


Agenda Report Reviewed by:
 City Manager: 

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
 CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting Date: February 7, 2023
To: Honorable Mayor and Honorable City Councilmembers
From: Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
 City Administration
Subject: Interview for Openings on the Climate Action Committee
Recommendation : That the Mayor and City Council Interview Applicants (Appointment to be made later in the agenda)
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No N/A
 Net General Fund Cost: N/A
 Amount: \$0

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION:

This item is to request that the City Council Interview Applicants for openings on the Climate Action Committee.

BACKGROUND:

At its January 7, 2020 meeting, the Council authorized the formation and composition of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) to address climate change policy and issues. At its October 20, 2020 meeting the Council appointed the initial members to the CAC, and later approved committee member terms at 2 years, with the first set of inaugural members having either 2 or 3 year terms to provide for future staggered appointment to the committee. December 2023 was the term ending date for those with 2 year appointments.

The CAC composition is flexible, up to 13 members appointed by Council, with 2 year terms. Members must reside in 95472 zip code area. Climate Action Committee (also known as the CAC) meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The member terms which ended on December 31, 2022 include:

- Josho Somine (Ecological background)
- Woody Hastings (Climate Action or other climate group)
- Alex Goodman (Climate Action or other climate group)
- Gerry Glaser (Climate/sustainability background)
- Vacant Youth Position (1 of 2 youth positions)

Current Committee composition (with open positions highlighted)

Committee Members	Role	Term End
Gerald Glaser	Climate/Sustainability Background	12/31/2022
Alex Goodman	Climate Action group	12/31/2022
Dena Allen	Climate Action group	12/31/2023
Josho Somine	Ecological Background	12/31/2022
Kenna Lee	Climate Background	12/31/2023
Liselotte (Lisa) Pierce	Climate Action group	12/31/2023
Sunali Shanti Sikand	Rights of Nature	12/31/2023
Woody Hastings	Climate Action and expertise	12/31/2022
VACANT	Env Justice Representative	12/31/2024
VACANT	Youth Representative	12/31/2023
Argus Brent	Youth Representative	12/31/2023
Ambrosia Thomson	Zero Waste/Recology expert	12/31/2023
Deborah Burnes / RECRUITING **see notes	Business Owner Representative	12/31/2023
Evert Fernandez / Deborah Burnes** see notes	Planning Commission liaison	as assigned
Diana Rich, Councilmember	Council Zero Waste liaison	as assigned
	Council SCTA/RCPA liaison	*Being modified

*As assigned - terms coincide with assignment from Council/Commission

** The City is recruiting for a business owner representative, as Planning Commission would like to designate Deborah Burnes as it’s representative.

DISCUSSION:

City Staff initiated the public application process for the upcoming vacancies. Openings were noticed in the Press Democrat; City web site; Facebook, City newsletter and City email distribution list. As of the extended deadline the City received four applications for consideration. Interviews have been scheduled as follows:

<u>Time of Interview</u>	<u>Name of Applicant</u>	
5:00 pm	Emmett Hopkins	Climate background
5:20 pm	Zeno Swijtink	Climate Action or other climate group
5:40 pm	Josho Sominee	Climate Action or other climate group
6:00 pm	Alex Goodman	Ecological background

GOALS:

This item relates to City Council Goal 5:
Provide open and responsive Municipal Government Leadership

It also relates to General Plan Goal CSF 6, policy SCF 6-1, Continue to maximize public participation in local government actions and maintain excellent levels of City government services.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report. Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council conduct the interview(s) and consider appointment later in the agenda.

Attachments:

Applications (redacted)

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT
TO CITY BOARDS/COMMITTEES/AND COMMISSIONS**

Agenda Item 2

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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- Planning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Public Arts Committee
- Other Miscellaneous Boards/Committees/Commission as Approved by the City Council

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Application Process

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Members are expected to serve their full terms of office; however, when a member must resign, due to personal or professional circumstances, he/she should send a letter to the City Council stating the effective date of the resignation. A member shall be removed from office upon three affirmative votes of the City Council, based on one of the following grounds:

- At the pleasure of the City Council, without cause:
- If he/she is absent from three consecutive meetings, unless permission by a majority vote of the board, committee or commission had been granted as reflected in the official minutes of the body.
- Or by operation of the City Code if:
- If he/she is convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.
- If he/she ceases to be a qualified board, commission or committee member per the City of Sebastopol Municipal Code.

General Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

City boards, commissions, and committees shall have the following general powers, duties and responsibilities in addition to those set forth in the Sebastopol Municipal Code and various Resolutions:

- To establish rules and regulations governing the election of their officers, the holding of meetings and the conduct of business for these meetings.
- To use all appropriate techniques in crystallizing and testing public sentiment on major public issues in their respective fields.
- To hold official hearings as required by law or requested by the City Council.

- To advise and recommend on City policies and procedures pertinent to their respective activities and functions.
- To support and adhere to all City policies promulgated by the City Council and to establish needed interim policies in the absence of the same.
- To provide information and promote good public relations between the City and the general public.
- To perform such other related functions as may be assigned to them by the City Council.

Desirable Characteristics in Applicants for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

While membership on City boards, committees and commissions requires no specific qualifications, with the exception of some seats on the Design Review Board and the Public Arts Committee, there are desirable characteristics for which the Council will be looking as they review applications:

- Familiarity with Community

The Council would require appointees to be familiar with the physical, social, and economic make-up of the City. Applicants should have demonstrated an active interest and involvement in the community.

Familiarity with Major Issues

While it will be assumed that applicants are familiar with the specific issues that are being addressed by the board, committee or commission for which they are applying, it is also expected that applicants be aware of issues which will impact all sectors of City programs and services.

Knowledge of the Board, Commission or Committee

During the application process, applicants should become familiar with the responsibilities and role in the City's policy-making structure of the board, committee or commission for which they are applying.

Commitment to Serve

When appointed, members are expected to serve their term of office. While personal or professional circumstances might prompt an unexpected resignation, applicants who are aware of any reasons why they may not be able to complete a full term or attend regularly scheduled meetings, should indicate this on the application. While time commitments will vary depending upon schedules and workload, members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. In addition to attending scheduled meetings, members may be expected to participate in study sessions or serve on subcommittees.

Relationship with the Community

As a member of a City board, committee or commission, your actions will reflect on the City of Sebastopol and you are required to relate to the community with impartiality and courtesy.

Commitment to City Policy:

The City Council has adopted ordinances and policies following an appropriate public process. As an appointed board, committee or commission member, your duty is to abide by such policies rather than implement personal preferences.

Tips for Applying for a City Board, Commission, or Committee

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Answer all questions on the application. Council reviews your application to gain an understanding of your background and experience, and what skills and talents you believe you could bring to a particular board, committee or commission. Don't forget to sign and date your application.

Attend one or two meetings of the board, committee or commission for which you are applying. Find out what the current issues are, and what issues may be coming in the future. Review the minutes of past meetings, available on the City web site or at City Hall depending on the appointment being applied for.

Talk to a current member. Current members can share with you their experience, they can give you an estimate of the time commitment involved, and they can discuss with you what they see as current and future issues for the City.

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council’s priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City’s website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk’s Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
 Mary Gourley
 7120 Bodega Avenue
 P.O. Box 1776
 Sebastopol, CA 95473
 Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153
 fax: 707-823-1135


Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)
 Closed every Friday

Instructions:

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol’s Boards, Committees or Commissions. Please complete the entire form and either print and mail it to the address above, or email your completed application to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org. If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due, to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? Climate Action Committee

Name: Emmett Hopkins

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:


Sebastopol. CA 95472

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Work Phone Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Yes, during Spring of 2022

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: **Climate Mobilization Project**

Job Title: **National organizer**

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

No.

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I am passionate about implementing climate solutions within the communities that I am a part of. I try to use my bike and public transit to get around as much as possible, so will bring that perspective.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Stanford University, BS Earth Systems, MS Earth Systems / Urban Planning & Design

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I am passionate about implementing climate solutions within the communities that I am a part of.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

Woody Hastings to me about the opening and suggested that I consider applying.

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I have a background in climate science and policy, hands on experience working to enact local climate policy, and bring connections from across the county and outside of the county.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Transportation accounts for 60% of Sonoma County activity based carbon emissions. A majority of travel trips are under 2 miles, perfect for a bicycle for those who are physically able to ride. What can we do to make bicycling easy and safe for all types of people within our community so that we can shrink those transportation emissions and increase health and quality of life while doing it?

