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park plaza AKA pipe dream.

1 message

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To: City of Stevenson <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, planningcommissioners <planningcommissioners@co.skamania.wa.us>

Cc: Commissioners <commiss@co.skamania.wa.us>, David Waymire <davidw@co.skamania.wa.us>, Mandy Hertel <hertel@co.skamania.wa.us>, "Waters, Rep. Kevin" <kevin.waters@leg.wa.gov>, "Harris, Rep. Paul" <paul.harris@leg.wa.gov>, repar@saw.net, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Good afternoon, everyone.

I'm writing again regarding the Park Plaza agenda, which seems to be an ongoing pipe dream for a few city staff members and Mayor Scott Anderson. As far as I can remember, this discussion has dragged on for over 14 years. In one of the recent city council meetings, it was clear that the council decided not to approve something with so many loose ends and unforeseen costs. That was a great decision. Thank you city council members for doing your jobs and keeping the city staff in check.

With that being said, let's take a step back and think this through. First and foremost, we are being warned by the federal government about the serious issues related to global warming and climate change. Many states, counties, and cities are facing a state of emergency every summer, if not all year round, due to a lack of rainfall associated with climate change and global warming. Adding a water feature to downtown seems completely off track given these circumstances. As city managers and planners, these are critical issues that should be on your radar. Planning for a water feature in a downtown area where water might be scarce in a few years is highly irresponsible and a misappropriation of tax dollars and grant money.

Let's also consider the water usage itself. How many gallons per day will this feature require? And where will that water go? If it drains into the storm system, will it end up in the new sewage treatment plant, costing taxpayers even more money now to treat the water they just paid for to be treated as drinking water? or will it flow untreated into the Columbia River? Either option seems equally problematic. As city planners, you should be considering that the water in these splash ponds will likely contain human urine and feces from children playing in it, adding another layer of concern that doesn't seem to be fully addressed.

I've also heard there are two ideas for water supply—either using city water or drilling a well. Using city water means it will already be treated, at the taxpayers' expense in the Stevenson Water District. Drilling a well, on the other hand, is costly and reflects further poor planning.

If you go with a filtering water system, how much will it cost per day to run the filter system, and what will the ongoing maintenance expenses be per year and when will

it need to be replaced? I know for a fact that just filtering and maintaining water in a swimming pool has become quite costly every year.

Finally, consider the location: children and senior citizens crossing a busy stretch of Highway 14 to reach the park is a terrible idea. I can't understand why, after the city council voted no on the grant funding and the Park Plaza project, the city manager , planner and mayor are still pursuing this pipe dream. Let's focus on maintaining what we have for the next few years then think about possible new things the city of Stevenson NEEDS not want. Let's face it the city has failed to maintain the parks and streets and sidewalks, sewer and water infrastructures for years now so put a stop to this pipe dream of a park plaza to attract more people into downtown stevenson and focus on what you can't seem to maintain already.

Please add this to public comment at
your next city council meeting as well as the BOCC meeting

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"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will
turn."

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, from "Oldtown Folks"