

City Council

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Sebastopol Commons Committee

Councilmember Stephen Zollman – Chair
RM Horrell – Vice Chair

**SEBASTOPOL COMMONS: BUILDING THE COMMONS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
1:00 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES
(ABBREVIATED)**

In Person Location: Sebastopol City Hall, City Hall Conference Room, 7120 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol
Remote Teleconference Participation: 12125 Ramsey Road, Sebastopol

CALL TO ORDER: *Councilmember Zollman called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm*

ROLL CALL:

Attendees: ***Committee:*** *Councilmember Stephen Zollman, Councilmember Phill Carter, RM Horrell, Sarah Glade Gurney, Naomi Hupert, Kent Jenkins, Deb Hoadley, Mary Lou Schmidt.*
Remote: Fred Engbarth
Absent: *Partial: RM Horrell*
City Staff: *Mary Gourley, Oriana Hart, Elissa Overton*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The City of Sebastopol acknowledges that we live and work within the unceded ancestral homelands of the Southern Pomo and the Coast Miwok people. We pay our respect to the past, present, and future generations of these peoples, including the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria.

AGENDA:

Consent Calendar Item(s):

- 1. Approval of Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Building the Commons Committee Meeting (Posted and included as ITEM 1 with meeting agenda)
 - a. Motion for Approval: Yay’s: 8, Nay’s: 0, Absent: 0, Abstain: 1

Subcommittee Update(s):

- 2. Update from the Funding Assessment Subcommittee
 - a. Motion for Approval: Focus on two locations: O’Rielly Building and City Hall block remodel: Yay’s: 9, Nay’s: 0, Absent: 0
- 3. Update from the Community Needs Assessment Subcommittee
 - a. Recap of Stakeholder Interviews (ITEM 3 included with meeting agenda)
 - b. Motion for Approval: Formal interviews are completed: Yay’s: 9, Nay’s: 0, Absent: 0

New Business:

- 4. Suggested discussion point (ITEM 4, included with meeting agenda)
 - a. Consensus on Top Location
 - b. Feasibility Considerations for Top Location
- 5. Discussion of Restructuring of current Subcommittees or establishment of additional subcommittees (this is a standing agenda item and will only be discussed if new subcommittees are requested)

- c. Merger of Library and Assessment Subcommittee's.
6. Election of new Chair.

Community Engagement:

7. Discussion regarding public workshop or forum to gather broader community input.

Council Agenda Report:

8. Next report out at July 7 Council Meeting. Finalize report at June 9 meeting
 - a. Suggested focus: narrow down location recommendations, stakeholder interview results, and potential funding sources. Include financial/feasibility data, infrastructure requirements, and studies required for selected sites.

Subcommittee Composition:

9. Discussion of restructuring of current Subcommittees or establishment of additional subcommittees (this is a standing agenda item and will only be discussed if new subcommittees are requested)
10. Identify focus topics of newly created subcommittees (this is a standing agenda item and will only be discussed if new subcommittees are created)

Timelines/Milestones/Next Steps:

11. Subcommittee Schedule (ITEM 11, included with meeting agenda)
 - a. What is required to be accomplished at each of these future meetings

Future Meetings:

12. Next Meeting Date: June 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm
13. Meeting Agenda Items for June 9, 2026 (the committee process is to approve the agenda items for the next Committee meeting)
 - a. Discuss in future meetings the message the committee would like to deliver to council at the final September meeting.
 - b. Reminders will be sent two weeks (May 26) and one week (June 2) prior to the meeting, with one week prior being the deadline for subcommittee reports.

Request for Future Agenda items (this is an opportunity for members to make requests for topics/agenda items/information for next meeting)

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

- Councilmember Zollman adjourned the meeting at: 2:59 pm

INFORMATION ONLY

- A list of resources in the drop box for this Committee is attached ("ITEM 15. DROPBOX ITEMS included with meeting agenda") and can be found at the link below:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/jukixk5i0u6qc6m6aopqm/AGhv7odAoAxAg1fG9gtkrU4?rlkey=kh83eobwmz20x0q915zpmrlfk&st=1i2plhoj&dl=0>
- Brown Act: <https://www.cacities.org/uploadedfiles/leagueinternet/0d/Odd433d2-29c5-410c-af4f-418e247e7af3.pdf>
- Public Document Access: <https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/boards-commissions-committees/>

Submitted by: Elissa Overton, City Staff Member

ATTACHED:

Attachment A – AI transcription of meeting minutes

ATTACHMENT A

THE FOLLOWING DATA IS GENERATED BY AI AND CONTAINS INACCURATE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE. PLEASE LISTEN TO THE AUDIO RECORDING FOR CLARIFICATION AND FURTHER DETAILS.

The meeting focused on the Commons project, with the Funding Assessment Committee reporting on their analysis of potential locations for a new community center. The committee narrowed down options to two main choices: Option A being the O'Reilly building location and Option B being a rebuild of existing city properties on the current block. The committee discussed the pros and cons of each option, including timeline considerations, costs, and community needs. The Community Assessment Subcommittee then presented their findings from stakeholder interviews, highlighting enthusiasm for the project and identifying key needs such as pedestrian access, educational elements, and food distribution space. The group debated the value of conducting additional focus groups versus relying on existing committee members' knowledge of community needs. The discussion concluded with agreement that the Finance Committee would present detailed analyses of both A and B options at the July meeting, with the full committee making a final recommendation to City Council by September 15th.

Next steps

- Funding Assessment Subcommittee: Conduct a tour of the former O'Reilly location with Erica and Deb on Friday to assess its viability for the library as an anchor tenant.
- Funding Assessment Subcommittee: Based on the outcome of the Friday tour, communicate to staff whether the O'Reilly location is ruled in or out as a strong possibility.
- Funding Assessment Subcommittee: Develop and present a formal analysis of two viable options (Plan A: O'Reilly location, Plan B: Downtown block rebuild) to the full committee in July, including SWOT analysis, cost analysis, and scenario planning.
- Full Committee: Vote on the recommendation (Plan A or Plan B) at the July meeting, to inform the final report to City Council in September.
- Staff: Prepare and distribute a draft agenda for the June meeting, including a preliminary informational update for the quarterly report.
- Full Committee: Discuss and decide on a request to City Council in September regarding the future of the committee (continuation, purpose, etc.).
- Community Assessment Subcommittee: Shift focus from formal interviews to informal outreach and education, gathering community input on the Commons concept through conversations and existing channels (e.g., library, Senior Center).

Summary

Technical Recording Access Resolution Meeting

The meeting discussed technical issues with recording access, which was previously limited due to using a cheaper account. It was noted that a Public Works account is now available, which should resolve the recording limitations. There was also discussion about moving barbecues outside and keeping the restaurant area, with positive feedback from a group leader about this plan. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about document requirements and follow-up actions, including a plan to call back in 10 minutes to address additional questions.

Document Sharing and Implementation Plans

The meeting focused on document sharing and implementation plans. Fred initially lacked access to some documents but received them after Sebastopol forwarded the necessary links. The discussion touched on an implementation plan related to stormwater and traffic, with Pauline having made revisions and awaiting comments from the Water Board. There was uncertainty about whether additional changes would be submitted, as the previous iteration was already sent for review.

Library Location Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on library planning and location discussions. The funding assessments committee reported that the Rite Aid building is not available as it's under contract, though they conducted due diligence by exploring this option. The committee is planning a tour of the former O'Reilly location for Erica and Deb from the library to assess its suitability, with plans to report back within a couple of weeks. The group also discussed the need for electing new committee chairs, though this item may be deferred to the next meeting if time runs short.

Library Building and Funding Options

Fred discussed the library's position on building payments and the potential for a community space funded through grants. He noted that the library's approach is fragmented and suggested improving communication with commissioners. Phil explained that the team is evaluating a rebuild option for the current site versus using the O'Reilly building, conducting financial analysis and exploring different funding models including sale-lease-back alternatives. The discussion clarified that they are considering the entire block from Senior Center to Bodega and from Edmont to North High, with potential for 3-4 story construction including housing.

City Facility Consolidation Locations

The committee discussed potential locations for consolidating city facilities, including the library, senior center, and community center. They explored options in both the current civic center area and a potential new location near the Arts Center and Ives Park. Fred mentioned previous architectural studies on the civic center area and underground parking possibilities. The group agreed to focus on developing two specific scenarios for further evaluation rather than exploring all possibilities simultaneously.

Library and Senior Center Expansion

The group discussed plans for a potential library and senior center expansion, with Fred suggesting the creation of a visual sketch to help conceptualize the project before involving architects. Sebastopol explained that the team is currently gathering detailed information about space needs and layout requirements to present to the City Council for funding and conceptual drawings. Naomi shared insights from previous discussions about library expansion options, including the feasibility of underground parking and potential connections to a senior center, noting that certain proposals were ruled out due to high costs. The conversation also touched on the challenges of relocating city functions and the potential for property swaps or shared spaces between the city and proposed facilities.

Community Center Reconstruction Options

The Finance Committee discussed the feasibility of rebuilding the community center in its current location versus relocating to the O'Reilly building. Sebastopol expressed concerns about the timeline, suggesting a complete rebuild could take 10 years, while others emphasized the urgent need to address issues at the senior center and community center. The committee agreed to develop two options for community consideration: a complete teardown and rebuild at the current site, and relocation to the O'Reilly building. They plan to finalize their assessment of the library's viability as an anchor tenant by Friday before presenting their recommendations to the full committee for a vote.

Commons Project Master Plan Discussion

The committee discussed developing a master plan for the commons project, with Fred advocating for a comprehensive approach that would tie together different elements thematically while acknowledging the tension between immediate project needs and long-term planning. Sebastopol clarified that while a master plan would be valuable, the current committee's scope is focused on specific site options rather than a city-wide plan. The group reached alignment on moving forward with options A and B, with option A focusing on the O'Reilly building and option B representing a downtown site concept that could be modified to other locations if needed. Fred also raised the possibility of using the O'Reilly building to accommodate another organization's headquarters needs, which could provide additional funding opportunities.

Site Selection Committee Meeting

The committee discussed narrowing down two site options for a project: Option A being O'Reilly and Option B being a city-owned block where the library and city hall are located. The Finance Committee will present both options with pros and cons to the full committee in July, who will then vote on a recommendation to bring to the City Council in September. Regarding the Community Assessment Subcommittee's work, the chair reported enthusiasm for the commons idea, noting that pedestrian, bike, and public transit access were critical factors, along with potential educational elements and food distribution. Some challenges were identified in reaching certain stakeholders for interviews, and there was discussion about the need to better represent end users of services rather than just community leaders and administrators.

Community Commons Project Progress

The committee discussed the progress and next steps for their community commons project. Fred acknowledged that Mary Lou and Sarah had been leading most of the interviews, while his time was focused on library budget and bylaws work. The group debated the value of conducting additional focus groups, with some members expressing skepticism about their effectiveness given low participation rates in previous attempts. The committee agreed to move away from formal focus groups and instead focus on educational outreach and informal conversations with community members to gather feedback. They decided to continue gathering input through casual discussions at community locations like the library and senior center, with staff taking the lead on creating discussion points for future meetings. The group also agreed to prepare a request for t

NOTE: There appears to be a 15 minute delay in the AI minutes.