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Let's make it as easy as possible for community members to participate. I think the committee should take into account community input, while also trying to invite input from community members who don't typically show up and make their voices heard (i.e. let's not let the loudest voices dominate the conversation.)

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

I think we can handle disagreements respectfully and on substance, not making things personal. If I thought a one-on-one meeting outside of the committee meetings could help, I would invite the member to do this.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would respectfully voice my disagreement during the appropriate time in the course of normal committee business, and if a vote was being taken I would vote according to my beliefs and conscience, and then I would consent to whatever the majority vote of the committee is. I would also strive to understand the staff position to find common ground.

What is your involvement with the climate crisis, including ways you have educated yourself and worked to model and promote climate action?

In recent years, I have been involved both through my work and also volunteer activities in efforts to strengthen the County's climate policy and increase public participation. I personally seek ways to lower my family's carbon footprint through our transportation practices, electricity usage and sources, and consumption habits.

What is your understanding about the urgency of the climate crisis?

As of now, there is already a high level of climate impact baked into the climate models based on current CO2 emission levels. What we are up against now is how much we can limit the catastrophic impacts by quickly reducing emissions with speed and scale. In other words, it couldn't be more urgent.

What is your experience in working on policy issues – mobilizing public support, changing public consensus, or influencing fellow commissioners, for example?

I have worked on organizing support for various climate policy and funding proposals at the County level, including increasing the percentage of Measure M transportation sales tax dollars going to active transportation and transit, as well as shifting the County's Climate Resilience Fund towards areas with greater equity impact such as public transit. In both of these areas, I have experience building diverse, intersectional coalitions to support climate policies.

What is your understanding of the current obstacles to implementing action on Climate Change? How would you suggest overcoming those obstacles?

Funding is one obstacle. To make an equitable transition, we will need funding to carry out solutions such as switching all gas appliances to electric. We need to continue to explore outside the box funding ideas. Another obstacle is the entrenched cultural and infrastructural barriers to low carbon transportation. This is a big one since transportation in Sonoma County accounts for 60% of total activity based emissions. There are various ways to make bicycling, walking and transit more culturally popular. The infrastructure challenge is also technically feasible because we have a network of public streets that we currently almost exclusively for cars but could dedicate more of to bicycles. We need leaders who are will to take action and we need community support.

What should be the City's role in addressing climate mitigation, adaptation, drawdown, and environmental justice? Give examples of policies you think the City should enact to address the climate crisis.

Given the urgency of the problem, the City should consider all legal options. Policy areas to think about include policies to help more households shift from gas to to electric appliances; transforming some of the city's roads to be bike boulevards; collaborating with Sonoma County Transit to improve the circulator bus system; a tree planting program.

What does a resilient, carbon-free Sebastopol look like in the future and how might we get there?

Local thriving businesses to supply most of our community needs; people walking and bicycling for most of their local trips and own only one or no cars per household; neighborhood support networks to be prepared for climate impacts and to support one another and build reciprocal relationships in a strong community web.

What do you expect to accomplish as a sub-committee member?

Contribute ideas and feedback on potential climate solutions, help advance the strongest policies possible, give support for the staff and Council to take climate action.

In your role as a climate sub-committee member, how will you ensure that actions to address the climate crisis in Sebastopol are equitable?

My work with Climate Mobilization Project is highly focused on equity and climate justice, and one of the core ways that we try to ensure equity is to focus our efforts first on intersectional policy areas that can have an impact on peoples' material needs and everyday lives. For example, making our streets safer for walking and bicycling--and improving public transit options--improve mobility access for people in our community who have the least access to safe, reliable, affordable transportation, such as our elders, youth, low income working people, and people living with disabilities.

How do you feel the role of a sub-committee member relates to the community?

I believe the sub committee is meant to represent the community. Sub committee members can seek out opinions and support from the community and also help promot more participation from community members. We can't do very much without strong community support.



