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## We have a new City Manager (soon), Weed, Fire Mitigation

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Tue, Jun 28, 2022 at 3:23 PM

Dear Neighbors,

6/29 Wednesday at 6:00, there is a meeting at city council chambers on Fire Mitigation. See that topic below for details!

I am starting on pulling this email together the day after returning, to Golden, from Ride the Rockies. I rode my bicycle about 450 miles and climbed 26K feet of mountains traveling from Copper Mountain to Aspen, Salida, and Breckenridge. It was a fun challenge with camping and views and way, way too much junk food. The best day was the last one, and rolling home. Golden is a special place.

**1. City Manager Hiring** - After reviewing applications, interviews, tours, more interviews, meeting with citizens (watch a recording of the event) and their input (you can complete a survey until 6/29 in the early afternoon), and an executive session covering all that information on Thursday 6/30, city council will now move to a final decision and negotiations on hiring the new city manager. An announcement will be made shortly in early July. Hopefully you got to see the candidates at the community center, if not, here is a link to the video.

**2. Weed** - On June 14 the City Council held a second reading on the retail marijuana ordinance. I was remote as I was on Ride the Rockies. Before the meeting people expressed frustration that the city council was not listening to them because the ordinance had not changed from first reading. I admit I am confused by this process too. *Here is my interpretation of the process of an ordinance.*

- First, council provides direction, perhaps during a study session.
- Second, staff prepares an ordinance for first reading.
- Third, the public provides tons of input on the first reading packet.
- Fourth, behind the scenes mostly, staff prepares changes based on discussion and public input, but does nothing else to the packet except clean up legal language.
- Finally, at second reading, councilors provide their feedback and comments and the staff incorporates changes that are voted on, "as amended" into the final document and council votes on the final package.

So the appearance of ignoring public comment comes from a delay in when it is incorporated and voted upon, IMHO.

As to what suggestions were incorporated on MJ Retail? These come to mind, but are not exhaustive. We removed South Golden Road from the map as a possible location. A vote was taken but tied, so Canyon Point stayed on the map as possible, though some see it as an unlikely location. We removed drive-up/walk-up options anywhere. We removed a requirement for a marketing plan to apply for a license, and decided on what I thought were pretty significant application, licensing, and renewal fees to cover staff time. So...we did our best and we'll see how it goes. I will say that strong public opposition to a location on South Golden Road is why we removed it, and at least a vote was taken on Canyon Point. So the public process matters and can affect change.



3. **A Decent Home** - A movie about the importance of, and protection of mobile home parks for affordable housing is being shown in limited locations around the state. This documentary will be screened in Golden on July 19th at the Unitarian Church on 32nd Avenue at 5:30 PM. See my [blog post](#) for more details, or [click on this link to sign up FOR FREE](#) to see this powerful film.



Note: Click on the picture above to see a short video I made in 2021 about preserving Golden Terrace.

4. **Fire Mitigation** - The Golden Fire Department (GFD) is doing a series of meetings around town this summer to educate people about fire mitigation. Wednesday, June 29th, the City of Golden will host a community-wide meeting in City Council chambers from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, the first in a series of at least five

more meetings that will happen throughout the City of Golden in the summer and fall of 2022. Representatives from the Golden Fire Department and the City's Community Engagement office will coordinate with neighborhood groups and HOAs to establish meetings within the wildfire risk zones in Golden. You can [view the meeting remotely if you like here](#).

Personally I have made some changes to my home that you could consider too. I removed two flammable lattices on the side of my house that were attached to the soffit, and therefore acted as a ground-to-roof wick to move a fire around. The remaining lattice, seen in this photo, "hides" my heat pump, but has a low fire load and is not in line with the roof. I also removed vertical boards (and cut wood) from my fence, trading off privacy for fire mitigation. With a steel roof and cement (Hardy board) siding, hopefully my house can stand up to some nearby fire. The tree in the front is actually about 5 feet from the house. The main risk is grape vines adjacent to the house which we have not removed. The main thing I did was remove flammable materials that could act as a wick from ground to roof/siding since Golden has a similar environment to the infamous Marshal Fire. This is not legal advice and I am not trained in this area, I'm just using common sense and trading off fire mitigation with aesthetics as best I can.



If you have input for city council, please use [councilcomments@cityofgolden.net](mailto: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](http://cameronforgolden.org)

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

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