13:15:30 A good bit. We are leaning on a rebuild here as RV because we've rethought

13:15:39 the Moore Street area, we've rethought the Calder Creek area, and some other properties, and we come back to the only viable alternative to O'Reilly would be a rebuild here

13:15:50 And we're kind of, kinda trying to feel out the worthiness of doing a very good

13:15:59 AV analysis of a rebuild here versus an O'Reilly situation. And, during this time, while we get your feedback on that

13:16:11 We're also doing quite a bit to build what

13:16:17 What the financial stack looks like at O'Reilly and who the participants could be as far as

13:16:25 financial, participants, because we would have non-profit contents, you know, or lessors, or something like that. We're also trying to really look at

13:16:36 different examples of sale, lease buyback

13:16:40 alternative ways of who manages this? What does this look like, you know, and really trying to flesh it out in some really in some ways that you know

13:16:53 Our, like, scenario planning

13:16:55 And, I think that that will be beneficial and foremost on how we eventually raise money.

13:17:04 Is that reasonable?

13:17:06 Does anyone have any questions about that part

13:17:10 Ready?

13:17:12 When you say this side

13:17:14 I'm just checking if we understand the parameters of this. So you're looking at the senior center all the way to Bodega and from Edmond to North High

13:17:24 Correct. So, when I say this area

13:17:29 It may have

13:17:32 Two angles. There are really two possibilities. There's the possibility of the library taking over the city hall building and becoming split as an old building. But then, you know City Hall has to do something

13:17:48 The parking situation needs to get better, but then there's also what do we... that does not help the senior center at all, and does not help the community center at all.

13:17:58 So, we have to really consider what our neighbors feel about us building up and rethinking this entire block. And I think that as a financial, you know, as the funding committee goes, we feel like it's more probable to have a better

13:18:15 Vision than

13:18:18 Then a smaller reading

13:18:21 Does that make sense. So, to answer your question, yes. We're thinking about the whole

13:18:26 Block. Okay, that's a switch, if I can continue. That seems to be a switch, because before you were saying

13:18:34 Remodeling interiors was better than complete new construction. Of this

13:18:39 is when you look at this site, are you looking at new construction? Because there's a potential here for 3 to 4 stories of housing is included.

13:18:47 And that's what I'm saying, but rebuilding here. So you're talking about tear down, rebuild.

13:18:53 Correct. I feel like that's the angle that we met the most feasible. It's the most visionary. It's the most long term. However.

13:19:05 You know, because

13:19:08 Yeah, I just wanted to

13:19:12 We want it for our own sanity, really concentrate on doing two very different ideas, so that when we present to city council and go, well, you know we like that direction, or we like that direction, or we like that, or we like that

13:19:27 And so, variety clear is one move the civic Center to the north end of town

13:19:34 use an existing structure, be up and running in 2027, right? That's one alternative. But where this all started, going back to Lantern was these buildings need help. Do we make them bigger? Do we put a new building next to senior center

13:19:50 Put a bridge between the two or lose City Hall? So there's something about existing city properties and reworking the space, which

13:20:00 It wasn't on our original list, but we know there's been work done and then we are next going to

13:20:08 Look at that and what I would make. So not a decision made as to tear down, rebuild, but using these existing city properties. What would something look like downtown?

13:20:18 Versus north end of town. So Civic Center stays, center Satur goes. What happens? We just want to be able to narrow down those two places which we're going to spend our time on

13:20:31 But I can summarize the process and how we got there. That helps too. And that's just essentially, again, the due diligence process of ensuring that we're planning

13:20:41 O'Reilly has these features and these drawbacks. Being here has these features and these drawbacks. What would it cost to make either of them work and make them viable? That's just it. Like, really kind of just looking at the convenience of what we already know, being downtown in this location, what would it cost to make this

13:20:58 What it needs to be to satisfy the library's needs, city hall's needs, senior center's needs, community centers needs and parking needs and congestion in town. It's possible. I mean, anything's possible with enough money, but we have to figure out what that price tag is going to be and how it could be funded.

13:21:12 That's literally how we got there. I know it wasn't necessarily on our list, but it also wasn't off our list, because we're doing our due diligence to examine any possibility that helps the city at the long run. And if we get to it and we go, actually, this is really viable, and we have someone who's going to donate, and these things are possible, then we'll... we'll present it that way. But if we get down to it and we go, really.

13:21:30 This price takes about \$ 50 million. It's untenable. Like, you can't consider it, we'll move it out. So we're just sharing in advance right now what we're ruling in and out

13:21:38 in order to do the next step, which is really putting together a package of what it would cost to do it, and then we'll present it as a committee. Does that summarize correctly for our team what we were okay

13:21:50 I have another comment

13:21:51 Sure, go for it. If I could just challenge you to expand your thinking when you consider the big needs between possibly City Hall, the senior center and the community center. There's also the city owned parking lot directly across from the art center

13:22:08 And Ives Park, which is itself could be, like, the other part of the hub two blocks away. Yes. Let's see one and a half blocks away.

13:22:18 So as you know, I called that the Calder Creek corridor, and there's either the

13:22:27 Middle of the I'm going to call it the island in between the two one-way couplets right now. But then the other side is exactly what you said. It's about 3 million for the Taqueria, the big already that's there now, and then we have that parking lot

13:22:44 I walked it out, and I was trying to figure out if this would be enough space to house all three together.

13:22:51 I'm sorry, I was just talking about adding that space as an option for one of the big three. If everything doesn't fit here or height becomes a problem because of neighbor opposition, which I've already heard. So two places like splitting and saying, okay, so like if the library wanted to

13:23:08 We just reused this building and the senior center can be rebuilt down there. I mean, is that way you're trying to commute again? Something like that. In a community center because they share the stage with the Center for the Arts, performance hall. You see we're working on that kind of collaboration. They have outdoor events in Ice Park

13:23:27 Right, so I I I do want you to know like in the initial, before I give the the initial presentation through our group, I we discussed trying to reuse the the

13:23:39 The VAT building? Is that what it's called? Where the Art Center is now, in the parking lot across the street, which really isn't that big

13:23:48 And seeing if that made sense. And the

13:23:53 It seemed rather onerous to go through all the processes to actually use that piece of property. Everything can be done, so it's not that big of a deal

13:24:02 But we... I did go through the thought experiment trying to figure out if these things would fit down there, but we can

13:24:12 Dude, we can... we can... I would like to get it down to one or the other, you know, so, like, maybe you guys could help us think through, would you rather us focus on down there and try to figure out how to parse these out, or a rebuild here?

13:24:27 More than happy to explore this. But with your input.

13:24:35 Bill's point, all things are possible. That's kind of why we look for our sandy. We're trying to get it down to two things we can really flesh out as possibilities.

13:24:45 By mindful of what our commission was here. And it was about the commons

13:24:50 I know for the senior center, we've gone through all kinds of scenarios of where we would go if there wasn't a comment

13:24:57 And where we would go and rebuild, and where we would go and expand. And as a one-shot deal

13:25:04 I'm here because I like that people live literally next door

13:25:09 literally going to the same coffee shop, literally walking out their door and seeing a friend in the next organization, and I'm excited about those

13:25:17 synergies are those, you know people working together. So

13:25:23 We could do anything. We could touch on anything, but I sort of think that our mission, what we've been charged with

13:25:30 is to find a column for things that matter somewhere.

13:25:33 And that's sort of a gating factor, I don't know if that fits within that or not.

13:25:38 I mean, I understand that way of looking at it, but I don't think two blocks is a big physical barrier when you consider how that

13:25:46 embraces the Center for the Arts, which is the other big draw. For sure.

13:25:51 And doesn't need space, so they aren't part of this committee. I mean it's just more exactly themselves literally yes but is that fine with us? That's my whole point. Right. I mean, we can explore that if that's if that's more reasonable than I or just

13:26:11 Because it's a lot more, you know, I kind of like to pick one

13:26:15 I got a... I got a Bryce had his hand up, and Naomi. Yeah.

13:26:18 Sure, a couple of things, um...

13:26:21 Uh, in terms of the, um...

13:26:24 area around Civic Center. I know that Lantern...

13:26:27 did a, uh, had an architect do...

13:26:31 some work on writing up a plan and looking at that area.

13:26:37 as to the feasibility of building up

13:26:41 And, um, and or using that area in terms of whether it could handle the

13:26:49 The physical structure, not...

13:26:50 Also with, um, that study, as I understand it,

13:26:56 Uh, there is some discussion about underground parking.

13:26:59 And, um, I think that that would be

13:27:03 Also, it's something to put into the mix if it...

13:27:06 If it wasn't, because that would be an important

13:27:09 thing not only to the facilities that were used in the Commons, but to the...

13:27:15 you know, public that uses the, uh...

13:27:19 shopping center downtown, the shopping area downtown.

13:27:22 Uh, in terms of having that parking access.

13:27:26 Um...

13:27:28 Also, the library has done, uh, as of

13:27:32 2023, they haven't done a new one, but the architect...

13:27:36 that looked at the, um...

13:27:39 developing the master plan for the library, also did a review

13:27:44 pretty thorough review of the Sebastian's pool.

13:27:48 Uh, branch, um, and what it would take to either,

13:27:53 relocate it, uh, rebuild it.

13:27:57 or, uh, move it someplace else.

13:28:00 And I think that would be a helpful...

13:28:04 document to review in connection with the...

13:28:07 The feasibility planning that we're talking about here.

13:28:11 I'm wondering, in terms of down the line,

13:28:14 Um, whether it might be a time to get somebody in,

13:28:20 who could do a conceptual design.

13:28:23 for what we're talking about, to kind of, you know, not go out and do a full-scale modeling,

13:28:29 But as an architect, sketch out what

13:28:32 what it might look like, and what that space might be, so that there's a visual that if we're doing a presentation,

13:28:39 in the future to the City Council. We have

13:28:43 some visual that they could look at.

13:28:45 Um, as well, so that's... that's all I wanted to say.

13:28:51 Can I respond to that last part? I I agree that it would be great to have a visual. That's going to be very expensive, and I'd like to make sure that we have settled on the the location, and because right now what we're doing is building up to get all of that information, Fred, that we would give to that architect to make a plan, which is.

13:29:15 Yeah, go ahead.

13:29:21 Gotcha.

13:29:25 Yeah.

13:29:10 Who's going to be involved, what are the square footage needs, what's the kitchen needs, what's the layout needs? What's the space? We're gathering all that right now, and narrowing it down to the AB is then what we would take to the city council to ask for funding to take to an architect to get conceptual drawings. So I think we're on the same page, but that's a later step in my.

13:29:29 Okay. Yeah.