I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature :



Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT):

Emmett Hopkins

Date:

11/27/2022

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Contact Information

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Sebastopol Climate Action Committee

Zeno Swijtink

Name: _____

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:



Home Phone Number: _____



If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

XYes No



Work Phone Number: _____

na

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: _____

na

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: _____

If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

XYes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes XNo

If so, for how long? _____

20+y resident, but still a EU Citizen

Do you hold a current business license from the City of

Sebastopol? XYes No

If so, for how long? 2.5 years _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

**Yes, many occasions; also a member of the SCAC
Transportation Working Group**

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes XNo



If so, when? _____

Retired from SSU

Present Employer: _____

Professor

Job Title: _____

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Sebastopol Sebastopol Citizens Advisory Group on Energy Vulnerability 2006/2007

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Coastwalk, Atascadero Green Valley Watershed Council (AGVWC), Russian River Watershed Council (RRWC), Sonoma County Conservation Council (SCCC), Sierra Club, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), Slow Food Russian River (SFRR), Sebastopol Climate Action Group (SCAG)

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

AGVWC: Founder and President (2000-2014)
Representative of SCCC on RRWC (2003-2015)
SFRR: Board member (2010-2019)
SCAG: Core Group Member (2019-2020)

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Interest include Active Transportation, Energy, & Climate Education and Outreach

Skills include Research and Analysis, Strategy and Tactics, Outreach and Networking, IT

Talents include a balance between analytical and synthetic thinking, leading teams

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

University of Amsterdam (BA 1970, Philosophy and Mathematical Economics)

University of Amsterdam (MA 1976, Philosophy and Mathematics)

Stanford University (PhD 1982, Philosophy and History of Science, Statistical Inference and Probability Theory)

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Scholarship of the Polish Government (1976)

Scholarship from Stanford University (1977-1982)

Scholarship from the Max Planck Gesellschaft (1982-83)

Scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (1996-1997)

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

Help shape transformations necessary or useful in drawdown and reduction of GHGs, esp, in transportation and energy

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

■

How did you hear about this opening?

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

I was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Climate Protection Campaign (now Climate Center), I am a Fellow of LIFEE, the Leadership Institute for the Economy and the Environment, I taught classes on Philosophical Topics in Climate Change at SSU, I chaired the Sustainability Working Group at SSU.

I represent the City on the RCPA Citizens Advisory Committee and am a member of the Transportation Working Group of the SCAC.

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

My deep links with the town of Sebastopol, and West County in general
My county-wide connections with thought leaders
My special interests, skills and talents (see above)

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on? Inspiring governments, staff and citizens to adopt a bold vision

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Frequent feedback from community that is made publicly available; assessment how representative comments are of the general public

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

Understand basis of disagreement; find common ground where we disagree, shift attention to areas where we can work together.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

See whether my lack of support is based on insights, data or analysis not available to staff; keep a hand on the pulse of the community.



I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this

application. **Zeno Swijtink** Digitally signed by Zeno

Swijtink

Applicant's Signature : _____,

Zeno Swijtink

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Date: _____ November 27, 2022 _____

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

The City Council appoints members to various boards, committees, and commissions as listed below:

- Planning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Public Arts Committee
- Other Miscellaneous Boards/Committees/Commission as Approved by the City Council

The bodies are comprised of community members who volunteer for service and are appointed by the City Council. All committee members serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The primary responsibility of the committees is to implement adopted City policy, and advise and make recommendations to the City Council. The adoption of policies, the issuance of proclamations, and the approval of agreements and other official acts of the City are the responsibility of the City Council. The City Manager designates as official staff liaison to each committee.

Application Process

When a vacancy on a board, committee or commission occurs, the City Clerk prepares a press release that is distributed to local media, including the Sonoma West County Times and News. The vacancy is also announced at City Hall and on the City of Sebastopol's web site <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/>

Applications for vacancies are obtained from the City Clerk's office and completed applications are submitted to the City Clerk's office. Three to four weeks after the vacancy announcement, the completed applications are forwarded to the City Council in a regular agenda packet for public review. The City Council interviews all applicants at a meeting open to the public. The official appointment of Commission, Board or Committee members is made at a City Council meeting.

Terms of Office

Board, commission, and committee members generally serve two, three, or four-year overlapping terms. There is no monetary compensation or benefits for board, commission, or committee members.

The City Council may reappoint incumbent members or fill vacancies with new appointees. Some bodies limit the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve.

Members are expected to serve their full terms of office; however, when a member must resign, due to personal or professional circumstances, he/she should send a letter to the City Council stating the effective date of the resignation. A member shall be removed from office upon three affirmative votes of the City Council, based on one of the following grounds:

- At the pleasure of the City Council, without cause:
- If he/she is absent from three consecutive meetings, unless permission by a majority vote of the board, committee or commission had been granted as reflected in the official minutes of the body.
- Or by operation of the City Code if:
- If he/she is convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.
- If he/she ceases to be a qualified board, commission or committee member per the City of Sebastopol Municipal Code.

General Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

City boards, commissions, and committees shall have the following general powers, duties and responsibilities in addition to those set forth in the Sebastopol Municipal Code and various Resolutions:

- To establish rules and regulations governing the election of their officers, the holding of meetings and the conduct of business for these meetings.
- To use all appropriate techniques in crystallizing and testing public sentiment on major public issues in their respective fields.
- To hold official hearings as required by law or requested by the City Council.

- To advise and recommend on City policies and procedures pertinent to their respective activities and functions.
- To support and adhere to all City policies promulgated by the City Council and to establish needed interim policies in the absence of the same.
- To provide information and promote good public relations between the City and the general public.
- To perform such other related functions as may be assigned to them by the City Council.

Desirable Characteristics in Applicants for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

While membership on City boards, committees and commissions requires no specific qualifications, with the exception of some seats on the Design Review Board and the Public Arts Committee, there are desirable characteristics for which the Council will be looking as they review applications:

- Familiarity with Community

The Council would require appointees to be familiar with the physical, social, and economic make-up of the City. Applicants should have demonstrated an active interest and involvement in the community.

Familiarity with Major Issues

While it will be assumed that applicants are familiar with the specific issues that are being addressed by the board, committee or commission for which they are applying, it is also expected that applicants be aware of issues which will impact all sectors of City programs and services.

Knowledge of the Board, Commission or Committee

During the application process, applicants should become familiar with the responsibilities and role in the City's policy-making structure of the board, committee or commission for which they are applying.

Commitment to Serve

When appointed, members are expected to serve their term of office. While personal or professional circumstances might prompt an unexpected resignation, applicants who are aware of any reasons why they may not be able to complete a full term or attend regularly scheduled meetings, should indicate this on the application. While time commitments will vary depending upon schedules and workload, members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. In addition to attending scheduled meetings, members may be expected to participate in study sessions or serve on subcommittees.

Relationship with the Community

As a member of a City board, committee or commission, your actions will reflect on the City of Sebastopol and you are required to relate to the community with impartiality and courtesy.

Commitment to City Policy:

The City Council has adopted ordinances and policies following an appropriate public process. As an appointed board, committee or commission member, your duty is to abide by such policies rather than implement personal preferences.

Tips for Applying for a City Board, Commission, or Committee

Type or neatly print your application. Due to the quantity of applications the Council must review, a neat application is appreciated.

Answer all questions on the application. Council reviews your application to gain an understanding of your background and experience, and what skills and talents you believe you could bring to a particular board, committee or commission. Don't forget to sign and date your application.

Attend one or two meetings of the board, committee or commission for which you are applying. Find out what the current issues are, and what issues may be coming in the future. Review the minutes of past meetings, available on the City web site or at City Hall depending on the appointment being applied for.

Talk to a current member. Current members can share with you their experience, they can give you an estimate of the time commitment involved, and they can discuss with you what they see as current and future issues for the City.

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council’s priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City’s website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk’s Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
 Mary Gourley
 7120 Bodega Avenue
 P.O. Box 1776
 Sebastopol, CA 95473
 Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153
 fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)
 Closed every Friday

Instructions:

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol’s Boards, Committees or Commissions. Please complete the entire form and either print and mail it to the address above, or email your completed application to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org. If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due, to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? Climate Action Committee

Name: Josho Somine

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

Sebastopol, CA 95472

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Work Phone Number: same

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: n/a

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? 7 yrs

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Yes, last 2 years regularly

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes No

If so, when? Last 2 years, Co-Chair

Present Employer: Community Soil

Job Title: Lead Designer

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

No

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Community Soil Foundation

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

No

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I have been studying community-scale sustainable design for 20+ years, and have experience presenting, facilitating and teaching related subjects to diverse communities and populations, including coordinating volunteers and district-scale stormwater planning.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Master's in Landscape Architecture, University of Washington @ Seattle, 2007-10
BFA in Sculpture & Public Art, California College of Arts & Crafts, 2000-2
Permaculture Design & Teaching Certificates, 2001 - Occidental Arts & Ecology
Center, Earthaven Ecovillage, Cascadia Permaculture Institute

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Academic awards during both degree programs above

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

After 2 years on the SCAC, we have established our working methodologies and our workplan for the year(s) ahead, in addition multiple project and program accomplishments. As such, we have gotten some good momentum going that I have helped coordinate, and I would like to keep things rolling along in the same capacity, given that much more tangible work remains to be done.



Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

Committee meetings and strategic planning

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

Further related experience includes a master's thesis in community-based neighborhood park planning, 2 seasons working on watershed-scale stormwater / CSO green infrastructure planning at King County (WA), and 5 years as project manager at a Sebastopol landscape architecture firm

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

The gist of my related experiences and overall motivations have been sketched out above, and we could go into as much further detail as you like. Having worked and collaborated with many diverse groups over the last 20 years, I aspire primarily to help the local discourse evolve and take form in ways that will cultivate a sense of environmental citizenship in the broader communities. In particular with respect to the Committee, I bring an experienced, land-based approach to regenerative design and climate adaptation which is somewhat unique and valuable in the overall makeup of Committee members.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

We have formulated our workplan for the coming year(s) based on the Climate Action Framework adopted by the City this past year. As such, our tasklist is clearly spelled out. My own priorities lie within the Carbon Sequestration working group, and include prioritizing measures to increase the health and resilience of local soils, waterways, and tree canopy.

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Personally, I think all individual comments, my own included, should be taken with a grain of salt. In aggregate, however, a broad sampling of comments can be taken as some indication of community concerns and priorities, and issues that arise consistently merit some form of reasoned response. The form of response, and degree of integration into civic action, would have to depend on the issues and details at hand, and the judgment of the collective committee and council structures.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

I would hope for a standard resembling professional courtesy within the process of the committees and allied city departments. Presumably we can agree on some basic rules of order and/or process, including mediation options for conflicts that seem unproductive. My basic goal would be to keep the discussion centered on the subjects at hand rather than any egos that might get involved. If the conversation seemed to be turning more to personal issues, I would ask for some support from the greater collaborative in restoring pragmatic equanimity.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would ask only to be able to express my reasoned opinions on the subject. I accept that the role of the subcommittee is advisory rather than decisive with respect to specific civic proposals.

What is your involvement with the climate crisis, including ways you have educated yourself and worked to model and promote climate action?

I have been pursuing the subject and realization of community-scale sustainability for decades, initially through extensive involvement in the national permaculture network, school gardening, and land stewardship, and later in a master's in urban ecological design. I have been teaching, presenting, facilitating, and coordinating subjects and projects related to the overall priority of sustainability for that whole time, and have watched the awareness of the pressing nature of the issues become more common in the general populace. Professionally, I help landowners, developers and communities realize their potential for connecting to and integrating with the ecological sustenance of their specific contexts.

What is your understanding about the urgency of the climate crisis?

In this century, climate change radically compromises the continuity or survival of human civilization as such. Unfortunately, in practical terms climate change must be considered irreversible at this point, and communities must focus on methods to weather the storms through strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

What is your experience in working on policy issues – mobilizing public support, changing public consensus, or influencing fellow commissioners, for example?

Minimal policy experience as such, I would not say that I am much of a political person. I do have the ability to clearly present and state the case for complex issues and subjects, which can help with influencing community opinions and perspectives.

What is your understanding of the current obstacles to implementing action on Climate Change? How would you suggest overcoming those obstacles?

The overall obstacles are forms of general cultural inertia, embedded in both infrastructures and common practices, as well as in a popular inability or unwillingness to confront the seriousness of the issues. If there is something to be learned from our pandemic experiences, it may be lessons about the relative fragility of the status quo. My impression is that many people avoid confronting fearsome issues because they don't know what to do about them or feel generally powerless. However, if they can be inspired with ways to engage productively or beneficially, as well as given some sense of supportive community in such endeavors, I believe many more people will soon be willing to contemplate significant actions or changes in behavior and structure.

What should be the City's role in addressing climate mitigation, adaptation, drawdown, and environmental justice? Give examples of policies you think the City should enact to address the climate crisis.

The city should support values and actions that promote sustainability, while cultivating some sense of basic securities for the local populace. As a landscape architect, I am naturally focused towards site-based examples and solutions, and would be interested in seeing what ecosystem functions might be served on city-controlled properties. 'Green' standards for new development are important, as well as promoting local organic agriculture and land stewardship practices. When incentives can be provided for citizens to emulate these moves on their own properties, the solutions can start to be truly community-scale.

