

Dear Design Review Board,

In reviewing the work plan, I support the work on the Plaza. I specifically urge you to use wider sidewalks along the McKinley Street side to create a visual line to the crosswalk across Petaluma Blvd. to the Barlow. The City has an excellent crosswalk to help pedestrians cross from the Plaza and Main Street into the Barlow. This should be highlighted in the Plaza design.

In addition, I strongly support the review of signage in Sebastopol. There is an increasing amount of visual clutter from “flag” type advertisements along the roadway to smaller signs that are pushed into the ground. Signage should be restricted to building facades and should elevate the streetscape in its quality and design. Currently, the streetscapes are overwhelmed by temporary and cheap signage which gives the visual environment a scattered and junky quality.

I also strongly support a review of City signs. The joint committee should review where duplication in way finding exists and maintain a single style of wayfinding signage. There are a few different types of City signs, and the visual environment would benefit from a single form in terms of clarity of purpose and simplicity in wayfinding.

I also support more designation of historical areas and encouraging architectural consistency in historic areas of Sebastopol. Sebastopol has some lovely historical neighborhoods, and it would be a benefit to current and future generations to preserve the historic homes.

Thank you for your work.

Best,

Kate Haug