13:29:28 Barstick is... that would be down the line, from what I'm thinking about. What I'm thinking about right now is the same thing if you went to a park and there's an artist that was there, and you asked them to do a sketch.

13:29:40 Um, having somebody who's got those skills could sketch out

13:29:45 Um, pretty quickly, without having to get into all the fine details,

13:29:50 What we're talking about might look like.

13:29:53 And to have a sketch,

13:29:56 of the models that we're talking about and the feasibility

13:30:00 discussions would be helpful, I think, for people to... just to think about

13:30:06 not only a concept, and...

13:30:08 going through listening to our words, and maybe reading the documents, but have a picture of what

13:30:14 what we're talking about. And that... that's not as detailed as an architect going in and doing a

13:30:20 a plan. That's literally a...

13:30:22 getting somebody who does architectural drawing to do a...

13:30:25 A sketch.

13:30:27 Got it, okay, Naomi. I wanted to just touch on something that Fred mentioned. There was conversation back. We had this former ledger committee talking about using the size of the specful library. We did have an architect do an assessment and drop.

13:30:44 potential, like, sketched plans for doubling the size by simply building a second store.

13:30:51 Um, which was considered meeting just the bare minimum desired.

13:30:56 for expansion, not not getting a lot of accessory for anything. And part of that discussion included whether or not we could put the parking area underground and have a connection to a future.

13:31:12 senior center, which is how the senior center sort of got wrapped into all this early on. I think Sarah also was part of those conversations. Um, but the cost of putting a parking facility underground is so very... large, that it was determined that it was really not feasible, because this city and all of the, you know, potential areas of financing just could not possibly meet what would be needed to create that. So we did eliminate that as an option. We did talk.

13:31:43 informally about, like, housing or other, you know, going up and how challenging that would be with approval, etc. But I just wanted to mention that, as Fred said, we had talked about it, but the after we talked more with the architect, it seemed like absolutely not possible.

13:31:59 option. Yeah, I was on the Lantern board for a number of years, with Naomi, who's the chair, and I vividly remember all the analysis that went through all that, so I completely agree with her assessment, Meredith. Just getting back to other spaces is the.

13:32:15 Center for the Arts, city-owned land? It's county, isn't it? So that would be difficult, since they have no interest. Yeah, that would make that piece really difficult.

13:32:28 Unless the county just decided to be cooperative. I don't mean cooperative, but... Yeah. Good work. Um... And then, I guess the other question I had is when when we're looking at if plan B is built is teardown and build up.

13:32:55 It seems like the neighborhood issue is going to be phenomenally hard.

13:33:02 Yeah. And I think you spot where you finished now, because you finish your thought and then we're going to jump in and respond. I think that's a really good point, and I'm really grateful that you're bringing it up, because that's one of the things that we're considering in this SWOT analysis, is all the pros and cons, what are the strengths, what are the weaknesses? What are the opportunities? What are the threats?

13:33:20 That would come for doing either one of these projects, and as we're ruling in or out locations, this is exactly the type of thing that we like to consider. So I'm really grateful that you mentioned that.

13:33:31 Wait, anything else from the committee? Of course, people are looking... keep doing questions. Sarah? Is it okay to do questions? Kent mentioned that an intent was to move the Civic Center.

13:33:45 City center, I think you said, to the north end of town. I'll just say, those are words I have never used in any interview with anybody I'll contact.

13:33:54 Just so you're aware, and so let me just ask a follow-up question. I am not aware of... the city government itself, with its need for more space, interested in relocating up there. Is the city potentially.

13:34:09 more than an owner-partner, as in a tenant partner as well. And you don't need to answer that right now, but it's something that hasn't been discussed here, as far as I'm aware.

13:34:20 Like, moving City Hall up there. Moving city offices out there. I could have misunderstood your intent, but I think... That idea would have.

13:34:32 made the interviews really different. I think either one. I saw just since it was my language vehicle. I'm sorry. Okay. All right. I use it, uh... Because I have not been involved in government before. I probably use the word civic in a rather loose term. Okay. And so since I think of library and senior center here and the community center has civic functions. Okay. So if we relocated.

13:35:03 Maybe the city hall may... This isn't gonna last forever, so if we get an opportunity, it's not decided, but to have those civic kind of functions as opposed to commercial functions in this downtown. I was using a Civic versus commercial, and then nothing further than south. Okay.

13:35:21 Jasper. No, don't worry about it, I think it's good to be really clear, and I think it's been helpful because I think there is a question to the city itself. If the city is going to invest in the property up north in O'Reilly, does the city all want to move up there? Because the city needs space, too. But if the library is moving there, is this space useful to City Hall?

13:35:40 These are all the follow on questions that I think you all are good. We are thinking through these. So just be sure that, uh.

13:35:50 As a city council person in the back of my mind is a little bit of our budget and what we're capable of, you know, as a person on the on the budget committee. And the thought about, you know, is there the potential to property swap, sell properties? I think you've you've explored this.

13:36:09 using some properties that were paying for other properties, these kinds of things, and what makes sense. Then there's also the transportation issue that I look at as a council person, and, you know, we have, uh, you know, quite a steady stream of cars, so we've recently looked at the one-way couple, it's a two-way roads issue.

13:36:28 And and then also the center of town is a considerable revenue generator, and that non-revenue generating space in a revenue-generating potentially space, how does that look? You know, is the governor... is the government center up there? I mean, these... when I when I've tested, I... it may not encompass every single font that we've all... like, we've... we've sat in meetings where we've gone around and around, and some of that may not have been communicated to.

13:37:01 You guys threw a formal presentation, but we've gone through a lot of different thought processes.

13:37:08 I saw your hand back a while ago. Oh, well, I was gonna say the exact same thing that anybody said, so maybe.

13:37:16 Good. Yeah, because having done some of the interviews and talked with people.

13:37:24 I'm still backing up to the thought where... Do can this project be completed in the next... 3 or 4 years, or is it gonna take 10 years down the line, and what is the most practical.

13:37:43 Um, what is the most practical route to take? I mean, when I think of... taking this whole block and making it into some wonderful thing that houses... everything we wanted to house. Sure. Um, and I've listened to people say, oh, yeah, it would be great if we could just walk walk to it, or you know, just drop off. But.

13:38:10 Then there's that. Okay, it's not so great because people are going to have to live with... the construction could they take to yeah I actually think it's probably more like 10 in terms of that. And that's the truth. The construct here, I genuinely think, and this is why we're examining all the pros and cons of it. Yeah. Like, looking at what it would take.

13:38:32 to temporarily rehome the senior center, um, the library, and the city operations while we raise this and while we build it and get plans and get through commissions and permits, and then building, I genuinely think it would be 10 years before we'd be able to move. And that's part of the strengths and weaknesses.

13:38:49 Yeah, that's part of that. And I agree. I mean, I wouldn't doubt that, of course, the other practical side of me is like, gee, I wish we could fix some of this stuff now, so that the senior center is better off than the community center is better off.

13:39:06 It just seems we're all working on it, let's... Yeah. So that... I'm gonna jump in on my thoughts, because in addition to facilitating, I am a member, so I'm going to reach out to my own thoughts. And yes, I'm exhausted by the process. I don't know when my partner and I moved here, but shortly after I became a library commissioner.

13:39:25 got on a lantern, spent years with Naomi, locked in this room, thinking about the same issues, thinking about whether the library is going to chip in, whether the library's not going to chip in, what business model we're going to end up getting, how fast can we do anything? And it resulted in the architectural report that said this was.

13:39:43 need to be a teardown. You cannot go up physically. Then we talked about the parking lot, and how expensive it would be. I'm exhausted by the whole process, I have to tell you. So for me getting to like what could happen in 2026, along with the business stuff, because in prior meetings I heard that it does seem like money's available.

13:40:03 to get us up to O'Reilly to start meeting the needs that I, as an elected, feel like, you know, that's why you got elected, is to meet the community needs. The community center long standing as needs the next slide. It's going to be horrible, having sat on the ad hoc, and this is not breaching.

13:40:20 any confidentiality, because it's all out there now, or anyone in the community center, right? The next squad is going to be horrific. The senior center. I've heard loud and clear that they need some fix, and they need it now. They don't need it 10 years from now. They need it, like, tomorrow.

13:40:36 And also, the health, the face of our health. No physical location for them. So for me, if we're going to do a straw vote soon, which I would encourage us so we can start really getting into questions to meet our timeline as identified at the very beginning, I would really like us to do a strong vote sooner rather than later.

13:40:55 On option A, which I'm assuming you are saying is doing something with this area, or it's the O'Reilly, or whatever. Option A and option B refer to is either our lay or doing something here. Is that what we're at? You don't have to do a V if you want to draw.

13:41:11 Immediately, but, uh... I was leaning that way to make sure that we did the thing that we need to do. Thank you for helping to summarize for me. So yes, it's definitely moving forward with the Riley. I cannot just continue sitting through discussions talking about what year we're going to do, whatever, and when magical money is going to happen.

13:41:29 It's just not going to happen, and I'd rather have something happen before I die. So there you go. I like to say, in my lifetime. So, I understand your frustration with process, because I was involved for probably 5 or more years. I don't know how long, Mary, with the Pine Grove Square concept, which actually would have helped.

13:41:50 70 affordable units on the hot parking lot of Burnett Street.

13:41:55 and penciled out with a profit of over a million dollars way back then. And that was all just defeated because people wanted parking. So I think in this measure of opposition.

13:42:06 Or any idea is really key, and I would suggest to you one factor you've not thought of, potentially, because I've heard you say it, and that is a lawsuit.

13:42:15 wherever we choose to go. This is so big, it is potentially going to.

13:42:21 encourage a lawsuit. Having lived through 2 of those as a city council member. I think that's just likely because we're a contrarian community.

13:42:30 Also, I think it's really important to give two options and stick with that idea. They're going to do the work. You just get to listen to it and if you do all this in the time you have, no, please let me finish your thoughts first. They kind of jump in because it's very disruptive in the process. And I currently am in charge of the process.

13:42:49 So please finish. I understand, and that's part of my... before I get the information, I'm trying to catch up. Please slow down. Thanks. And I would appreciate not having that type of tenor directed towards me, who is currently the chair.

13:43:04 I am trying my best to facilitate the working group along with other concerns. So again, the tenor would actually be a good thing to check.

13:43:14 From my perspective. Go ahead, Sarah. So I would encourage you and all of us to keep two options. For this reason, you give one and one only. Whatever we say is one and one only will be a controversy because that's the nature of our community. So you give them two.

13:43:31 So you have this draw man idea over here, saying, oh, oh, we don't like that one, we like this one. It's just a strategy, and I think it's also important because we're offering that tension between.

13:43:44 sooner rather than later, short, shorter term solutions. that meet the needs, where the shorter term is going to be the final project, rather than the big vision.

13:43:55 And the big vision is something we also need to get our minds into. So I think having 2 options is... Very preferable. If you set it up so people come in, I like that one better than that one, instead of, no, nothing. Because if you do one, you're going to get a, no, we don't want to do that.