What does a resilient, carbon-free Sebastopol look like in the future and how might we get there?

Better bike infrastructure, better stormwater management, more tree cover, flexible food systems, more electrified buildings. Most of these details need to be addressed incrementally via retrofit opportunities, and by deepening the relationships between the city and its greater environmental and cultural context (e.g., unincorporated areas and local allied organizations).

What do you expect to accomplish as a sub-committee member?

I expect to continue as Co-Chair, in which capacity my role is merely to help keep the process(es) moving along in a reasonable fashion. Within my Sequestration working group, we expect to try to help revitalize the community garden, continue to give away compost to residents seasonally, develop conceptual analysis and suggestions for the city stormwater system, and start to create a comprehensive assessment of the urban forest.

In your role as a climate sub-committee member, how will you ensure that actions to address the climate crisis in Sebastopol are equitable?

As a Committee, we have established an equity framework and matrix checklist that is reviewed for consideration with respect to all project proposals. We continue to advocate for these priorities with each new endeavor.

How do you feel the role of a sub-committee member relates to the community?

As a local, un-elected participant, the committee role is a blend of community member and consultant. Presumably, the people serving on the committee care and/or know a bit more about the subjects at hand than the 'average' community, which hopefully gives their input some extra pertinence. The checks and balances in the subcommittee structure and process should help to cultivate a pragmatic middle ground in the nature of the proposals that emerge.



I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : _____

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Josho Somine

Date: 12/7/22

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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- Planning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Public Arts Committee
- Other Miscellaneous Boards/Committees/Commission as Approved by the City Council

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Application Process

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Terms of Office

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- At the pleasure of the City Council, without cause:
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- To use all appropriate techniques in crystallizing and testing public sentiment on major public issues in their respective fields.
- To hold official hearings as required by law or requested by the City Council.

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- To support and adhere to all City policies promulgated by the City Council and to establish needed interim policies in the absence of the same.
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- To perform such other related functions as may be assigned to them by the City Council.

Desirable Characteristics in Applicants for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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- Familiarity with Community

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Knowledge of the Board, Commission or Committee

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Commitment to Serve

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Relationship with the Community

As a member of a City board, committee or commission, your actions will reflect on the City of Sebastopol and you are required to relate to the community with impartiality and courtesy.

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Tips for Applying for a City Board, Commission, or Committee

Type or neatly print your application. Due to the quantity of applications the Council must review, a neat application is appreciated.

Answer all questions on the application. Council reviews your application to gain an understanding of your background and experience, and what skills and talents you believe you could bring to a particular board, committee or commission. Don't forget to sign and date your application.

Attend one or two meetings of the board, committee or commission for which you are applying. Find out what the current issues are, and what issues may be coming in the future. Review the minutes of past meetings, available on the City web site or at City Hall depending on the appointment being applied for.

Talk to a current member. Current members can share with you their experience, they can give you an estimate of the time commitment involved, and they can discuss with you what they see as current and future issues for the City.

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council’s priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City’s website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk’s Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
7120 Bodega Avenue
P.O. Box 1776
Sebastopol, CA 95473
Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153
fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)
Closed every Friday

Instructions:

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Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? Climate action sub-committee

Name: Alexander (Alex) Goodman

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:



sebastopol, CA 95472

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Work Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

no, but I am head facilitator of the sebastopol climate action

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: Amy's Kitchen

Job Title: Agricultural Buyer

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

No

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

,Climate Reality project, Sonoma Land trust, Best Buddies (Kids with disabilities), Sebastopol Climate Action

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

I am lead facilitator on the Sebastopol Climate action community organization that supported the city council in passing the climate emergency resolution.

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I have a lot of practical background in Climate application for Amy's Kitchen in looking at projects that can create more energy efficiency, sustainability and social responsibility. I also have a great passion for climate change and have attended multiple conferences and workshops to learn more about what we can do to help!

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Sonoma State University - B.S. Business Administration - focus in Finance, Accounting and Wine Business

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

N/A

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I am really passionate about climate change and want to make a difference in my community to leave this world better than the way I came into it!

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

I heard about it from a city council meeting and from fellow members of the Sebastopol climate action group.

