

I was at the planning open house this month and am sending this along. I also wish to be on the alert list for any upcoming information/meetings on this issue.

1. **ASSETS** The river is our biggest asset. We need to do much more to not only protect it, but to honor it for what it is. We are a nationally known fishing destination and we should build on that reputation. The river is beautiful and having access to it is healthy for all of us. Nature experiences are necessary for mental health as studies have shown year after year. Our trails that provide river access are so wonderful. As a citizen and a dog owner I so appreciate both trails at NorPon and the Bechelli park that allow us to experience nature with our best friends. What a terrific idea it was to open Nor Pon as a park. Whatever the future holds for our riverfront, the number one priority is to protect the river...its ecosystem, its health, its beauty, its access for our citizens its draw for tourism.

2. **CHALLENGES** Because so much of the land along Parkview Drive is privately owned I don't know how the city plans to deal with that for making changes. That property could be designed to be so much more. Except for the access of the boat ramp and the golf driving range it is wasted space and unattractive at that. I would like to see that whole area developed into a walking path along restaurants with outside patios and just places/benches for people to sit and enjoy an evening out along the river. The River Inn should be redone and become part of the whole strip. I can't believe that the city has just let that sit vacant for so many years. How awful to see boarded up windows. That is so close to Turtle Bay and could be another place for tourists to stay. All those empty buildings are so unattractive! I don't think any more of the riverfront should be given over the business complexes and private companies. Why should they have their parts of the river to themselves? There are other places to put business parks. We should put a moratorium on that.

3. **FUTURE VISIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES.** I already covered some of this in my previous paragraph. I want to see all the wild areas of Turtle Bay protected and the ecosystems honored. That is number one for me. Next, I want to see the Rodeo grounds left and perhaps improved. That is a big draw for many and the volunteers have done a great job of keeping that going. Many parts of the grounds around the Civic are unsightly and need manicuring. Some of the areas along the river that you used to be able to drive along and stop at picnic tables have been shut off and I miss that. All the grounds from Turtle Bay down need to look much better.

Build in more standing history exhibits on logging, mining, the building of the dam etc. Redding hasn't done much planning ahead to do that. It has left many historical buildings go to private owners. Think how special some of our historic buildings are and except for the one home on West street that was turned into a museum by the historical society the other historical areas of old Redding aren't featured.

4. **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR ME.....** Whatever decisions are made MUST include a way/budget for maintenance. It is super upsetting to go to the Sundial Bridge and see it not taken care of. Lights are often out and it ruins the night walks. Areas below the bridge are not clean and cared for. This is a special draw for all and it is discouraging to see this. Planning for development is fine, but looking ahead to how it is to be maintained is important. Build in a budget for that.

Frankly, right now as someone who drives down Park Marina every day, the homeless have more access to the river than I do. Having a plan to manage the homeless is probably one of the most important things we can do to improve the riverfront. One day I hope the city of Redding will realize this and get busy and look to the future on how this can be handled.

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT.