

Women's Commission 2006 WORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

For the year 2006, the Women's Commission will continue to lead the effort on the Women's History Month Essay Contest and the Marcile N. Wood Award.

In addition to these two annual activities, the Commission will continue to develop a resource list in the nine areas of concern:

- 1) Housing
- 2) Child Care
- 3) Safety
- 4) Health
- 5) Identify
- 6) Welfare
- 7) Economics Well-Being
- 8) Education
- 9) Transportation

The resource list will include statistical data relevant to our community. The gathered information will be presented in a series of fact sheets that will be shared with Council and the community. We will also review the previous two publications from the Commission on the Economic Realities of Women in Fort Collins to provide a background of where women were in the community and where they are now. These nine areas will be linked to the city's Budgeting for Outcomes.

Other activities to be completed by the Commission include:

- Networking within the city to publicize the name change for the commission.
- Actively explore ways to increase the visibility of the Commission.
- Explore interactions with other Boards, Commissions, and city entities to improve information dissemination and provide a framework for the information gathering activities of the Commission.
- Consider information linked to the commission to see if changes need to be made, such as the By-laws, Boards and Commission's Manual, and Division 10 of Ordinance.
- Continue exploring the feasibility of a website for the Commission.
- Continue collaboration with our CSU liaison to the Commission to improve networking.
- Gather statistical information and prepare fact sheets on areas of concerns. Provide this information to Council and disseminate through the CSU List Serve. Housing will be the first area addressed.

ANNUAL COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Women's History Month Essay Contest – The Commission will continue to sponsor the annual essay contest for Poudre School District junior high students and expand this contest to include home-schooled junior high students. A committee will work with Cindy Ronan (PSD) with the coordination of the contest packets and picking up the completed essays. Student entries will be reviewed in February and winners will be selected. The winners will be honored at a special event, with a presentation of trophies and prize packet by the Mayor. The Fort Collins *Coloradoan* will be notified of the winning essays and encouraged to publish the students' names in recognition and support of Women's History Month. Winners will receive a certificate at their respective schools during their year-end awards ceremonies. We will explore more direct communication with English teachers in the schools to increase participation in the event.

Marcile N. Wood – The Commission will sponsor the 2005 Marcile N. Wood Award recognizing an outstanding citizen in the Fort Collins community who has made a significant contribution to the wellbeing of women. In January, the Commission will send out applications for this award. The winner will be chosen in February and will be publicly announced and celebrated in March. Members of the Commission will volunteer to serve on the Women's Awards Night committee as a possible celebration venue.

COMMISSION LIAISONS

Relationship with City Council – The Commission will continue to report to our City Council liaison, Karen Weitkumat, to track the Council's policy agenda and, in the Commission's advisory role, provide information and appropriate comments to the City Council on issues of concern to women in Fort Collins. We will send e mails to Council sharing information gathered by the commission.

Relationship with the Human Rights Resources and Education Office – The Commission will work with Karen Weitkumat to transition to a new city department and establish a new liason with the closure of the Human Rights Resources and Education Office.

Relationship with Colorado State University – The Commission will continue to work with our CSU liason to improve networking by helping them establish a List Serve to improve dissemination of information gathered by the Commission.

GENERAL TIME-LINE

January:

- Welcome new members and elect new officers.
- Complete the Annual Report to be presented to the City Council by the end of the month.
- Discuss the Women's History Month Essay Contest.

- Confirm contest prize gift certificates with the Downtown Business Association and the Foothills Fashion Mall.
- Assign tasks to Commission members for the location of the event, scheduling the Mayor, and organizing the food.
- Determine schedule for reading essays.
- Contact the Coloradoan to put information about the contest in the *Coloradoan*.
- Discuss Marcile N. Wood Award Contest
 - Complete mailing list.
 - Determine schedule for printing and mailing applications.
 - Work with city to have information posted on fcgov.com.
- Explore the feasibility of website and if it is appropriate at this time, submit content for approval.
- Assign projects and gather information for the fact sheets. Develop the fact sheets throughout the year.

February:

- Schedule Karen to speak at the April meeting to present City Council 101.
- Prepare proclamation for Women's History month for review by Mayor.
- Review applications for Marcile N. Wood Award and choose a winner.
 - Plan the award presentation.
- Collect essays from Cindy Ronan at Poudre School District.
 - Finish planning Women's History Month event.
 - Pick up awards.
 - Create an outline for the evening.

March:

- Present Marcile N. Wood Award.
- Present Women's History Month Essay Contest Awards.
- Mayor to present proclamation during Council meeting for Women's History Month.

April:

- Karen will present how to work with the City Council at this meeting.
- Post mortem on both contests.

April – December:

- Discuss the City Council Policy Agenda and link our Areas of Concern to the new Budgeting for Outcomes. Complete report to give to Karen.
- Interview local groups working on women's issues to gain a greater understanding of most pressing issues as they relate to the City Policy Agenda.
- Finish organizing website and have a working site.

August:

- Present Women's Equality Day Proclamation at the City Council meeting.
- Discuss new member application process.

October:

- Begin planning for Marcile N. Wood Award and Essay Contest for 2007.
- Begin working on 2007 Work Plan.

November:

- Complete 2007 Work Plan to be presented to the City Council.

December:

- Begin working on 2007 Annual Report.
- Announce essay contests to PSD.