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I have an extensive amount of knowledge about climate change, I am passionate about it, I enjoy connecting and solving problems within the community and I have helped lead the path to pass the climate emergency resolution.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

I think the first issue is to understand where our biggest climate impacts are and go from there to create strategies and solutions to address those. I think creating housing regulations around sustainable housing is important, educating/regulating businesses to make sure they understand how to make their business more sustainable and refining systems within the city to ensure we are using energy most efficiently. The key to education for businesses is that we are creating a "hot spot" or gathering place for sustainable thinkers and the more we can promote that as one of the "brands" of Sebastopol and Sonoma County the more tourism and economic growth we will get for it. This is from people that want to support sustainable business! win-win!

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

I think the best way to integrate community comments is to create a section in each committee meeting to address them and discuss how they could be applicable and how we might be able to integrate the feedback or idea.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

I would continue business as usual. I wouldn't get upset or frustrated and understand that opposing view points are important to a well balanced committee. I may have a conversation with that person after a meeting to understand if there is a personal bias that is being expressed, but want to maintain a professional and cordial relationship with them and all members as part of this group.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would look at the facts from an objective view point about how it could help the city and give my perspectives on that. I would separate my personal and professional opinions from my role as a committee member and would qualify my personal opinion before I stated it if at all in a meeting setting. I Would do what is best for the city and follow city guidelines even if it wasn't aligning with my personal values.

What is your involvement with the climate crisis, including ways you have educated yourself and worked to model and promote climate action?

I have thought a lot about climate crisis and have prepared a lot for it myself. I have just started doing more research on ways our communities can be more resilient together which I think is a beautiful model instead of this individualist every man for himself model.

I have started studying Micro grids, and know a lot about organic agriculture which I think will help in a future climate crisis and how the city council decides to deal with it.

What is your understanding about the urgency of the climate crisis?

The urgency level is 10/10 we need to do something now! It is very important to action on climate action now because this is a "crisis" and we can't sit around doing nothing or doing little bits at a time to make a difference. We need to act big and act now!

What is your experience in working on policy issues – mobilizing public support, changing public consensus, or influencing fellow commissioners, for example?

I have helped gather people and create and facilitate a very healthy and productive meeting group with the Sebastopol climate action committee. This was challenging but helped me understand how to organize people, create accountability and create a system for group members that got people together to discuss and think together to make a difference in our community.

What is your understanding of the current obstacles to implementing action on Climate Change? How would you suggest overcoming those obstacles?

The current obstacles are educating the community and showing the importance of changes they need to make in their purchasing, lifestyle and eating choices to help contribute to the positive benefits of climate change. I think the biggest obstacle is getting people to try new things and think about ideas in a different way that is different from the traditional way of thinking.

What should be the City's role in addressing climate mitigation, adaptation, drawdown, and environmental justice? Give examples of policies you think the City should enact to address the climate crisis.

I think Sebastopol should focus on transportation, housing, energy use and efficiency, micro grids, affordable housing and ways we can bring our community together to share in education about what we can do together to make a difference. The Carbon conversations are a big first step here!

What does a resilient, carbon-free Sebastopol look like in the future and how might we get there?

It looks like a progressive, healthy, happy city that has taken initiative and focused on the bigger issues at hand to set an example and make a difference for multiple generations to come. It looks like our city now, but with electric car charging stations at every parking spot, more vegetarian food options at our cafe's and restaurants and more community centered educational opportunities to teach people the importance of climate action and what they can do in their homes.



What do you expect to accomplish as a sub-committee member?

I expect to create regulations and education sessions for our town that make a lasting impact. I would like to focus on getting members of the business community involved to help them understand why it is important and get buy in and input from leaders in our community so that it is well accepted and understood about why we are doing the things we are doing!

In your role as a climate sub-committee member, how will you ensure that actions to address the climate crisis in Sebastopol are equitable?

First, I will lead by example. Doing everything I can to make a difference in climate impact. I will hold my word to the committee group and do the work to make Sebastopol a better place for everyone!

How do you feel the role of a sub-committee member relates to the community?

I think its a great way to get community members involved and to educate community the community on what the city of Sebastopol is working on. I think its something most of our community would be excited about and would love to hear more about!



I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature :

[Redacted Signature]

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Alex Goodman

Date: 12/12/22