



Memorandum

To: City Council
From: Jacob Smith
Date: July 16, 2008
Re: Golden Vision 2030/Comp Plan Update and Looking Forward

In advance of our Golden Vision 2030 and Comprehensive Plan update process (queued up to begin in earnest late this year or early next year), I want to start thinking about some of the key issues we'll want to consider during that planning process. Some of those issues are very local in nature: changes in our downtown in recent years, what we want our limited growth to look like and where we want it to go, how to ensure that we protect our small-town and historic character in the face of our limited growth, sustaining Golden's economic health in the face of what might be an extended recession, etc. Other issues are regional or even larger-scale in nature but will have significant effects on Golden and Golden's future.

I've got three specific ideas in mind.

1) Planning Commission/City Council Dinner (scheduled for July 17, 5:30 p.m.) perhaps with a followup meeting later in the year

This will be an opportunity for Planning Commission and City Council to begin discussing our current Comprehensive Plan as well as the Golden Vision 2030 process, how we want to approach it, and what we hope to get out of it. The Orton Family Foundation folks will participate as well and will share with us some of their ideas about approaches and tools.

2) Looking Forward Presentation Series (August - November)

I am planning to bring in a series of folks to make presentations to City Council and the community on some of the major regional issues that will affect Golden over the next twenty years. I'm planning to invite folks to make short (approximately 20 minute) presentations during City Council meetings over the next four or five months. I have four in mind:

- Major Regional Transit and Transportation Issues (FasTracks, I-70 Corridor, Rocky Mountain Rail, transportation funding)
- Regional Demographic Changes (primarily focused on the aging of the Denver Metro population)
- Escalating Fuel Prices, Peak Oil, and Climate Change
- Sustaining Golden's Healthy Economy

In addition, I think we'll want to invite the Orton Family Foundation folks to make a similar presentation introducing their organization, discussing their ideas about how best to guide us through our Golden Vision 2030 process, and beginning a conversation with City Council about moving forward.

Of course we'll advertise all of these in the community, but I am also planning to create videos of each presentation and post them on the city's web site (probably through You Tube) to make it as easy as possible for everyone to watch whatever presentations they are interested in.

3) Survey and Tour of Land Use/Development Options (probably October)

The Denver region is home to a wide variety of innovative land use approaches that emphasize neighborhood character, walkability and bikeability, and fostering a sense of community. They vary widely in the scale and their approach, and we may not want to emulate any particular approach, but I think it would be very worthwhile to explore some of the interesting approaches other communities are taking, learn what we can about how well they work, and evaluate what ideas we think might have some value in Golden. I'm planning to organize a tour of a number of diverse sites with City Council and Planning Commission and utilize some other tools - perhaps a web-based tour - to give members of other boards and the community an opportunity to get a sense of the ideas and options that are out there.