13:44:14 We don't like that, whatever it is. I'm hearing like a finish, and then I'll... Okay, there's a lag time, it's gonna take me a second to get this, I apologize if there's a tenant director that one person you happen to be facilitating, so that's the only place I can put it.

13:44:28 Thank you for the patience. I'm trying to catch up everybody. There's a lag. It's not immediate. It's not intentional. I'm not trying to be rude. And I apologize, Sarah.

13:44:37 I want to respond to your point and to say that I completely agree with everything you're saying, which is exactly why we're trying to develop a really good, viable pro and con list of 2 different viable options. And if... We look at this one as your... this area here as a rebuild, and if the pros of it that it could be perfect, and it could be everything we want. But the con of it is it's going to be 10 years, and then it's going to be, you know, not in your lifetime, and it...

13:45:01 then... then that's where we really put in the energy of saying, that's not what we want. But we... so I completely agree. We actually talked about this at length today before coming here, about whether we should just drill into the one that we sort of really started to feel that there's so much viability to.

13:45:15 But the truth is, we want to give you the electives. We want to show the work enough for you that if the issue gets raised and a lawsuit starts going, why are you doing this? We can say, well, we've... this is our legwork, this is our homework. We've ruled this out, we've ruled this out, we've ruled this out. This would take 10 years, this would take \$40 million, this would cost, et cetera, et cetera.

13:45:34 I so in summary for our report, I mean, I and I see, Fred, I think you have a question maybe for finance. But in summary for the finance committee's report, what we're getting to is.

13:45:44 We are going to move forward with developing a planning and plan B, and we're leaning toward our Plan B being this complete teardown rebuild, but we do want to turn it over to the rest of the community if you have any alternate options. You did mention down there, we sort of ruled it out already.

13:46:00 Without any other... viable options. Those are the two that we want to pursue in terms of putting together a formal pitch to this committee, so that we can then.

13:46:11 for which direction we want to move toward, toward making a recommendation to the city council.

13:46:16 So that is our report today. And you're right on both of you. Actually, all three, all four of you.

13:46:21 from the other committee, you're right on track with the things that we're seeing as potential hiccups for working here, and you're really helping us rule in even more the idea of moving to the O'Reilly building. So the action items that we have as the Finance Committee is that this Friday we're going to do our last.

13:46:37 Real check to see the viability for the library's proofing as one of the anchor tenants, and at that point, if they're in, we will build our pitch to this committee to have either spend whatever money it's going to cost, and whatever time it's going to cost to move here.

13:46:52 and do a rebuild, or spend whatever time and cost it's going to take to move there, and we'll start working toward one of those two for us to vote on as an entire body. And that is... I believe the completion of our report.

13:47:04 As I was trying to get to. Thank you.

13:47:09 Yes, um, I'd like to just talk about a little bit about the concept of

13:47:17 a master plan.

13:47:19 Um, which... that incorporates all the stuff that we've been talking about here.

13:47:25 Uh, in terms of each of the different...

13:47:29 units of the... of the commons,

13:47:32 having, uh, some of them having

13:47:35 timelines, like the Senior Center, wanting to do it.

13:47:38 Sooner, others wanted to do it later.

13:47:41 that what we could... one concept of...

13:47:45 could be presented. That's an architectural concept that's pretty much an acceptable approach.

13:47:51 is to come up with a master plan and say, hey,

13:47:54 Here's what we're doing. We're developing a master plan

13:47:58 for a commons.

13:48:01 Um, not all of it's going to be done overnight.

13:48:05 We're going to be doing parts, but there's gonna... they're gonna have common elements.

13:48:11 Which is the important thing. Like, let's... how do you tie together

13:48:16 the Arts Center and the...

13:48:17 Uh, let's say the Calder Creek property and something else. Well, you do it thematically, you know, you have

13:48:25 Like, a certain architectural style,

13:48:27 You have a certain type of, um...

13:48:31 environment that you create to make it a part of a whole,

13:48:35 And then the other thing could sit in and do its thing, but it's still part of a master plan.

13:48:40 plan, and...

13:48:43 having worked a couple times in my life on this stuff, it's not easy, uh, because everybody, as we are doing here, everybody wants to move their project along,

13:48:54 But what a master plan does is it gives everybody a common goal.

13:48:59 of where we're going with this.

13:49:01 And, uh, what kinds of things could we share in our planning? What kinds of things could we have in common?

13:49:08 Um, they're like, aren't really do. Another example is landscaping. What could we do with landscaping that might tie

13:49:16 All of this together. And...

13:49:18 I... I think that that's...

13:49:23 The tension, I feel, that might be going on in the group.

13:49:27 Um, at times, is that there are people that have a need that want to have that fulfillment.

13:49:32 filled as quickly as they could, which makes total sense, and is totally understandable.

13:49:37 And then there's the, uh...

13:49:40 you know, people that maybe like me, that's looking at a bigger picture, saying,

13:49:46 How's this fit in to the whole?

13:49:48 How does this fit into what we're talking about?

13:49:52 as a vision of where Sebastopol

13:49:56 Where community services might be in 10 years or so.

13:50:00 Um, um, I had the fortune to do that at UC Irvine when they started there.

13:50:06 And then when I was at Sonoma State,

13:50:09 Um, I worked on some of that stuff then, and it's a hard thing to do, because you're always balancing the present

13:50:18 As opposed to how's it going to impact the future. But I think that's what...

13:50:23 I feel that's what we want to sell.

13:50:26 to the community and to the council, that they're not just getting a library building, they're not just getting

13:50:33 an arts center, they're not just getting a senior center. They're... they're...

13:50:38 they're getting a...

13:50:40 something that's going to serve the community for the future as part of a plan.

13:50:46 That's got some thinking behind it, some planning behind it.

13:50:50 Um, and...

13:50:52 I think our interests at all could be satisfied with... in that kind of a concept, because that's what it's designed to do.

13:51:00 And then you update the plan every once in a while.

13:51:02 Uh, down, down the road as things change, but...

13:51:06 Um...

13:51:07 I think all the work the Finance Committee is really valuable.

13:51:12 Uh, an important that you guys have done that, but I think that in terms of my view of things, is to come up with an

13:51:22 a higher plan that would work... all of us are working towards.

13:51:26 About what we're trying to do, why we're doing it.

13:51:30 And then sell that, um, and I think that would be, uh...

13:51:36 a thing that might get us more options as far as applying for grants.

13:51:40 in projects and other sources of funding, other than just

13:51:45 Relying on the taxpayers, and...

13:51:47 And, uh, the libraries and doing, uh,

13:51:51 stuff through the foundation, so...

13:51:53 That's...

13:51:55 Thank you, Fred. Mary Lou, I saw your hand and then filled. Yeah, I have a couple

13:52:02 I was wondering, Frank, you know.

13:52:04 I don't disagree. I think a master plan would be wonderful, but I don't believe that that is what this committee has been addressed to do by the City Council

13:52:14 And that kind of thing, unfortunately, or fortunately, I see as a city council thing

13:52:22 The master plan for this city isn't what we were given to do. I agree it would be wonderful. It's like the vision of what this commons would be would be wonderful. But if it's going to take 10 years down the line

13:52:38 Then I personally don't want to be involved in master for the city, truthfully. Just

13:52:47 I just want to get back to the A and B. I really support A and B, because I really think there's going to be a lot of pushback, and it will be much easier to sell what we might think it is when you have it down on paper, how much it will cost here, and what it would cost there

13:53:07 And Jee, wouldn't it be nice to have that and having that decision always helps. Having the ability to give somebody decision always helps your fears

13:53:22 Fred that we are systems thinking, and we're taking 30 years out in that encompasses a sense of master plan. So when we look at a building like O'Reilly, it's not mutually exclusive from

13:53:37 the vision that we all might have. It just might be pre-built. and we might it might already exist, and we don't want to eliminate, you know the fact that something exists, but it may not be architecturally drawn

13:53:50 In our style or a dreamy vision, because I went through this thought exercise with something happening, like, kind of over a Calder Creek.

13:53:58 Where it kind of did, you know, have all of these master plan situations, which include how the traffic flows through the county, where you know the larger portions of the population might grow in the county who might use it and who might fund it

13:54:16 So, and just to relay your fears, we are banking systems, master plan, long term

13:54:23 Okay?

13:54:24 And short term. I mean, not visually because I'm hearing AB, but I saw your hand all right

13:54:33 Would it help part of our AB plan that we plan to put together, again, to alleviate tension or fears, is we do plan to speak about all the

13:54:43 Strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities that come with either the site, including improving traffic patterns or improving infrastructure or improving bus routes or negatively impacting any of those things, same thing. So when we look at what we're gonna

13:55:00 When we look at what we're going to bring to this committee to vote on, it's going to include our analysis of the potential strengths and weaknesses and opportunities that come with it, including all of those things that you're talking about

13:55:13 So that we can make a decision that is

13:55:18 holistically impactful for the benefit of the city and the residents and the visitors who come here. So, absolutely part of it. If you look back at our initial small analysis, we did mention things like walkability, distance, improving the

13:55:34 the commercial viability of a certain section of town, so it's definitely taking all of those things into consideration. And I'm really excited about it, actually, because I'm glad to find, through this conversation, how much we're actually on the same page

13:55:48 In terms of what our goals are, so we'll definitely do that in our next report.

13:55:55 Great. So, I thought the whole idea of just narrowing it down. It definitely seems like AB is something I in favor of AB, because being presented just even with staff reports, just with one option, I'm immediately like, no, like, I need to see more than one option. I need to see the analysis and the thinking through it. So I'm 100% on the AB

13:56:15 So are we all in agreement that the AB would be one of the A or the B would be this thing, whatever this block? Is that what is that the option you guys work on either

13:56:31 Okay, put on for an hour. Is that what you were thinking, Marilyn? Yeah, that is definitely what I was thinking, and I just want to add, what that does for this group and for this committee in... into City Council and people who might be looking is it shows

13:56:48 There has been definite

13:56:52 work, real work done to come up. It is just not a flash in the pan, because you guys have done a phenomenal job in this... in terms of what you're doing, and I think

13:57:03 The committee needs to take

13:57:06 credit for that, and that can happen through how the different things are presented.

13:57:14 I'm in favor of having either the A or B be this block, not down there by the creek, because for me, even though the community has sort of expressed, like, what can we do? Mary Lou, I think you identified in the fact that the senior center has decided not

13:57:31 To one to join in this mix, and I think that they are not the senior center, the Center for the Arts decided not to do that. That's going to be a huge impediment working with Linda and the county to try to do anything to touch that building. So for me, that's an out. So I would

13:57:46 I want to do a strawful to do is this block either the A and then the B O'Reilly? Is that where we're all thinking, Sarah? No. No, yes, that's how we're all thinking, but I think perhaps some people have misunderstood my suggestion in expanding this block

13:58:03 I was only talking about the South Park High parking lot. I wasn't talking about doing anything at the vet's odd, anything, anything, nothing at the Taqueria. It's just

13:58:13 Brownfield. Well, I was... It's okay. Between the taqueria and, the street, between High Street, Main Street. Is that what I understand that? Even though we don't own that section, the one little parking lot is too small

13:58:28 But I was just kind of wondering

13:58:32 I was only talking about the parking lot, and I have different architectural analysis that would be adequate.

