



CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: Date: January 20, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Stephen Zollman, Councilmember
Responsible Department: Public Works Department
Subject: Sebastopol Commons: Committee for Building the Commons quarterly update to council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Sebastopol City Council receive the quarterly report from the Sebastopol Commons: Committee for Building the Commons.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City Council approved a resolution on September 2nd, 2025 to establish the Sebastopol Commons: Committee for Building the Commons as a standing committee along with the structure, membership, and responsibilities. Part of the duties of the committee are to provide a quarterly report to council.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The committee members are: (*No longer active*)

- Councilmembers: Stephan Zollman and Phillip Carter
- Sebastopol Center For the Arts: Danny Foster
- Senior Center: Kent Jenkins
- Community Cultural Center: Kenyon Webster
- Gravenstein Health Action Coalition: Mary Lou Schmidt
- Sonoma County Library Foundation: Naomi Hupert
- Business: Copperfields: RM Horrell
- City Of Sebastopol Library: Fred Engbarth
- Measure W Oversight Committee: Sarah Glade Gurney
- Sonoma County Library: Ray Holley
- Community Foundation: None

The committee held their first meeting on October 7th, 2025. They appointed Stephan Zollman as the Chair and RM Horrell as the Vice Chair. They reviewed the background information about the project and council direction to the committee. The second meeting was held on October 21st in which two subcommittees were formed: (1) Community Needs Assessment and (2) Funding Assessment. The third meeting was held on November 10th and they established the second Tuesday of each month starting December 9th as the regular meeting date. On November 10, they also created a third temporary subcommittee, (3) Public Messaging that the committee only required to be active for four weeks and developed the messaging for the website.

Council approved changes to the composition of the committee on November 18th to remove the Community Foundation, Sebastopol Community Center and Sebastopol Center for the Arts as those representatives were not able to attend due to time constraints. The Sonoma County Library may fill the role with another individual, as Ray Holley has accepted a new position and left the Library.



To date the committee has met 5 times. Attached are the following reports from the subcommittees:

- Community Needs Assessment – Exhibit A
- Financial Needs Assessment – Pending Exhibit B

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Staff is recommending that Council receive this quarterly report from the Sebastopol Commons: Committee for Building the Commons.

GOALS/ PRIORTIES STATEMENT:

This agenda item represents the City Council goals/priorities as follows:

COMMUNITY VITALITY: Enhance Sebastopol as a great place to live that values community health and well-being. Preserve Sebastopol's unique character.

INFRASTRUCTURE: Maintaining High Quality Infrastructure, Facilities and Services includes repairing/replacing outdated city facilities, improving streets, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.

HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

- Restoring public trust
- Improve Public Communications

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

City of Sebastopol General Plan:

Action CSF 6c: Work collaboratively with the County library system and community volunteers to identify opportunities to expand and provide library services that meet the educational and social needs of all residents, including possible replacement or expansion of the Sebastopol branch library
Action CSF 6d: Identify partnership opportunities between municipalities, other agencies and library support organizations to expand library facilities, resources and services.

Action CSF 6j: After conducting comprehensive needs assessments, establish priorities and funding mechanisms for projects and improvements to public and community facilities and buildings. The priority-setting process should include an extensive public outreach and participation program, and should assess needs and opportunities associated with the following types of buildings and facilities: Library, Community Cultural Center, City Hall/City offices, and other community buildings/needs identified by the public and the City Council.

Action CSF 6e: Establish an innovative approach to funding cultural, community, and library facilities and/or services, in addition to State and Federal grants and loans. The City should establish mechanisms to allow gifts and dedication of land and facilities by individuals, local businesses, and national corporations.

The item also represents the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association Cities and County Critical Areas Coordination Ad Hoc Committee will bring together County and city leaders to work on three shared priorities—mental health and homelessness services, emergency preparedness, and shared facilities.

The goal is to improve communication and collaboration, find practical solutions, and strengthen cooperation across local governments so that all the residents of the nine jurisdictions and the unincorporated areas of our County can all receive the same level of service, have access, be prepared and understand emergency responses and have access to community gathering spaces and assets.



FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact with receiving this report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was made available for public review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date. The City has also promoted the Council meeting and agenda items through its social media platforms.

As of the writing of this report, the City has not received any public comments. Should any comments be received after publication, they will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials prior to or at the meeting.

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That Sebastopol City Council receive the quarterly report from the Sebastopol Commons: Committee for Building the Commons.

OPTIONS:

1. Receive the report.

ATTACHMENTS:

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 1/8/26

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 1/8/26

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

General Plan Goal (Planning): Approval Date: N/A

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: 1/8/26

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: Yes No N/A

Account Code (if applicable)

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: N/A

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: N/A