

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
BUILDING THE COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM REPORT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Starting point: Discussion Draft
 - See Attachment B

Recommendation: That the Building the Commons Standing Committee receive and discuss the *Sebastopol Commons Discussion Draft* (Attachment B) and provide input on priorities, community engagement strategies, and next steps.

Attachment: Attachment B – Discussion Draft: Sebastopol Commons

BACKGROUND:

The *Building the Commons Standing Committee* was established to explore opportunities for enhancing Sebastopol’s civic infrastructure, with a focus on the downtown area and the integration of public spaces, community services, and cultural assets.

The *Sebastopol Commons* concept builds upon the City’s long-standing goals for downtown revitalization, library modernization, and the creation of shared community spaces that support civic life, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality.

The attached *Discussion Draft* represents a synthesis of community aspirations and staff research to guide the Committee’s discussion and future recommendations to the City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Project Overview:

Sebastopol Commons is envisioned as a transformative, multi-use infrastructure initiative designed to integrate civic, social, and economic functions in the heart of downtown Sebastopol. The project seeks to create a central gathering place that connects residents, local government, and community organizations through shared facilities and public spaces.

Core Objectives:

- **Civic Integration:** Co-locate and connect public institutions such as the Sebastopol Regional Library and other community services.

- **Economic Activation:** Support downtown vitality by encouraging foot traffic, supporting local businesses, and attracting visitors.
- **Social Connectivity:** Create spaces that build trust, collaboration, and inclusion across the community.

Development Goals:

1. **Strengthen Civic Infrastructure:** Improve accessibility, functionality, and coordination among public facilities.
2. **Promote Environmental Stewardship:** Integrate green design principles and sustainable practices into all phases of planning and construction.
3. **Encourage Participatory Planning:** Engage residents and stakeholders through forums, workshops, and outreach to ensure broad community representation.

Committee Role and Next Steps:

The Committee's input will guide refinement of the Commons concept, including:

- Identifying priority outcomes and success indicators.
- Exploring partnership opportunities with regional organizations and agencies.
- Developing recommendations for Council consideration, including potential funding sources, site coordination, and phased implementation.

Staff will incorporate the Committee's feedback into the next iteration of the Sebastopol Commons planning framework, to be presented to the City Council at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION DRAFT

Sebastopol Commons is a transformative multi-use infrastructure initiative designed to revitalize downtown Sebastopol by integrating community services, public spaces, and economic development efforts.

Project Overview

The **Sebastopol Commons** is a visionary urban development project located in the heart of historic downtown Sebastopol. Its primary goal is to create a **centralized hub** that blends civic, cultural, and social resources to foster community engagement and economic vitality.

Key Features

- **Multi-use infrastructure:** The Commons combines several community assets, including public buildings, service providers, and gathering spaces, into a cohesive network.
- **Community anchors:** One of the proposed anchors is the **Sebastopol Regional Library**, which plays a pivotal role in generating social capital and trust within the community.
- **Economic catalyst:** By concentrating services and amenities in a walkable downtown area, the project aims to stimulate local business activity and attract visitors.

Social Impact

- The Commons is designed to be a **platform for social trust**, encouraging collaboration among residents, nonprofits, and local government.
- It supports **inclusive access to services**, with a focus on equity and long-term sustainability.

Development Goals

- **Strengthen civic infrastructure:** Enhance the functionality and accessibility of public spaces.
- **Promote environmental stewardship:** Integrate green design principles and sustainable practices.
- **Encourage participatory planning:** Involve residents in shaping the Commons through public forums and feedback sessions.

Location & Timeline

- Situated in **downtown Sebastopol**, the project is currently in the planning and early implementation stages, with ongoing community input shaping its evolution.