13:58:39 Or some kind of building, a potentially 3 stories, including parking

13:58:44 For one place, or something. But

13:58:49 That's just, I think, for your committee to take offline, not at this meeting, because if you find value in it in your subcommittee conversations, you can come back to us. Otherwise, I think Steven and the rest of us want to get on to let's decide because our committee has an hour

13:59:04 To report, plus all the other business agenda, which I'd like to get to our future for a better time on the future. There we go. So I'm reading that, but Ken, I saw your hand, and Naomi also saw maybe your... no, just abstraction. A, B, let's call A, the Riley

13:59:21 A fairly defined

13:59:23 Concept, okay. Our choice in choosing B to be here, it represented a downtown site. and if it turns out we'd rather do it in the creek, or I'd rather do it somewhere else in the downtown commercial area.

13:59:38 It's something that we could use as a straw man. You know, it describes what a downtown site looks like the cost structure, the rebuild structures. And if it's swapped on a different piece of property

13:59:52 Those are pretty easy to swap out, but it gave us a good contrast to what a downtown rebuild versus

13:59:59 North of town, existing. And then it's naiveable, and you can always adjust it slightly if something else comes up. But giving

14:00:07 the Council of good

14:00:10 This or this? No. You want this plus that part, or this plus that part. But this really flushes out all the arguments. Yeah, got it.

14:00:19 Yeah, um, just a real quick thing for the people that are doing the walkthrough with Erica.

14:00:24 Uh, if you can, you might want to think about, before this happens, and then while it's going on,

14:00:30 about the concept that they are looking for a new headquarters building.

14:00:36 And they're thinking of, of...

14:00:39 getting a space, um, in Petaluma

14:00:44 Um, that is in a high-impact floods...

14:00:48 flood area. Um, and I've argued this at the commission meetings at open sessions, so it's nothing that's a secret.

14:00:56 Um, I think that building, the O'Reilly building, would be a place that could accommodate

14:01:03 that type of use, in addition to the stuff that we're talking about.

14:01:07 But I think... I've just wanted to plant the bug in your ears when the conversation's going on, because that would bring in

14:01:15 If they chose that space as an option,

14:01:19 to look at, that would bring in money, uh, for...

14:01:24 doing what needs to be done in the O'Reilly building area, and it would also, uh,

14:01:31 help with the library building as well, so...

14:01:35 Just, uh, FYI, you know, for all of you on the...

14:01:39 Another thing is worth plugging on.

14:01:40 And then back to Sarah. I'm just gonna say quickly, Fred, I did mention it when we had our meeting yesterday with Erica, and I know she's going to be there on Friday, and I know they're pretty far along, and there are a lot of reasons, financial reasons why they're going to Petaluma.

14:01:56 But it's I've tried to plant that maybe, I don't know, Deb, if you've had a chance to talk. But so she does know, and I tried to suggest it. Okay.

14:02:02 Well, it's not... the Petaluma thing's not approved yet.

14:02:07 Alright, okay. I'm gonna do a time check, because I did hear Sarah reminding us that the other committees report out. We also have new business, so I think we're going to put a pause here. Sarah, do you have anything else? Before I do a straw vote on the A and B, and I want to make sure that the I want to make sure I call you guys the right name.

14:02:24 The funding assessment committee subcommittee knows what we're voting on. O'reilly seems clear. This downtown square block thing. I'm not entirely sure whether it goes down to where you were mentioning Sarah.

14:02:39 So I want to get some clarity before we vote on that, but Sarah, go ahead. They were very clear their proposal is this block ending in Bodega. I just said private individually in their committee meetings. Do they want to consider that they need access? One point, Fred, I think that.

14:03:00 are more or less...

14:03:08 Yeah.

14:02:56 uh, headquarters, like, a \$16 million dollar project. Yikes, which I'm mentioning. I'm just mentioning it because oh, gee, there's money there. I get that but we are to that, because during the time I really want to get the A and the B narrowed down so we can have a vote.

14:03:13 Beyond that. So, back to the... I always give your guys' name wrong. The funding assessment subcommittee. Given Sarah's comment about not just wanting it to be this square block, would you entertain this square block?

14:03:28 And this is the top of Rio parking lot is the South High parking lot is owned by the city and has only painted parking places on it. Okay. Would you? That's a question to you. Would you entertain? I am going to ask her for the architectural drawings for my own personal learning, but I would prefer to keep it within the boundaries of this block. Okay, because we also have to think about.

14:03:52 the shops from Quatersted. Quartersturt, it sounds like you're speaking on behalf of your committee. So there you go. So given the time, can I just... head nod over there from your committee members, so I'm thinking you're good there. So anyway, are we now clear that option A has been identified as O'Reilly, option B is identified as this block.

14:04:17 that the library sits on, and that the city hall sits on. Are we clear on the options? Yes, yes. I don't see anyone looking stressed. So seeming that we are. So are those the options?

14:04:29 Do we want both options? I want both options. We want both options, and those are the options. Yes, those options. Okay. You don't vote? I'm not a voting member. Writing my things? I'm not a voting.

14:04:47 Mary looks like an... I don't have the resolution in front of me, so... Oh, okay. But if you could go. If I could vote yes or no. An advisory vote. Okay, Dan. All right, we're clear on that part.

14:05:04 I did not vote, because I'm still trying to catch up on what the question was, so I don't know what's happening. That was a lot going on. Can we just... I don't know what's happening. Okay, so with that, sure.

14:05:15 Uh, Steven was just bringing our discussion to a head. We propose that we limit our thing to an A and B option, and he stood out for a vote, and the V option being something to do with these city-owned properties on this block.

14:05:32 Does that help. So our Ab is going to be what we talked about. Okay. And it's not including the space down there. And I misunderstood. I guess that there's something about a vote of a non-voting member.

14:05:47 We were just being silly, and uh, you know, trying to include her voice.

14:05:53 Can I ask a question while staff is... can you pull up the resolution for this group? Will this committee be coming back with a recommendation? I know we have the A and B.

14:06:08 Is there going to be a recommendation? A takes precedence, or B takes precedence, because the council is always going to want to know what the recommendation is, even though we're bringing them 2 options.

14:06:20 Will you be saying priority one is O'Reilly or priority one is here? I just want to, like, bring that back, that would be a consideration. Mary is probably going to be drafted to the Stanford floor, hopefully, with our team, for us, and that's what we're going to be voting on at our next meeting in June. So thank you for helping us to steer into that. So, with that question bendy.

14:06:40 I saw multiple, yeah. Can I just respond in terms of what our committee's working on? Is that what you're asking? Because our committee is planning to present both options as equally viable with pros and cons, and then the school committee is going to vote on which one they think is the most viable to bring to the city council, is my understanding. We're giving you two very good options. One is going to be very expensive and very lengthy, and one's going to be immediate and affordable.

14:07:03 That's just the reality, but we want to look at all the strengths and weaknesses of both options, A and B, genuinely, earnestly, and get them to the full committee for us to then evaluate for the City Council to have a really good.

14:07:18 set of options to look at. I don't think that we're at this point, as the Finance Committee. I'm not comfortable saying that we have a preferred or less preferred option. They're both equally preferred. They just have different strengths and costs and timelines.

14:07:32 Does that answer your question, Mary? Yes. Okay. That's fine. I just, when this committee goes to the Council, we should have a consensus as to which one is your number one priority, which one, even though we're bringing both options, I think that is key when we bring these to city council.

14:07:48 That there's consensus moving forward. Okay, I saw Sarah, and then now in answer to Mary first question.

14:07:56 Are we gonna make a recommendation? I would say yes. Definitely. I hope that's in our future to do.

14:08:03 And I want to make sure I understand RM's point.

14:08:07 We will make a recommendation, but we don't have the presentation to make the recommendation from. We only know that we... today we've narrowed down that we will present two viable options, and from that, we will make the recommendations that I'm not comfortable making it now, because we haven't finalized.

14:08:23 What either would look like for the full committee to vote on which recommendation becomes the priority. So the step right before what you're asking is to we're narrowing it down. We've ruled things in and out. We're going to make a final analysis that has those two options, and from that.

14:08:38 This full committee, I believe, will vote on which one becomes the priority in conjunction as a full board.

14:08:45 So, I think we're saying the same thing. I would like... is committed to make our recommendation.

14:08:52 However, I want this committee to give both options to the council and say, we prefer, okay, so I think RM, we're thinking the same. All right, just so that I'm clear, so everyone is clear. So we... to follow up from Eric, who in her mind, she's already preparing the draft.

14:09:11 For our next meeting, that we'll need to wordsmith and agree upon before we leave the next meeting, so that we'll be in sync for our July report out is the fact that we are going to have two options presented.

14:09:23 And this body, this building, the common standing thing is going to end up making a recommendation of one of those two. Is that everyone's understanding? Well, we're going to present both. Yes.

14:09:35 I didn't say that on balance, we think this one, but... You choose, right? And I will say as a city council member, I'm going to defer to what our committee put in the work.

14:09:48 Honestly, straight up, because I do my best to do my own research and read the staff report, ask questions, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. But if two council members have sat on a committee, same budget, it's like, if they've sent to the meeting, and that is their recommendation, that is the direction I'm going to go in, unless something blows out completely different during the VD.

14:10:06 Right? So it is going to be important for me, too, that we're clear that probably are you suggesting at our next meeting, and... in June that we vote.

14:10:17 On the AB, is that what you're also suggesting, Mary, that we do during our next meeting in June? Is that... So if I don't know when this committee is going to. Is that enough time to do that? I'm not sure that is going to be enough time.

14:10:34 I can try to speak to that and say, I don't know that we're planning to have it complete within the next 30 days.

14:10:41 But definitely by July, I think by the July meeting, we could have complete sort of pitch deck ready to go with slides and talking points, strengths, weaknesses, analysis, threats, and what it could potentially look like cost analysis, etc.

14:10:57 I don't think we can do it in the next 30 days. Okay. Well, with that, then is your mind going the fact that we're going to need another meeting then, because logistically, we only have between now and our day meeting, and then the maybe, or the.

14:11:13 is where we're really gonna need to wordsmith things so we can get up from that meeting and know that our July report out will be what we all accepted it to be. So if we're really not going to be able to vote.

14:11:25 at our June meeting, then are we prepared to have another meeting so that we can come and just have, like, a brief 30-minute meeting, and just saying, the committee has reported out additional information. The purpose of this meeting is to solely vote on what the committee recommendation will be, either A or B. Does that what you're thinking? What is the meeting date? No, you're correct. I just was asking for clarification and reading a date in July.

14:11:49 a 7, 7. July 7th.

