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So many ways to affect change.

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Dear Neighbors,

City Council uses its January retreat to discuss our plans for the year. This year, our third into the [Strategic Action Plan](#) had us narrowing the number of key items to address, while also tracking internally a Key Projects process. If you go the [strategic action page](#) please consider subscribing to that page, so that as updates take place you'll be informed.

I have received some emails asking why people are just learning about things, or seem to have a short timeline to make a comment about critical issues. My thought is that a week [can](#) be about right. If we get input too early, then something else comes in late and draws our attention. [See this blog on how](#) to get information in a timely fashion. Granted, the recent proposal to change events did not give organizers enough time to adjust, had they needed to do so, but we did not change the events (see more below).

Help Guide Golden's [Howdy Downtown Program](#) - Let's talk about how the City of Golden can enhance your historic downtown experience! Join the City of Golden Planning Department at an **open house on Tues, Jan 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** at the Golden Community Center. This open house aims to discuss the topics of the Downtown Parking Survey, The Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan, the Outdoor Business Program and Miners Alley/Pop Up Plaza.



Creek Management - On Tuesday January 24th, City Council discussed [creek management](#). We received some input on this, mostly related to how it interacts with tubers and events. Staff was directed to further investigate closing the creek for safety due to numbers of people, wrist bands, hours for rentals, parking (more/less, free/paid). There are no easy solutions for this state controlled waterway over which we have limited control. And we need to be cognizant of how charging people may affect equitable access. Finally, as a state waterway, we have very limited circumstances under which we can close access to the creek.

Event Planning - On that same date we discussed how to balance visitors and events, particularly in July and August. Many emails were sent to council suggesting that historically successful events (Buffalo Bill days, arts festivals, and the farmers market) should continue uninterrupted and excessive creek visitors should be managed instead. We had 90 minutes or more of public comment made at the start of the meeting but much of the feedback came later. The ultimate take away was that we will not be changing events in 2023, but as we look at pressures on the creek corridor both short and long term, we will have a more robust conversation about 2024, with more stakeholders, to see what is best for all. [You can watch the meeting here](#). If you're unfamiliar with how this works, click on the right side (agenda) to move to the relevant portion of the video.

[Boards and Commissions Applications](#) - Golden and your neighbors need you to participate in our government to make it the best it can be. On February 1st the city will open this link for applying to a board or commission, usually for a four year term. The linked heading will take you to the application. Read and share [the flyer](#) here if you want to invite others. Leer la noticia [aquí](#) tambien.

Homophily - What is it? Do you like being with others like you? Do you find yourself with "birds-of-a-feather", flocking together? Then you may already know about homophily. [Read more here](#). Have you considered how this may have affected how Golden has developed over time?

[Bike Walk Golden](#) - A group which advocates for better (continuous) sidewalks, multi-use trails and bike lanes, to reduce congestion and access to and in Golden.

[Beautiful Neighbors](#) - [A new show at the Golden History Museum by my friend and neighbor Povy Atchison](#) contains pictures of Golden residents and workers. Consider going to the opening night celebration on Thursday February 9th starting at 5:00 PM..

If you have input for city council, please use councilcomments@cityofgolden.net.

Always feel free to reach me at my website, [set up a meeting](#). Or, let's run, walk or bike together if you'd like!

Peace,

Don

Feel free to forward this to friends or neighbors who may like to get more information. To join the list fill out the contact form at cameronforgolden.org

Want to know even more? Two other councilors have websites too, [JJTrout](#) and [Bill Fisher](#)

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