



City of Sebastopol

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL**  
**AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: April 7, 2026**

---

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Sebastopol Commons: Building the Commons Committee  
**Responsible Department:** Public Works  
**Subject:** Sebastopol Commons: Building the Commons Committee Second Quarterly Report

---

**RECOMMENDATION** That the City Council receive the second informational report from the Building the Commons Committee.

**PROCESS OF AGENDA ITEM:**

- a. Presentation of agenda item by the Requestor or Responsible Department
- b. Questions and discussion from Councilmembers
- c. Public comment period
- d. Presentation Received

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** This report reflects the Committee’s continued work and progress to advance the Sebastopol Commons as a vibrant, shared civic asset.

**BACKGROUND** The Sebastopol Commons is envisioned as a shared civic space and multi-use community hub within Sebastopol city limits, serving West Sonoma County residents. It is intended to support education, arts & culture, health & wellness, senior services, community connection, recreational classes, and potentially public library or library-adjacent functions that foster learning, access, and civic engagement.

The Building the Commons Oversight Committee was established by City Council action in 2025. It is charged with guiding early concept development, assessing community needs, exploring funding strategies, and providing quarterly reports to Council on progress in the following areas:

- Identifying and securing membership
- Developing lists of needs and shared needs
- Compiling research on similar projects
- Exploring and defining the project concept and determining the scope of a feasibility study
- Performing other related duties as assigned by the City Council

**DISCUSSION:**

As part of the responsibilities of the Committee, the Committee was tasked with providing quarterly updates. Tonight’s item provides the second quarterly update. The Committee has two ad hoc committees formed: The Finance Committee and the Community Needs Committee. Both have provided informational status reports and those are attached for reference. Highlights of the reports are listed below:

**BUILDING THE COMMONS AD HOC FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:**

The attached February 10, 2026 report from the Ad Hoc Finance Subcommittee provides a preliminary analysis of six location/approach options. No location is final or preferred; all are early-stage concepts only. The committee



**City of Sebastopol**

discussed preliminary options, financing overview on preliminary options, as well as Facility Needs Priorities (critical/immediate/future/peripheral and subsidiary).

At the February 10, 2026 Committee Meeting, the Committee approved to: (Add Motion from Meeting as moved by RM and seconded by Sarah)

**BUILDING THE COMMONS AD HOC NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:**

The attached DRAFT survey packet is a guide that the ad hoc committee members will be using to conduct one-on-one interviews with community leaders to gather high-value, in-depth insights on community assets, motivations, challenges, partnerships, public spaces, identity, resiliency, and priorities. These personalized sessions will build trust, strengthen relationships, map stakeholders, and uncover opportunities that inform the Commons vision.

**Future Items:**

It is anticipated that the Committee will complete initial community needs assessments; advance potential site and funding options evaluation; and report back with progress toward a viable commons concept with recommendations at that time for Council discussion and consideration.

**STAFF ANALYSIS** The Committee continues refining the vision while working on immediate needs as planning progresses.

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS / PRIORITIES / GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY** This item aligns with City Council goals:

- Community Vitality: Enhance Sebastopol as a great place to live that values community health and wellbeing; preserve unique character.
- Infrastructure: Maintain high-quality facilities and services, including repairing/replacing outdated city facilities.
- High Performance Organization: Restore public trust; improve public communications.
- Economic Development

**General Plan Consistency**

- Action CSF 6c–6d: Collaborate with County library system and partners to expand library services/facilities.
- Action CSF 6j: Conduct needs assessments and prioritize public/community facility improvements with extensive outreach.
- Action CSF 6e: Establish innovative funding approaches for cultural, community, and library facilities/services.

Supports Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association priorities on shared facilities, mental health, homelessness, and emergency preparedness.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** One-on-one leader interviews using the attached discussion guide to gather insights on assets, challenges, partnerships, public spaces, and priorities will be conducted.



**City of Sebastopol**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** As of preparation, no written public comments received. Any received after publication will be provided as supplemental materials. Oral comments may be provided during the public comment period.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act; available for public review at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT** There is no additional fiscal impact associated with receipt of this informational item.

**RESTATED RECOMMENDATION** That the City Council receive the informational report.

**OPTION(S)** None. This item is informational only.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Sebastopol Commons Finance Subcommittee Second Quarterly Report to Full Committee, dated February 10, 2026 (6 pages; includes S.W.O.T., financing analysis, and needs summary).
2. Draft Survey Packet: Interviews with Community Leaders – Building the Sebastopol Commons (Discussion Guide Final Draft, dated 02-08-2026; full interview questions, supplemental topics, interviewer guide, sample invitation, and tips).