City of Golden
Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force (A64 Task Force)
Public Input Listening Session - Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2014 6:30pm
Meeting Location: Golden City Council Chambers, 911 10th Street, Golden, CO

Task Force Members: Bill Fisher (Chair), Gretchen Carter, Josephine Colacci, Christopher Gallup, Judith Goeke, David Jones, Stephen Katz, Dawn Smith, Shawn Steigner

Task Force City Staff: City Clerk Susan Brooks, Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick, Planning Director Steve Glueck

Golden City Council: Mayor Sloan, Councilor Charis-Graves, Councilor Weinberg, Councilor Claxton, Councilor Miller

6:30pm - Opening remarks (Bill Fisher, Chair)
(Remarks as prepared) Thanks to each of you for coming together tonight. There has been a lot of interest here in Golden, with more than 50 comments already submitted via email.

First I want to quote the guiding legislation that formed the Task Force to help better explain our mission: “The Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force is charged with the identification and evaluation of all reasonably available options for the City to efficiently and effectively fulfill its obligations under the Colorado Constitution, laws and rules and regulations related to retail marijuana cultivating, testing and product manufacturing facilities, and retail marijuana stores, which options shall include the outright prohibition of any or all such uses.”

I want to have each member of the task force now introduce themselves. As you can see, we are 9 members who have been selected by the Golden City Council, and each of us lives here or has business within Golden. I want to thank each of them for the time and effort they have committed to this process.

I also want to thank City Council for thoughtfully choosing to research and use the best information available as well as reach out to the public in guiding city policy on this complex issue.

Now, the purpose of tonight’s meeting is to provide an opportunity for the Amendment 64 Task Force to listen to your thoughts and comments.

Implementing marijuana rules and regulations is a complex situation in a fast-changing environment. In looking for answers, I wish to recommend the public report the Task Force will produce and provide to City Council on April 24th and which will be publicly available for each of you to review.

Amendment 64 is a constitutional change that does two fundamental things. On one hand it decriminalizes use of marijuana, and it legalizes the commercial development of retail recreational marijuana and its use in many forms.

Tonight’s meeting will be recorded for audio and broadcast on the City’s website and available for City Council and all others to listen to.

I want to offer a few thoughts specific to tonight’s session. This is about Golden. This isn’t about a national debate on drugs, and it is not about other cities in Colorado. Many have already
weighed in and in fact about 90 localities have excluded retail marijuana and about 25 have allowed it.

There are no right or wrong answers or viewpoints here. We all come this issue with existing notions based on what we’ve heard and read. The reality is very complex, and we hope to understand the thoughts and questions that you have so we may provide a well-rounded and well-considered report for City Council.

Because so many people have joined us, we will be considerate of time and fair in offering time for each person who wishes to provide public comment. To ensure everyone has a chance to speak, we will ask that anyone that goes beyond 3 minutes will be offered to have their additional comments written or emailed to the Task Force.

I want to remind everyone of the many options to be engaged in this process. You may email A64@cityofgolden.net. You can email City Council or talk with your city councilors. You can provide input tonight, and there will be additional opportunities including a public hearing before Council June 5th.

I spent 6 years on City Council. And one of the great things about living in Golden is the respectful debate and discussions we have. Tonight is no different and I know that we will all be respectful of each other’s questions and opinions as we explore this complex and emerging reality for Golden.

Over on the side there you will find sheets with the questions the Task Force put together to stimulate discussion and thought. You are welcome to use the sheets or simply speak about whatever is on your mind.

Thank you for being here, and with that, all of us are here to listen to your thoughts!

6:45pm - Public Input Listening Session
The public is invited to provide thoughts regarding implementation of Amendment 64 in the City of Golden. Comments will be reviewed by the Task Force and provided to City Council.

The full video of the Public Input Listening Session is available from: http://www.cityofgolden.net/government/city-council/agenda-minutes-web-casts-meeting-schedule/

Many people were in the audience. However, only 16 people chose to speak publicly.

Abbreviated Public Input notes:
• David, business owner – states higher than expected revenues, safer than alcohol
• Mark Pederson cannabis patient network – we will all need cannabis at some point or another in our lives
• John McDonough – RMOM, owner of Golden’s medical marijuana dispensary – states has paid $130,000 in 4.5 years state and local taxes. Wants Task Force to make a recreational co-location recommendation for council
• Friar John – opposed to proliferation of industry. States not a fiscal issue, not an availability issue, is about character of Golden and core values, the other mmj shop (when open) near the church had people sharing in the car
• Tim Silverman – draw parallels and requested regulation and education similar to alcohol
• Calen Harmon – economic and humanitarian benefits – involved with children with seizures somehow – his job was to extract the CBD cannabinoid and place into an edible format
• Barbara Harvey – worked on amendment 64. Friends say it is pulling in money and tourists. Likes governor plan to put profits in mental health. May need 6-guns for all the cash, and it’s a gold rush, there are problems and it’s a rollercoaster
• Steve Harvey – Agrees with mother, safer alternative, just governance, benefit before harm, wants marijuana stores with attached grows. Sees increased revenues.
• Lawless Barrientos – worked to pass Amendment 64 as a lobbyist, supportive of tax dollars for education, it will be abused, everything can be abused, lots of applicable uses, as Coloradoans it was approved
• Su Niedringhaus – concern for youth access – easy biking kid access, doesn’t want that. Concern for brain development up to 25.
• David Little (??), Golden Hills subdivision, upset that we may prohibit it, wants to know if our tax dollars are at work, wants to know who on the task force uses it, states used for thousands of years, way back to the ’50s, states we don’t want him to speak because he is speaking the truth
• Meredith Dilger – South Ridge – Should be able to buy Golden recreationally
• Randy Duckett – “allowed but discouraged,” legal, but in, say, pharmacies, tightly restrict especially signage and advertising, states increasing danger from organized crime – possibly have owner live in Golden, if we approve will soon have entrenched businesses with lots of influence so all important restrictions should be considered now, should have insurance requirements, no farmer’s market, (time ran out, asked to provide further comments via email).
• Susie Rau – golden resident, family hurt by marijuana, history of low achievement, what people do in their own home fine, but, opposed and it would be a mistake
• Ms. Larry Rupp – Mines student, smoked in high school and liked it, made it into CSM, must be doing well, “still smoking like a train” – never had a felony conviction but friends did, you should smoke with your family, it’ll fix things
• Chris Kilbain – Golden resident – recreational user and caregiver for terminally ill patient/girlfriend. States he is 30 and is still carded for alcohol implying marijuana makes him look younger. Regulate, control it, dispense it. Take advantage of it. Better regulated than illegal.

8:00pm - Task Force member finishing questions / statements
Adjournment