

**Results from the Community Input Form
Downtown Golden Character Plan Open House**

	Yes	No
Overall, the Open House provided valuable information that I found helpful in understanding the Downtown Character Plan Process	38	1
I was able to speak directly with the Committee and felt its representatives adequately addressed my questions.	38	0
The structure of the Open House was effective.	33	2

Suggestions about ways to improve future public meetings and Open Houses:

1. If you get a lot of public participation, then give us some idea of how to help out. Contact people, etc.
2. For the first effort this was well done. Perhaps more inclusion for the “Mines” community. Put the survey online.
3. Broader scope of meetings to include all of Golden, not just the downtown area. Need more emphasis on housing. Some homes and lots clean up their spaces. Some people may need help or direction in doing this.
4. This was good today.
5. More ideas for seeing ideas successfully implemented -- how does my attendance/input translate into results.
6. Mini-surveys, such as the awning survey, online.
7. This was comfortable. Available, approachable folks.
8. Some exhibits aren’t sufficiently explained. I, and others, skipped the text-heavy display near the cookies. It was intimidating.
9. There should be someone explaining the overall plan upon entering. I am still uncertain of what the plan and proposals are.
10. Loved this format!
11. If you are assertive, it seems OK. I was expecting to listen to a presentation given to a big group – with comment time, etc. But this was good time-wise.

12. A unifying way to identify committee members. For example, one shirt or special name badges that help them to stand out.
13. More then and now to show improvements. Positive reinforcement.
14. Post virtual version on the web.
15. Very good – same as yesterday. (From a Monday night attendant)
16. Just keep working at bringing people in to give input.

Comments, questions, concerns:

1. I would love to see feedback regarding all the suggestions.
2. It would be nice to have a dirt trail or even a dirt trail lane along concrete. Access could be improved to the mesas.
3. Thanks for the efforts to maintain small town flavor and especially recreation. Affordable housing is a must to include all generations.
4. Please ensure that we keep things properly balanced. Not 100% “no growth” and 100 percent “preservation.” Keep the character but do not make it so difficult that only government (with out money) can afford to build. We need more effort to keep our streets and sidewalks clean. A walk along any street reveals enormous amounts of trash. More and better sidewalks, especially north of 58. Please define “affordable housing.” All the housing in Golden is affordable. Are we struggling for a politically correct term for subsidized housing?
5. My main concerns are that the economy is too focused on bikes, beer, and baubles. I’d like to see a broader variety of businesses and restaurants. I love the video showing a Washington [Ave] with cleaned up awnings. Finally, we have such great bike and pedestrian paths, but they won’t always connect or link-up appropriately. Such as no sidewalks on 8th Street, so after you cross the bridge over Hwy 58, you can’t walk on a sidewalk to the Rec Center.
6. It’s difficult for me to comprehend how the Committee will address the need for downtown affordable housing when currently the most expensive housing in Golden is being built downtown -- and it has been somewhat subsidized by public funding.
7. Where is the plan to retain businesses and attract businesses? We have loads of vacant retail/office space, yet we are building more.
8. I especially like resurrecting the older goals and issues (GURA '89 Plan – awnings, etc.). They need to be solved and worked on.
9. I feel that low income housing can’t support the retail businesses with the high rents in Downtown Golden. Low income housing need to be more in the surrounding areas, not Downtown or along the creek.
10. Downtown should not be a museum, but should be a vibrant community. Need to balance the ability of areas to provide business opportunities to make money with the needs for character, or be willing to provide incentives to balance it.

11. Goose Town offers the opportunity for affordable housing.
12. Consider making parts of Washington and/or Jackson pedestrian only for Saturday, and/or Farmer's Market days.
13. Consider back-in angle parking in Downtown Golden, which would add about 1/3 more spaces, be safe, and slow traffic (calm it) to 25 mph.
14. Complete the plan for Jackson to slow traffic and make it truly walkable, bikeable, and safe.
15. Consider urban renewal in the Bowling Alley area / blocks (old gas station, etc.).
16. Walkways all along Jackson should be wide – especially near the high school. Also sidewalks on Washington & Ford should be widened.
17. To preserve Downtown Golden requires change. Proponents of “keeping Golden golden” through no change are condemning Golden to failure. Change will preserve Golden through finding ways in today's world to attract people and \$\$/sales revenue to Golden. We should think about Larimer Street in LoDo and Pearl Street in Boulder. By all means, preserve the history – it is what makes it unique. But, bring in specialty shops and tasteful/attractive small chains that can succeed. More Bent Gates and shops that play off Golden's outdoor lifestyle. More fine dining that is worth the trip. Chains (Noodles / Starbucks) are worth having as long as they comply with zoning/GURA type guidelines. Golden is expensive – we can't change or help that. If people with money are here, then let's provide shops & services they need. We can't compete with malls. We have to provide a unique experience like Larimer Street or Pearl Street and use the money to preserve our history and character.
18. Make downtown a destination. More stuff to do, more restaurants (open late), change with the times, but retain our unique character.
19. It is great that the City of Golden is so open to citizen input and is actively planning development. Seems many people are pushing moving City Hall and Library. I like that Downtown Golden is “real.” All parks and shops seem artificial and a bit sterile. With City Hall, Library, museums it seems more grounded to me.
20. Parks are nice, but all parks along Clear Creek is a bit dull.
21. We would love the following:
 - a. A club like D-Note in Arvada with jazz, folk, blues, etc. An ambience that attracts adults over 30 who are not bikers (i.e. the Buffalo Rose is not the place for us)
 - b. A much better restaurant selection including Asian and vegetarian options.
 - c. A serious consideration of the changing demographics of this community with the addition of all the upscale condos. This demographic wants a very different type of business than the ones we have now, which cater to tourists and bikers.
22. With the American Mountaineering Center (the hub of the American Climbing Community), shops like Bent Gate, Golden River Sports, Big