14:11:54 So the first ones. We also have August and September. Yeah. And the timing of the schedule, this is what staff put together and I would really encourage whoever continues to be chair that they really honor this to reduce stress and anxiety.

14:12:11 Uh, what all needs to be done, especially from a SaaS point of view, in getting reports done, timely filed so that capital business can move along. So there's an option where we could move the quarterly report to the second meeting in July.

14:12:26 Okay. And keep your first meeting here, and finalize that report, and that'll give us time for the 22nd. Does that give enough time to this committee?

14:12:35 To have it, because we'll have to have it, like, a week in advance, or actually, probably two weeks, that gives me time to get the report done. Phil, I saw you that back to you now. Yes. A, you would have to have a third quarterly report because the upcoming final reports imminent?

14:12:51 And maybe it's kind of redundant and unnecessary. This is just pass along information. Here's where we are, we're making the final report. And I will respond, just from a council member, that that was our charge. My understanding is our charge was that we would have deliverables.

14:13:06 quarterly written reports. Is that your understanding? That's my understanding. That's why we've been putting them onto the... onto the council agendas.

14:13:16 Do they have to be... very, um... If you're asking for just fairly concise, you know, like, here's the update, we're just... we're about to tell you something very serious, we're working on it.

14:13:30 And so we don't need to put them effort into the 340 report. If you're not bringing the recommendations to this meeting, you're only doing an informational report, we could do an informational report and just, you know, as to what you're doing, and then you're coming back in September, I believe.

14:13:47 That's fine. I mean, the quarterly report is just going to give a status as to what you're doing. Right. So it's just what has happened in the last 3 months, and then you can basically say something is, you know, we're continuing to review sites, we're starting to narrow it down, we're going to be providing a.

14:14:02 SWOT analysis at the last meeting, or I mean, at the next meeting for the council's consideration. Just... it's basically just giving them.

14:14:10 keeping the council informed of what you guys are doing. I mean, you can put that you've conducted 15 interviews with stakeholders, or however many by that time, so that they at least just see the work to date. So we could do that. We can do that on the 21st, and then just do a really quick meeting on the 7th.

14:14:27 Just do that report. I'm seeing a slew of hands over here, and then our red just raised his hand. I think it was Naomi, and then I'm going to go along. Thank you. I just want to clarify from my understanding, our final report out date is the 15th of September.

14:14:40 Is that the date by which we give our recommendation?

14:14:43 As a committee. Yes, that's my my assumption was that that was the day, in which case, if that's the case, then I I would prefer not to rush doing the all of the financial.

14:14:56 uh, sort of planning and investigation until... to prepare for a July date. If we don't need to have a final decision presented until that meeting. So I'm, I guess, requesting that we can delay if... if we're moved backwards. If that's the date that we want to provide.

14:15:14 Our committee's recommendation, then we move to. having information for this committee to vote on, and we do a sort of update of what we're doing without giving this final decision, and then we are prepared. That's why I just wanted to...

14:15:29 Got it. Thank you for that, and that other answer, did that take part of the questions? I see your hand? Yes. I have a comment. Don't forget, we have August and September for meetings as well, so... Great.

14:15:44 I don't want you guys to hurry, just to, you know, like, get this decided by June, because we do have July, and we can delay the September meeting. No, we can delay something where he said the July meeting. Also, um... Hold on, I forgot my other idea. I'll have to come back to me. Okay, so what I'm hearing from Naomi is that we not present this group's decision on A or B until the September meeting. Is that what everyone is thinking? Yes. So that seems like a clear consent. But I'll be at your hand.

14:16:21 I'm trying to track and catch up. I'm saying that the Finance Committee can have something for us to examine, and for us to make a decision on in July, and from that we work on creating the information over August

for the September report, because it's going to take time once we make our recommendation to you, you're going to have feedback to edit our document, and it might not be final in July. We need to.

14:16:46 Those next two meetings to finalize what we're bringing to the council. The Finance Committee will present our A and B pitches to the best of our ability in July, and at that meeting. So I guess I'm asking for the entirety of that meeting for our committee to present.

14:17:01 We added that. We worked together. We finalized it in August. It goes to the final report in September. Is that correct?

14:17:09 Yeah. And that's what I'm saying. Yes, I can do that. Can I say yes and.

14:17:15 Part of that time is integrating other committees components that support the decisions that we made. Yeah.

14:17:22 Okay, sure, it sounds like you had an additional thing. Well, I remember what I was going to say. I think... Uh, we need to realize that in September, we're going to do more than make a presentation.

14:17:36 Because we may want to make an ask of the council that this committee continue.

14:17:43 So in addition to the discussion of our substantive recommendations.

14:17:48 That's a real time-consuming agenda item. There is the additional item of will this committee continue? What is its purpose? Is it ad hoc or standing, etc, etc.

14:18:00 And I have points I want to make on that when we get to talking about our future. This meeting is doing what it did the last time to the.

14:18:09 Needs Assessment Committee, and we're getting scrunched on time, and we have two more, at least two more topics before 3. Oh, okay. Okay. So, but again, just from my understanding. So we're not pressuring anybody. So the September 15th thing will be asking the council.

14:18:27 to affirm and vote on this committee's recommendation of either A or B. Is that it in a nutshell, more or less? Yes. It's not. I'm not seeing anybody stricken. So, okay, but we're good with that. So I think, based upon Sarah's reminders.

14:18:43 Uh, needing to stay on agenda are redone with the guys' name, the funding assessment subcommittees group before we turn over to the community assessment subcommittee or RM. Yes.

14:18:56 Yes, final final question about that. Because this committee has taken so much time. Can we consider? We are not going to be able to present anything next month. Ours will take to July. Can we give the entirety of next month's meeting.

14:19:12 to this committee to do the same full analysis of their needs and their presentation, and then... and then we take a bit more in July, is it possible, to bifurcate them that way, because otherwise.

14:19:23 We're gonna run into this situation again. Well, I mean, I know that I'm deferring to Fred and Sarah to Mary Lou, I don't know if you made the meeting. I can honestly say that I didn't. I read the notes. It seems like you two are presenting it. I honestly can say that based upon just reading the notes and my own perspective of where we are on this.

14:19:42 I don't think we're gonna need the entire meeting. Uh, next meeting for just doing the community needs assessment. That's my assessment. But that's my input. But Sarah, go ahead. I think this group needs to hear from the needs assessment committee, because we have a number of issues that we would like everybody's input on.

14:20:00 And you all want to know what we have to say.

14:20:04 Okay, fair enough. So, with that, then, we're just going to turn it over. So, I saw the notes, Fred or Sarah, you're presenting on behalf of the Community Assessment Subcommittee because it was scheduled for one day, it graded the regular day. I was meeting it for city business. 7 out of 10, but I print your notes. So which of the two are you providing?

14:20:28 Yeah.

14:20:23 Fred, why don't I start, and then you can add in, and Mary Luke can add in as well. Is that okay? Because it was a really good summary. That's AI generated.

14:20:33 So, hopefully y'all have read this, because of the limited time, I'm just going to give you my additions to it and the points that I think are raised for the needs assessment committee. And this is also material that Fred and Steven and I haven't discussed.

14:20:48 But it's my individual report. So there are a couple points, I think, that were left off this AI summary.

14:20:58 Which is really fun to read, but you'd have to realize that it kind of squeezes out the spirit.

14:21:06 Of the conversations. And you're referring to item 3 for those. This is item 3. Pull along at home, and... Item 3?

14:21:16 I agree. So, I can just report that the enthusiasm for this idea was really palpable. I mean, Laura Hager's article helped a whole lot because she gave the summary and she has such credibility in this community.

14:21:33 Oh, we were sending very serious and real. Also, I think, in addition to enthusiasm, there's a lot of excitement.

14:21:44 Because people are experiencing that opening, that vision, vision does.

14:21:50 Like, oh, wow, we we could have a future, you know, people. Well, and that's really important in this day when people are so interiorized and depressed about national politics.

14:22:00 So with that in mind, I want to add some points that were left out under interview specifics.

14:22:08 There's one thing that was said often, at least to me, pedestrian bike and public transit access was really critical.

14:22:19 Pedestrian bike in public access. It already says parking is really important, but y'all, we all knew that already. I mean? And so there are 2 new suggestions that also weren't picked up, but they and they were new. So not everybody thought of them. But I thought they were.

14:22:37 really creative and important in developing this idea of the commons. One was to include an educational element. Now, that might be reaching out to extended education, SSU, UC Berkeley, whomever.

14:22:52 to bring that sort of college aspect to Jc, to bring that kind of college energy, classes, etc, educational effort to this city.

14:23:04 My father had to go, that's really hot. And also... Good. So I just want to tell you that one resonated for me a lot. Also, the food distribution location.

14:23:16 Good distribution. So... That's what I want to be sure to say that's positive. Now I want to talk a little bit about some of the challenges of this. I've chased a number of people on the top 30 list, 3 and 4 times.

14:23:35 and get... got no response. So that makes me think, or this was potentially faulty.

14:23:47 in that maybe those people are too busy, or maybe they're not interested. Maybe the idea is an appeal. I have no idea why I didn't get a response, but I suspect it's because I do email, and some people don't even read them anymore.

14:24:01 So there's that challenge in identifying the appropriate people to interview.

14:24:07 And also... realizing that we're talking about the people who.

14:24:16 are kind of in the know and already in the success. So I spoke to a number of people who said, love the idea.

14:24:25 My organization is very site-specific, so I would want to relocate there and become a tenant.

14:24:31 I'll give you an example of the Historical Society, which also has the farm and museum, right? That's the overarching.

14:24:40 business element for both of those. Two site-specific. Uh, non-profit.

14:24:47 But then, we're talking, and Teresa said, you know what we can do? We can do a history wall up there and take our exhibit on the go, and have something up there. We don't need space, but we can be part of it. And it's that sort of, um... creative thinking that I find that in-person interview.

14:25:06 get you to.

14:25:10 So the last concern I have is that... They were missing the people who would be the users of the services.

14:25:22 If we look at community leaders and executive directors and library managers and library administration, those sorts of people.

14:25:31 We're not interviewing the elder who walks into the senior center who needs to socialize or.

14:25:41 the person who needs help clearing their driver's license.

14:25:47 So... so I'm gonna make a suggestion. I also want to talk about some people who declined being interviewed. I don't want to mention names. One for personal health reasons.

14:26:02 another or administrative reasons. Just not properly placed in the organization to be the person interviewing. So, um... The interviews are really fun.

14:26:15 They're very enlightening. You realize we have a community that is rich in in service and in opportunities.

14:26:24 And something's missing in the work and the identification that we've done of people. So Mary Lou did a number of interviews too.

14:26:38 I would suggest you go on, you go on, Fred, you go on and and say what you'd like to say. We've lost RM. Yes, RM did pass me on. He needed to leave, so there it is, because I really wanted to get this part.

14:26:53 Okay, Fred.

14:26:56 Um, I'll... I think Mary Lou and Sarah have really been doing the go.

14:27:03 Why and serve of, of, um...

