
Planning Commission Item 6A

From Paul Fritz [REDACTED]
Date Sun 10/11/2026 6:11 PM
To Victoria Henkel <vhenkel@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Cc Eli Arreola <earreola@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Hi Tori,

As you know I am not able to attend this weeks' meeting. Can you please forward my public comments to the commissioners?

Planning Commissioners,

I am sorry that I cannot attend the Oct. 13th meeting, but I do have some strong opinions regarding the Rotary Centennial Plaza project I want to share in my absence.

In short, I do not believe we should allow the already approved Calder Creek Restoration Plan to be impacted by the proposed Rotary project. I completely support the rebuilding of the concession stand with new bathrooms as well as the new accessible entry from Jewel. But the impact the proposed Centennial Plaza would have on the creek restoration is simply unacceptable. To replace what will be a beautifully naturalized creek with a semi-hard surface with 4 trees and a 6 picnic tables does not seem like a good trade-off. We don't need more hardscape in the park.

And if the creek cannot meander in the way it was designed, it will have adverse impacts on the functioning of the creek as I'm sure Ann Riley will discuss at the meeting. Plus if the creek must be shifted, it will need to be shifted to the south with more potential impacts to the existing redwood trees, and bisecting the area around the stage again. One of the positive aspects of the proposed creek alignment is that the audience area around the stage will no longer be divided by the creek. The Rotary project simply does not fit with the vision that we adopted when we adopted the Calder Creek Restoration Plan several years ago and it should not be allowed to go forward.

While I appreciate all that Rotary has done for the park, I see no reason why a memorial to their 100th year must go in this location. I'd support a new entry plaza at High Street. This entry to the park is extremely underwhelming and would be a great opportunity for Rotary to memorialize themselves while also creating a new inviting park entry. Or there are probably a number of other locations that could also be acceptable. But they should consider the projects we have already approved for the park before moving forward with any new design.

I strongly encourage the Planning Commission to deny the plaza aspect of Rotary's application. I think the creek restoration will be transformational for the park and I can't wait to see it start. Please do not short circuit the creek restoration by allowing this plaza.

Regards,
Paul Fritz

Note: I will be out of the office October 6-13.