

# CITY OF FORT COLLINS

## COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

### MEMORANDUM

DT: January 11, 1988

TO: City Council Members

FM: Arne Andersen, Chairperson

RE: Commission on Disability 1987 Annual Report

Primary goals and objectives established by the Commission on Disability (COD) for 1987 included promoting public awareness of citizens with disabilities and enhancing sensitivity to their needs. For the past year, the Commission has focused on achieving these goals. When situations arose, and the rights or needs of these citizens were in question, the COD endeavored to act as advocates to ensure that citizens with disabilities were included in City policies and planning.

The COD reviewed the proposed Economic Development Strategy Plan for the City of Fort Collins, written by the Economic Development Division. Several suggestions for changes to the plan were made, generally to include people with disabilities as citizens or to edit biased wording. The COD also had input on the Handicapped Accessible Transportation Study, conducted by the City's Special Projects Coordinator, Anne Manvel. The study helped specify what transportation services currently exist, compared to future needs. The COD was also involved in the planning process of the Section 504 Handicapped Accessibility Plan, which was submitted to the Urban Mass Transportation Authority in June.

The COD continued in its role as an advisory board to the City Council and City Staff. It verified enforcement of universal accessibility to City buildings, reviewed proposed access ramp and curb cut locations, and recommended appropriate signage for City facilities. The COD ensured that the bathroom addition for the Pottery Studio is accessible, and changed the site of a much needed accessible parking space from north of City Drug on Mountain Avenue to 135 S. College Avenue. This was done to increase safety, provide access to a greater number of stores, and to decrease the cost of the project.



The COD continued to oversee the Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) Program; five ABR projects were approved and completed with a total expenditure of \$19,000. Nine Disabled Equipment Projects were completed with a total expenditure of \$10,000. This program, however, ceased to function in 1987 due to lack of funding. Instead, similar services will be provided by Disabled Resource Services via other funding channels.

The COD's most intensive public awareness effort was the Annual Mayor's Awards Breakfast. The breakfast was well attended and nineteen local businesses donated what was needed to stage the event. Target, the Fort Collins Club and the Hardee's Restaurant in the Lory Student Center at CSU received awards for employing people with disabilities. Marilyn Maxwell, commission member and author of Missing Pieces, a book about dealing with people who have head injuries, was honored for increasing public awareness, as was Lew Wymisner, Larimer County Employment Specialist. Recognition was given to the Poudre River Trust and the Audubon Society for developing the Gustav Swanson Nature Area, an accessible wildlife habitat, interpretive trail and fishing pier. Colorado State University was given a special award that included all three categories for its efforts to address the needs of students with disabilities.

Recipient of the Dorothy Lasley Memorial Award was Charlotte Kanode. She has been a long time member of the COD, volunteers countless hours and gives presentations on visual impairment at local schools. She volunteers two days a week at the Lincoln Center and has won several swimming medals at the Senior Olympics. Charlotte is a driving force in the Fort Collins Community, a steadfast advocate for the rights of disabled persons, and a woman who meets and overcomes challenges with faith, good humor and moxie. The COD will continue to be successful in its efforts as long as members like Charlotte Kanode are among its ranks.

*Ane Andersen*