Ring, Golden Bike Shop, manufacturers like Mountainsmith and Yeti, we need to promote the outdoors aspect of Golden. The bike trails, hiking trails, whitewater park, and North Table Mountain, climbing manufacturers should want to be headquartered in Golden. Aside from Coors, Pentax, and a few others, there is no industry but retail. I personally commute out of Golden because there are so few jobs in Golden. Along with the outdoors, I feel it is our responsibility to be a leader in environmental initiatives, which can also be a source of non-retail industry.

23. Downtown Golden has so much potential to be a successful Pearl Street or Cherry Creek, but still maintain its character as a small, almost-mountain town. We need more businesses that Denver Metro locals want to shop at and not just out-of-towners visiting Coors.
24. Balance anchor stores with independent businesses. If possible, favor the independent businesses. Balance expensive boutique with cheap shops. Variety is best. Golden should shape construction to attract families interested in being in a community.
25. Downtown Golden is too expensive. It needs to offer a range of stores with a range of prices. If “mom & pop” stores cannot afford to open up businesses in Downtown, then Downtown needs to take a look at methods to make it more affordable. Also, is there any way to address the smell of Coors in the air?
26. As a new business owner in Golden, I want to be directly involved/informed of what is happening in the community. What is the best way to get this information?
27. Green belt needs the bike museum to add to Golden’s allure as the Trans U.S./Trans Colorado path develops.
28. Creating a vibrant downtown is a super idea in creation of a great overall community. Priorities: world class – best of the best – riverfront area with parks, trails (ped & bike) and other recreation areas. Increasing density downtown will help ensure vibrancy of businesses and more residential is critical. Pick retail specific core area that is very dense and walkable.
29. I am primarily concerned with how the City of Golden is addressing sustainability issues. I would like to see the City develop a Greenprint Golden, similar to Denver’s city-wide plan.
30. I liked the post-it note board.
31. Golden is quickly becoming little Boulder. We provide a historical charm unique to ourselves. It is important to preserve a community with the true pioneers of Golden. Also, keep in mind that Golden has had many generations that have grown up here. It is important to keep their interests in town to be able to work, live, and be comfortable raising a family here.
32. Washington Ave. pedestrian shopping mall.
33. The character of Golden should be maintained or people will go to other places, i.e. Morrison, etc. Housing is an issue for us that made

us move out of town to 93 and 58th Ave. We miss walking to downtown Golden and activities in Golden. Density must be increasing to allow people to live in a more central location in Golden. Money is a problem, but many people will vote with money to stay downtown if adequate housing is provided.

- 34. I'm concerned about the affordability to live in Golden. I know that Boulder has an affordable housing program where 3% of new residential built needs to be "affordable." Golden is quickly becoming very expensive and should consider something like this.
- 35. Clear Creek: please do something along Clear Creek, north side, between Washington and Ford, east of Parfet Park. (drawing included in comment). Do something here: sculpted rocks, cover the leaning concrete wall, path extended from Parfet Park to Ford.
- 36. I would like to see water outlets (spigots) every so often on the buildings so a hose could be connected and used to hose down the sidewalks occasionally. With all of the outdoor dining areas there is a need. It s a great thing when GURA has the power washing done, but there's a need to have windows washed regularly. Huge sums of money can be spent to spiff up shipping, but if it isn't clean – spiffy and sparkly – it isn't going to be appealing.
- 37. I like the City offices where they are – near downtown. Tying together the History Park and museums, and including a multi-purpose structure, restrooms, etc. for classes, lectures, and maybe rental times for private functions (to help w/ overhead) may draw more attention to each place. I like all the improvements to date.
- 38. Especially liked the opportunity to draw on the overlay of the city map and put in suggestions for development along Clear Creek.

How did you hear about the meeting? (asked on Monday night only)

Method	Responses
Postcard	3
Informer	5
Transcript	2
Email	4 (GURA – 2)
Other	friend, friend, GURA,