs. With that in mind, the commission reached out to the Streets department to gain a better view of snow removal procedures. The Commission then shared their own experiences navigating snow covered

sidewalks/bus stops and listed specific areas in the city that need prioritization. This is an issue that the Commission will continue to be vocal since it impacts those with disabilities so directly.

Accessibility/ADA

Accessibility has many impediments, including construction zones and sidewalks and bus stops that are not ADA compliant. The COD continues to focus on these issues, meeting with various City departments to raise awareness. Specific areas:

- Festival access for wheelchair users
- Accessible parking in Old Town
- ADA compliance of bus stops
- Enhanced accessibility at city parks, including changing tables
- Building codes around accessible units in multi-family dwellings and roll-in showers.

Other News

After 7 years of awesome service, Ethan Cozzens finished his work with the COD. Maureen McCarthy -and then Christina Macrina - served in that position. Ray Martinez was our Council Liaison.

Mayor's Awards

The Commission hosted the 35th Annual Mayor's Awards with Mayor Wade Troxell on hand to congratulate our nominees and winners.

Employer of the Year - Fort Collins Brewery

Employee of the Year - Carissa Clinton

Service Provider of the Year - BASE Camp

Volunteer of the Year - Hettie Hueber

Spirit of Fort Collins - Matt Cloven

Dorothy Lasley Memorial Award - Chrissy Krumm

Respectfully submitted by Terry Schlichting, Chairperson