



City of
Golden

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Council Memorandum

To: Board and Commission Chairs
From: Jacob Smith, Mayor
Date: February 10, 2009
Re: Liaison Program

As you know, for some time now City Council has assigned individual Councilors to serve as liaisons to the various boards and commissions. The intent was to foster two-way communication between City Council and each of the boards and commissions. City Council last week discussed the liaison program and its effectiveness. We concluded that liaison program hasn't really served this purpose, and has had some unintended consequences as well, namely that City Councilors generally only attend meetings of the board for which they are the liaison and not any others.

We decided to eliminate the formal City Council liaisons to each board and commission and instead establish an expectation that every member of City Council attend at least one meeting of each board and commission every year (obviously taking care that members of Council are not present at Planning Commission meetings during quasi-judicial discussions). This will help ensure that everyone on the Council understands the role and needs of all the boards and commissions.

We'll still need to pay attention to the two-way communication between Council and the boards and commissions. We'll expect staff to keep all the boards and commissions apprised of upcoming Council issues and to keep Council up to date on the issues each board and commission is tackling. I will continue meeting periodically with all the chairs, and the Council will continue inviting all the boards to periodically visit with us to check in generally or to discuss specific, important issues. Finally, City Council will begin following up on each of those visits with a formal letter articulating in writing any direction to the board or commission about priorities, specific issues, or whatever else we discussed. In this way, hopefully, we can all do a better job of keeping track of what each board is working on and the decisions we all reach at our joint meetings.