14:27:05 The interviews and carrying this

14:27:08 part of the library...

14:27:11 you know, the survey forward.

14:27:14 Um, unfortunately, my time's been tied up with the library,

14:27:18 And, um...

14:27:21 that this is like a time they're doing their budget, and uh...

14:27:25 revising the bylaws and revising the roles and duties of the...

14:27:30 on the commission, so...

14:27:31 Most of my time's been, uh, centered around that.

14:27:35 Uh, so I've not had the time that I...

14:27:38 would like to have to devote to this, so...

14:27:40 I would say that both of them are the experts on

14:27:43 on this, um...

14:27:46 I think we do need to back up Sarah.

14:27:49 Uh, the sooner we could get more publicity in the paper,

14:27:53 And the sooner we could get out to the community and have

14:27:58 a forum, or...

14:28:00 group meetings, or even local meetings in different parts of the city.

14:28:04 I think would be to our best interest, because that would build up a base of support for when we do our

14:28:12 report to the City Council in September.

14:28:14 But it would also get us more ideas and more feedback that might help in the...

14:28:21 planning of deciding whether

14:28:23 We will be pursuing or putting on a priority for A or B.

14:28:28 Um, and I agree with what Sarah said, that the perspective of the users

14:28:33 is very much different from the

14:28:37 perspective of the planners, and I think it would be good to integrate those two.

14:28:42 as, um, soon as we can.

14:28:46 And that's really all that I have to say.

14:28:52 Um, okay, so you know, reading this is interesting. I I was just sort of like.

14:28:58 Okay, here are my notes, and here's the the summary. But when I put when I read it.

14:29:05 It hit most of the main points. and I agree with Sarah. This sort of.

14:29:15 personalness of interviewing people is lacking completely in here, and I don't... I don't know how you can do that with AI, but I think it's a great tool. I think it it really did.

14:29:29 And I'm assuming you already just a page talk about what people mainly wanted, you know, and... there was that... there were a couple groups, such as the schools and the Historical Society, that sort of said, well, I'm not sure how we would use it.

14:29:50 all all the time, but... you know, maybe school, maybe you can have our problems there, or you know it's it's like it's good to know that there would be a building or a way that we could.

14:30:04 Who could use this? So, you know, that's sort of not written here, but it's the sort of availability of a place. You know, maybe the kids could.

14:30:15 do some kind of a project where you can put it on walls and, you know, when the Historical Society talked about that, I thought, oh, that has a lot of possibility, because it doesn't have to.

14:30:27 just be a historical society. It could be elders who have... well, you have paintings and all that. Yeah. So I think that that that was pretty good. And I agree. I.

14:30:39 I guess my question to this committee is. I've always thought that we're going to do this first, and then we're going to then gather information from people who are going to be using it from the actual citizens that will be walking in the doors.

14:30:57 Um... And if that's going to happen, I think we have to figure out how how to do that.

14:31:04 unfortunately missed the last committee meeting because I was on the East Coast, but... I would like.

14:31:13 Probably suggest that we have a focus group for each of the major.

14:31:22 the senior center has a focus within the senior center made up of seniors, a focus group from the library made up of.

14:31:33 I came to the library. I don't know how we would... do that, but I leave it to you guys to coordinate a focus group from the community center for people who might have used it.

14:31:48 So that then the next. piece of paper would be what the actual community thinks, because I think that the council is going to really want to know what the community thinks.

14:32:03 And I do believe because of the financial piece that there's going to be some.

14:32:08 push back for anything unless we have a really good plan that says, okay.

14:32:14 The funding isn't going to be all on you. The funding is.

14:32:19 This is going to be... It's spread out. Yeah.

14:32:24 So, but... You know, I think this is an okay this summer, you know, but the for those of us who have actually talked to the people, you know, you're just missing there.

14:32:36 The heart. Well, that's true, but you're missing, you know, they each had their own individual personality, and it... again, it was really... But I think overall.

14:32:48 We can summarize that. Many of these organizations have the same needs.

14:32:56 similar needs and is space storage and just a way to be in the community visible.

14:33:06 the visibleness of all these organizations to the community at large seems always very important.

14:33:15 So, um, and I'm not sure that that's in here.

14:33:21 in terms of... how it's... how this has come out. Visibility. Visibility. Yeah.

14:33:31 Well, you know, from a nonprofit, from a small nonprofit point of view, we get more done when people do.

14:33:40 know who we are, you know, when we walk. And I spend a lot of my time.

14:33:47 explaining to people when we do a project, this is who we are. And they say, oh, we've never heard of you. Well, if... If we have a space where all the nonprofits are working from or a lot of nonprofits are working from, and people are walking through there, then they might see our name. And it's the same with.

14:34:07 For instance, we talked to Alicia, who is does KBF. And she said that her whole thing is, first of all, the Latin component, because it's a Latin station.

14:34:22 But being visible to the community. to the Latin community that here, here's me there, and she considered, she said, well, we... we... it would be great to have a space where we could do during the Latin community in together. Um...

14:34:37 So... you know, the senior center you.

14:34:41 I think you do a good job with visibility. First of all, you've got a newsletter that's out to hundreds of people and you have people who can do that from our point of view.

14:34:52 We don't. We just don't have the money or the energy to do a weekly newsletter for that, you know. So it... some place to help.

14:35:03 everyone just so that so the community knows what they have there, you know. It's like, Okay, this is a really good spot, and it's a good spot because.

14:35:14 you know, because that you know the school can use it, or because we can get to the senior center. When we go to the senior center, we can actually go to the library, and you know, so... That's what I think about. I don't know if I under if I explain visibility.

14:35:31 Okay. And also, credibility goes with that, Mary Lewis.

14:35:35 It's like, what's she happy? I've never heard of you.

14:35:37 If you have an office and you sign on the door, it's suddenly more of a thing, right? It's not just visibility, it's credibility for hardworking people.

14:35:48 Who give a lot... offer a lot to the community. You gave me an idea, so this might be something others can help with. What about a focus group that is.

14:36:00 Members of the... community benefit organization, collaborative council people. Yeah, I love this. I'll just jump in as being a member of the committee, the current chair of the committee, um, appreciation for all that did the interview. I, too, was part of generating the people to be interviewed.

14:36:22 try to follow up their email if they're not interested, and I can already tell why they're not interested. This has been a topic in Sebastal for decades, and they're like, you guys just keep talking about it, not do anything about it. I ain't got no time to even respond to your email. Like, that's it. So I appreciate you doing that. I personally am not interested in focus groups.

14:36:41 I mean, the people here who got in and on this table have spent months doing it, you are the representatives of the various people. Focus groups are hard as hell. It's like, look at the lab. We did an open house.

14:36:57 two years in a row, and two people showed up.

14:36:59 People don't show up for things that they just think like someone else has got it or it's covered. I am not interested in.

14:37:08 spending my time talking about having a focus group for X, Y, and Z population. You all know that. We living here been involved in this process for decades now, know what the need is. So, I'm not entirely sure what that committee is going to be doing between now.

14:37:24 And moving forward. But for me, I will just say directly, I'm not interested in doing that. So that's my feedback. And then, as far as monitoring the rest of the time that we have, there are other business, but I don't want to cut short those numbers who are actually.

14:37:39 Um, said that they wanted to present. Yes, we're actually doing the work of the subcommittee, right? I understand that. So also, but also, I want to respond to that, too, because the tenor and the AI notes was not great.

14:37:53 There are people who are able to jump in, and various committee members, as with all of us, have other responsibilities in their life. Some continue to just keep showing up.

14:38:05 Others had other things. My other thing was not a random thing. It was city business. So I don't want anyone to take a... hopefully not to take a message, because the one in the meeting, I fell out, um, negative, I'm whatever the possibility is.

14:38:20 So I just want to set that clear. But go ahead, Sarah.

14:38:24 Okay. I'm not responding to that. Okay. Just so you know, choosing not to. Uh, so... I think, um...

14:38:36 Shall we move on to our ask to the council? Because I I have a couple of things I think we need to talk to them about. Number one, this motion. Okay, sorry. I would like to hear the rest of this committee's response to not needing focus groups. Okay, just so I'm clear what the work of this committee will be like the our subcommittee might be.

14:39:00 From now on. Good idea. You know, I've always thought it was bringing the community into this discussion. And yes, we have our the leadership of the community here. So I would like to hear from.

14:39:17 From the rest of the group as to whether they think is real. I mean, if everybody thinks it's sort of not worth it. Hey, it's all right.

14:39:25 So I'm a big lover of focus groups, but also they're possible sometimes to conduct and people don't show up. And I think that I think this is an interesting time for this committee, because this article was published, and so many people saw it.

14:39:41 and this information has been out there, and so people are talking about it already. And I wonder if it makes more sense instead of trying to, you know, force.

14:39:50 small focus groups that we do something. I'm saying the Royal Lead. This is your thing, so I don't want to tell you what to do. But one suggestion is, we make available some number of ourselves, maybe one or two people, one or two afternoons a week, maybe at the library when we.

14:40:05 We ask if, like the special friends can say, people who want to talk about this or ask questions, please show up, and then we know the questions we have for people who are interested and are showing up, and we're also there to ask to answer questions and respond as much as we can. But then we're collecting information from a community that's interested.

14:40:23 Um, hopefully we can reach out and say, like, I was just thinking, like, I know a group of, you know, parents of children and adults with disabilities. I would say, like, hey, there's this thing. If you're interested in someone send someone to come and talk to us and ask some questions, and that's maybe one way of reaching to the community, but not.

14:40:42 creating, you know, an impossible situation where you're hoping people show up, and then they've said they'll come, and then they don't come, and you're wasting your time.

14:40:49 So that's just a way of getting more information. I saw Fred's hand and then, though.

14:40:56 Uh, yeah, my, um, couple things. There's one,

14:40:56 So so I'm sorry. Okay.

14:41:00 Um, I think...

14:41:01 In public service, we forget.

14:41:04 that we serve the public and the public good.

14:41:09 And so what they have to say is important, whether it's one person or a group of people,
14:41:16 Whether we like what they say, they don't... we don't like what they say.
14:41:20 You know, we're here to pursue
14:41:23 And to provide for the public good,
14:41:27 And I think that's an over... the number one
14:41:32 priority for those of us that are engaged in public service, whether it's through volunteer,
14:41:38 organization, or through city government.
14:41:40 The other... the other part...
14:41:42 is that, um...
14:41:45 You know, like, I think that...
14:41:47 It's like the difference between
14:41:49 When you get an architect to come and design a house,
14:41:53 they're gonna design a house that looks good.
14:41:57 to an architect, whether or not
14:42:00 Um, you know, it looks good to the people that ordered the house to be built.
14:42:06 Whether it's practical from their point of view, is it other thing.
14:42:11 Um, and that's much like what we're talking about. We're talking about designing
14:42:17 A commons for the public use.
14:42:20 Um, and it's...
14:42:22 It's not a matter of, I feel,
14:42:24 Whether we're happy with it as much as whether
14:42:27 the community is happy with it, and they're gonna use it, uh, and...
14:42:33 Engage in it whatever way they decide to engage, and whether that's...
14:42:37 coming by and having a cup of coffee.
14:42:40 or using the books, or using the Senior Center.
14:42:44 Um, you know, it's up to the public.
14:42:48 Uh, and I think that...
14:42:49 you know, those are things that I think the committee still has a very viable world.
14:42:54 And I think I agree with Mary Lou on this, that I think that we need to
14:43:00 be able to look at ways to get more engagement in this, public engagement.
14:43:07 in this overall process, and then...
14:43:09 What we're trying to do for the city.

