



**SKAMANIA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**

Skamania County Courthouse
240 NW Vancouver Ave | PO Box 790
Stevenson, WA 98648

(509)427-3700

Richard Mahar
District 1

Tom Lannen
District 2

Asa Leckie
District 3

July 9th, 2024

To: The City of Stevenson

Re: Park Plaza Project

Skamania County recently received communication from the City of Stevenson regarding the Park Plaza project suggesting that the project was no longer moving forward. Members of the Skamania County Board of Commissioners who watched the previous City Council meeting are concerned that representations of certain City Council members regarding a supposed County plan to hold an advisory referendum on the Park Plaza project were misleading. These representations appear to be based on misunderstandings of individual, unofficial conversations between City Council and County Commissioner members. The County is concerned that the City relied on these unofficial, individual discussions in making decisions regarding the Plaza. This letter is intended to make clear Skamania County's intentions regarding the Plaza project so that the City Council can make future decisions without concerns regarding the County's commitment to the project.

First, and most generally, Skamania County understands that the County has made certain promises and commitments regarding the Plaza project (the MOU), and the County's role in moving that project forward. Furthermore, Skamania County understands that the City has made certain decisions and plans that relied on those promises and commitments. Skamania County intends to honor those agreements and commitments.

Skamania County has not made any decision, nor taken any steps toward including an advisory referendum on the Plaza project on a future Skamania County election ballot. To the extent that some of the current County Commission members believe that additional input from the public would help them make certain decisions, they may continue to discuss different ways of getting such input. However, Skamania County does not intend to withdraw any support it promised in the MOU with the City based on the results of such input. County support, to the extent agreed in the MOU, is not contingent on any future referendum or poll.

To the extent that the City and the County need to collaborate on decision making, the County commits to negotiating in good faith with the City and giving approval where such collaboration regarding plan, marketing, etc. are required by the MOU. The County appreciates





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the previous cooperative decision making with the City and the City's decision to scale back the project, at least partly due to concerns from the County. The County will not use the ultimate approval process of the Plaza design in order to hinder or delay the project. We recognize that as part of the original MOU, the County approved a much more extensive footprint and design for the Plaza. The County will not disapprove any new City proposed Plaza design without specific feedback regarding aspects of the design which the County in good faith believes will hinder County operations and that cannot be mitigated by the City.

We want to emphasize that we value communication between the City and the County, and informal conversations can sometimes facilitate understanding. However, no single County Commissioner can speak for or take action on behalf of the County, unless the commission delegates that authority. We discourage individual City Council members from relying on any informal discussions with individual commissioners rather than official statements from the County (such as the MOU).

The County would also ask that the City communicate any important deadlines related to the Plaza project to the County so that we can ensure that we are acting in good faith and considering any issues that require County input in a timely matter.

Sincerely, the Skamania County Board of Commissioners,

Asa Leckie
Chair

Richard Mahar
Commissioner

T.W. Lannen
Commissioner

