



Dennis Celorie

Photo by Peter Grant

Limited mobility doesn't hinder advisory committee's discussions

Seated around the long conference table in the McNutt room last Wednesday at City Hall were the usual assortment of people who serve on advisory committees; a local attorney, an instructor from Lane Community College (LCC) a few retired citizens, a businessman, and two students.

However, this advisory committee is a unique one — they know more about their subject than any other committee because they live with it. Every member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Persons with Limited Mobility is either confined to a wheelchair or has some other type of mobility problem.

Chairman Dennis Celorie, LCC instructor, speaks with a gentle voice, calmly reasoning, suggesting, and mediating. He is confined to a wheelchair and well knows the frustrations facing the handicapped.

These frustrations are a hundred little things that never occur to the general public. A person in a wheel chair faces an insurmountable obstacle in a flight of stairs. He cannot quench his thirst in a drinking fountain placed just out of reach. The width of his wheelchair denies him the use of a standard restroom.

"The most important thing is to make people aware of the problems," said Celorie. "The fact that the council has enough concern to form a committee is a big start."

The committee was formed two months ago when Jim Martin, now a member, approached the city council with the idea. They authorized the mayor to appoint a committee on the needs of the handicapped, with a concentration on mobility as the dividing factor between the handicapped and the rest of the public.

The committee is now drawing up proposals so that the handicapped can be insured easy access into publicly used buildings such as restaurants, stores and offices. Member Merle Johnson has already traveled to every major supermarket in the area to survey their accessibility.

"All we can do is to get people to think," said Celorie. "Our concern is at the building and planning level — at that level it doesn't cost more to make the few alterations the handicapped need. Often it's merely a case of making doorways wider, providing ramps, and lowering drinking fountains and pay phones."

The committee does not want special privileges accorded the handicapped. Martin, a vigorous man with broad shoulders and muscular arms, asserted if that were the goal of the committee, he would want no part of it.

"We're all mature adults. We know we cannot rebuild the streets of Eugene," said Celorie smiling, "but there are some people who won't even leave their own homes. We want to make it so those who want to get out into the community can."

"You find yourself not doing certain things," explained Celorie, "The architectural barriers become too much, at times it's just not worth the struggle."

"I'm impressed with the Mayor and his attitude," said Celorie, "He said, 'We're here to help — but don't just present problems, present solutions too'."

The committee is working on practical solutions. They are currently attempting to amend the city building code so that all public buildings will be accessible to the handicapped. Presently only government-funded buildings fall under the State Fire Marshall's code which does cover accessibility.

Senate committee removes amendments

SALEM (Special) — Members of the Senate Education Committee voted Friday to "bring back" the bill which would place students on the State Board of Higher Education and then removed the weakening amendments to the measure they had approved during a Monday meeting.

The bill (HB 2147), which the committee sent to the Senate floor with a "do pass" recommendation Friday, is almost the exact HB 2147 which passed the House several weeks ago.

It requires the governor to appoint two Board members "who shall be students at different four-year public state institutions (of higher education) in Oregon at the time of their appointment."

The bill also provides that student governments at each of the seven institutions in the Oregon State System of Higher Education shall submit a list of three potential appointees which the governor must consider in making the student appointments.

The bill states that the two student members shall serve two-year terms—half the term of other Board members.

The measure, if passed by the Senate and signed by Gov. Tom McCall, will go into effect July 1.

The Senate committee had amended the bill last Monday so that the governor could appoint two students to the Board, but would not be required to do so. University lobbyist Jeff Johnson indicated Friday that he had persuaded committee members to "bring the bill back" to "put the teeth back in the measure."

School's priority reorganization recommended during workshop

At a recent School of Community Service and Public Affairs (CSPA) workshop, almost 100 students worked on three specific areas for re-organization of priorities within the school. These topic areas included: Curriculum, involving 'core' learning formats and student outcomes; Decision making, with funding priorities, feedback; in addition to organizational structures and the Mission of the school, sharing information in small groups.

"We began the workshop," said Christine Axelrod, a senior in CSPA, "because people couldn't talk to each other and there was almost no communication within the school. Students wanted a common event where they could talk, put things into perspective and make important decisions."

Among some of the many innovative proposals, and directives, which were developed at the event, included: Implementation of Field Instruction, Governance Structures, the Student's Role in the CSPA, the Common Core of the CSPA, Allocated Resources, Available Funds, Adjusted Curriculum, a Money Priority System and Integrated Field Learning.

Through this event, Axelrod pointed out, the students now are much more aware of the constraints and helps which are available

towards achieving the proposals they want, getting targets accomplished.

"A lot of bright ideas came out of this workshop," says Axelrod, "it helped us to decide not only who does the work, but how it will be implemented and through what. Nothing, before, ever seemed to change and allocation of time was constantly a problem."

Through this workshop, Axelrod points out, the CSPA has and will achieve a reorganization and revitalization of its department.

A second CSPA reorganizational, priorial workshop is set to be held during the fourth week of September, next fall.

Those interested in helping or wishing to learn more about the program should contact Dick Fehnel, of the CSPA faculty, or Steve Bucknam, a CSPA student. They can be reached at the CSPA office.

"People were very pleased with the results of our first workshop. Clear mandates emerged and definite priorities have developed," said Axelrod. "It was a success, but next time it could be even more of a success."

"It was good," she says, "a damn fine job for a first try. To say the least it was highly beneficial for both the students, faculty and the CSPA."

