



City of
Golden

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Council Memorandum

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Rick Muriby, Planning Manager

Through: Steve Glueck, Director of Community and Economic Development
and Jason Slowinski, City Manager

Date: February 3, 2016

Re: Planning Commission 2016 Goals

On December 16, 2015, Planning Commission reviewed their accomplishments for 2015 and then discussed their annual goals for 2016, prioritizing them into the list below. Many of these initiatives will result in a recommendation to Council for consideration and action.

2015 Accomplishments:

- Housing Affordability: Commission spent a considerable amount of time on this subject, discussing the problem in the community as well as a range of policy and regulatory ideas to improve the situation. Commission asked for a new FTE to focus on Housing Affordability, and Council approved this item in the 2016 budget.
- Recommended several code updates that Council adopted that address: new criteria for r-o-w vacations; more flexible definition of mixed use; streamlining small animal permits to an OTC process.
- Commissioned a Bike Share/Library study, along with CSAB, which was then the basis for achieving a federal grant for implementation of a Bike Library in 2016.
- Produced draft S. Golden Road Neighborhoods Plan following extensive public outreach and discussion. Final draft being prepared for adoption in the first quarter of 2016.
- Influenced the CIP process for the first time. A thorough review netted a list of prioritized bike and pedestrian connections and improvements that were sent to Council for consideration and inclusion in the CIP.

2016 Goals:

- Work with new full time Housing Affordability specialist to research housing needs in the community, make policy and code recommendations, and advance the goal of providing and maintaining more affordable housing in the community.
- Overhaul sign code: Commission will work with staff to revise Chapter 18.32 of the code to make it more user friendly for applicants, as well as simpler to administer.
- Create a new neighborhood plan to replace the current 8th and 9th Street Neighborhood Plan. The North Clear Creek Neighborhoods Plan will cover the existing plan area, as well as add areas to the east including the Goosetown and CoorsTek areas that lie between the creek and Hwy 58.
- Adopt the final draft of the South Golden Road Neighborhoods Plan and send to Council for approval
- Advise staff on implementation of bike library system. Includes finding location, hiring operations team, purchasing bikes and equipment, marketing the new system and overseeing the program.
- Advance the Healthy Cities Initiative: Review land use policies and regulations to ensure alignment with the adopted HEAL policy and JeffCo Health Network.
- Engage nearby residents and businesses regarding CMU Zoning for Colfax and South Golden Road: discuss the appropriateness of rezoning these commercial corridors to create a more pedestrian and bike friendly environment. Meet with GURA to discuss West Colfax Avenue design and regulations and develop a common understanding and approach to future development.
- Recommend CIP Budget Items: Commission would like to continue to perform an annual review in late summer in order to make recommendations in time for Council's budget discussions.
- Review Noise Ordinance: Commission will review the current noise ordinance in Title 5 of the code and decide whether or not to recommend updates.
- Remain involved in CSM campus planning and parking issues.
- Discuss parking demand and management issues in the community and contribute ideas and recommendations to Council.
- Create Planning related news items in the Informer to make citizens aware of important land use issues.
- Appoint Commission liaisons to other boards to better integrate efforts, with particular focus on CIP recommendations to Council.
- Invite a guest speaker to study session with visionary perspectives in order to inspire new perspectives and ideas for the community.

Recommendations for 2016 Appointments:

For 2016, the Planning Commission has a total of four scheduled openings. In evaluating applicants, it is recommended that Council consider the benefits of appointing one or more members with skills or experience related to architecture and landscape architecture.