

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
BUILDING THE COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Community Assessment Subcommittee for the Sebastopol Commons Oversight Committee

(11/4/25, Zoom meeting; Stephen, Sarah, Fred & Kent - present; Mary Lou - absent)

Report Out:

The goal of the Sebastopol Commons Standing Committee being to define the concept of a Sebastopol Commons, the Community Assessment Subcommittee proposes:

- 1) We keep the Sebastopol Commons Standing Committee “lean & agile” by pushing the vital assessment work into community interviews and surveys, instead of trying to represent all the major voices. We intend to assess broadly, focusing on potential full time tenants, such as City Services, the Branch Library, and key NPOs, service organizations, emergency coordinators, and other community groups as well as the individual users themselves.
- 2) We will work quickly and thoroughly with a manageable number of interviews and survey participants, to get 80% of the way towards understanding who and what would comprise the Commons. Ideally, the conclusion of these assessments will result in rough ideas of the potential major tenants and users, plus an aggregate statement of their respective needs for square footage, structural amenities, parking/transit, accessibility, and adjacent services requirements. If there is broad appeal of this "rough cut" concept of the Commons, we then envision professional, detailed, and deeply inclusive assessments to refine the final 20%. The final 20% may be beyond the scope or timeline of the current of the Sebastopol Commons Standing Committee and may need additional time for additional input.
- 3) We ask that each Sebastopol Commons Standing Committee member come to the November 10th meeting with a prepared written list of the top (10) community members and/or organizations with whom the Subcommittee should conduct these assessment interviews.