14:43:13 Good. Thank you, Bill. I'm just I'm just going to lean on my thoughts that education is a little bit more important than feeling things out at this point. We generally.

14:43:25 have hundreds of years of knowledge about what people want and what people like to do, and what they do. We don't need to recreate wheels and forever ask, what do you? What do you like? And in a lot of ways, that's an imposition on people. When you ask them what you want, they have to like.

14:43:41 think. And it's not, you know, and it is difficult. It is like, what do you want to eat for dinner tonight? You want to, you know, Chinese barbecue. And then what do you want on that? You know, you're like, you're forcing people to struggle when they... when they have, like.

14:43:58 They have been kin to pick up, or they have, like, these other things to do. So, what I would lean towards is definite outreach.

14:44:06 talk to everybody that you can. Listen as openly as you can, but also educate. You know, start to tell people what we are doing, what the philosophy is, and why we're doing, you know, that kind of thing. And then see how they respond. You know, they go like.

14:44:22 Oh, you guys are crazy. Then you know, feel that out, or if they go, Wow, I'm really excited about these other couple of things. You know, they, you know, absorb that. But you know, when you have a focus group.

14:44:37 you know, I've got... I've got 900 of other things to do. You know, especially if you're about... if I don't even know if it's productive. I mean, I've got things that I'm not doing that are productive.

14:44:48 Yeah, because they don't have enough time to do that.

14:44:49 So, if you can respect people's time and go to them with something that you can educate them about and go like, hey, we've got these thoughts, and we're going to go this direction, knowing that these are the kinds of things that we already have.

14:45:04 here, and we have these. We have these stars, we have these capabilities. Then didn't you help people understand the situation faster, and you're actually providing value to them.

14:45:14 Instead of, you know, focus groups, it's like it's kind of like an endless thought process.

14:45:20 Can I just ask a question to city council members?

14:45:23 When you're sitting there and looking at the final report.

14:45:31 What is your thought about? Is there going to be a question from you or one of your members?

14:45:40 What are the citizens of Sebastian about this? Because that's your.

14:45:47 you know, you're gonna ask if the citizens want this? I'm going to trust again like what I had said before. If you council members have been assigned to a group, I am going to.

14:46:00 Not to say, like, get shut down, just immediately decide, I'm gonna vote with what recommendation they put forward, but I am going to definitely steer clear of that. And I would feel the same for all of you. All of your names carry a lot of clout in the community. You have the connections, you already know the things that you know. Otherwise, you wouldn't have been.

14:46:20 appointed by City Council to this body. So I'm going to trust the fact that just like that you sit here, you usually speak on behalf of this contingent, so I'm going to assume you already know what the public would like, right? I don't necessarily. I personally do not need to hear like there was a polling at the library, and somebody sat at a desk to try to do a focus group.

14:46:42 And you're gonna get 5 people. For me, it'd be like, that was not even spent time for you to the council member or the members of that body. That was not a good use of city resources. That's my thought process, but Phil. Yeah, I definitely think that when we come back in July.

14:46:58 with with with the AB, we will have... support built into those reports. Like, somehow we will show, you know, there's interest from these particular groups that want to be a part of this already.

14:47:12 Yeah, I saw other people's hands, Kent or Sarah. Contrast that.

14:47:16 or add to it. Yes, and... Um... Michelle Heights, this is awesome.

14:47:24 Right? When we sit on the finance committee, we're looking at the 40% of the residents, you know.

14:47:30 The community center and the senior center. You kind of know what our members are. We kind of know there's organizations that we've already done those things, but... I don't know, your organization probably hasn't had a chance to pass on it, hasn't been able to do it.

14:47:44 Because you can't walk along the street. Oh, you should be at the senior center, you know, we have an easier task, right? Um... But what I'm excited about is there are a number of things that we've been talking about, like a co-working space for a nonprofits. That's in one of the ideas. I don't have a firm commitment yet, but I know someone interested. We haven't brought it up because I don't have a firm, but.

14:48:08 This tells me I need to go back and say, yes.

14:48:11 There's a lot of people already willing to sign up.

14:48:15 What I also like about this are some things that I didn't expect.

14:48:18 that just in going for figuring out the 40 or 80% of financing or space. We miss those things. So actually, after we made our presentation of A and B, I am counting on your subcommittee saying.

14:48:32 Right? Here's what you're missing. I can tell you from our interview.

14:48:37 We've been hearing this and it's not represented there.

14:48:40 And it will say, oh, that one needs to be the next 40%. I'm gonna find somebody, let's do something... So, when it goes to council.

14:48:50 It'll then be fully rounded out. We can only bring so much.

14:48:54 I'm really saying on you guys to look at that and go, yep, yep, yep, you know?

14:49:00 This one there. You got an answer for that? Do you have solution? Did you ignore it? How could we add that?

14:49:08 So I'm really as much of quality data I want that.

14:49:12 quantitative. The experience you two form and having... What keeps coming up that isn't represented in the basic map?

14:49:22 to leave off, right? It's that part that's missing. Now, is that a focus group? Is that just talking to everybody? You know? Is that I don't know what that is.

14:49:32 But that's what I'm hoping you're bringing to July and August to say, here's what's missing.

14:49:40 And we know, oh, we thought about that, we didn't, or how can we have that for the final presentation?

14:49:45 So that will be a well-rounded thing. So that's what I'm hoping comes from you guys.

14:49:52 Okay, and I... and this specific... There's 3 things that I'm already actionable on that. I talked to this person, they will move forward, and there is demand. Would you, if we did this? So this is...

14:50:06 Super excited. Thank you very much other members of the committee, because we have 10 minutes left, but just raise your hand if she is not yet spoke. I just want to mention I love the educational piece of this because that is what I think is where you're going to build that advocacy.

14:50:24 is educating people. This is what... and we have this awesome document, creating the Commons, that was done studying work on, this is what we're looking at, and there's lots of opportunity. I have been sharing with staff when I go back.

14:50:40 what I've learned here in this meeting, this is what we're talking about. Do you have any other things? And I am happy, as the branch manager, to continue to have these conversations with community members that come in to the library. Hey, we're this far. This is, you know, nothing is set in stone, but what kinds of spaces.

14:51:00 Do you feel are really important for you as a community member? So even though it's not a formal survey, and it's not a focus group, I am happy with, and and the staff would probably do the same if we had.

14:51:15 bullet points to kind of have that educational, like, we want to now talk to you about what is becoming real, right? You saw the article in the Times. Yeah. Do you have any questions? What else can, you know, as representative, you know, as part of this committee, what would you like me to bring?

14:51:33 to them. So I think the formal piece was needed because it's giving you real specific things from those folks that were identified.

14:51:45 And I think maybe asking Senior Center to do the same thing. You know, we have who is who are the folks that are interested in being part like the senior center, the cultural center?

14:51:56 This is a little educational piece. When people are coming in, you want to ask, you know, how are they feeling? What are we missing? What are the gaps? You know, whatever those and Naomi, I think those conversations. That's exactly what I want to do, is like the coffee conversation.

14:52:12 And I think if we ask... Those folks that are going to be really impacted by this, as I mentioned, you know, the civic entities, I think we might get a lot of, you know, sameness.

14:52:27 to back up, and also maybe a few more creative ideas. So I just throw that out there as what I would be willing to do with some guidance from this group on.

14:52:40 How do you want me to speak to the community who is coming in and saying, hey, you're gonna be part of this Commons, what is that? Gives me an opportunity. Hey, I'd love to talk to you about that. So we are getting, I mean, that article really, and I think that also helped with Erica and knowing now we have a plan, and they're actually is.

14:53:01 to Sarah's point, a future, right? And, um, I think people are... To Steve's point, too, we've asked this over and over again.

14:53:11 Don't really want to ask again. However, now we have something we can share. So I just throw that out, but... Great. Thank you. So with that, unless there's any other burning parts from this committee, I think we do need to tend to whatever else we can get to on the agenda.

14:53:27 Uh, I do have some burning hearts. So, I hope all of us can, uh, approach this like Deb just suggested, so I want to check with the whole group. I would really like to be liberated from the list, and liberated from the questions, because.

14:53:43 I felt like all of our energy has been like... and we have to perform it, we have to, like, get as many of those 30 people as possible. We can't have extra questions. Time's limited, their time is limited. So, if we could just do that... Check in with so many people so many times.

14:54:02 And all of us come back to this group and see if we have any new points that aren't already on the AI summary. That's going to help the SWOT analysis here too.

14:54:13 And thank you. And that would be, like, way more fun.

14:54:17 I think. See, I know. Here's our rogue member. Yeah. So would that be okay with people? Yes. Yes. Thank you. Yes.

14:54:28 Yes, but by the way, you're doing it in a formal way at the start. Right. It now allows you to be the master, say, now I know how this one works, so... But yes. Okay. We want to know the thing that's not obvious, the thing that we don't know that we don't know, and how do you find that? Right. You gotta go off the map. But I want you all to be asking those questions. So, like, if you're having coffee with someone, you can.

14:54:52 Yes, or Phil, Stephen, anybody canon, you know, if they're chatting with community members, funders, potentially.

14:55:01 for their non-profit, just check in, say, you know.

14:55:06 How do you feel about communication, or whatever you want to say? And I think the last last thing I like to say, especially from what Steven has said. Yes.

14:55:16 hope to get people to sit down for 45 minutes and answer a bunch of questions. In order to get the people that... that Sarah and I mostly talk to that I arranged, it was... personal. It was like a personal favor. Yeah. Um, and so I wasn't as Stephen was to going out to other people, I stuck to those people who either that I knew would say yes, basically. But I do think.

14:55:50 My what I would like to say is, we don't need any more than that.

14:55:54 Right. I mean, we had 30 days. We didn't do 30 interviews. Yeah. But this is an okay.

14:56:01 uh, basis. And... you know, then we can use this, again, to build on what information we get to other people. Can that be clear in this committee, that.

14:56:14 We're done with email groups. Yeah, that's what I asked, too, and they... that's good. Now they said yes twice. They don't have to stick to the list. We don't have to stick to the questions. We all get to be rogue. Yeah, good. Anything else from the committee members?

14:56:30 Yeah. All right. Turn back to the agenda and the four minutes that we have left. Mary staff, what do we really need to get done, especially since we're keeping track of.

14:56:40 what we need to move through and position ourselves for the timeline provided item 4, the discussion points.

14:56:49 This would really help her in creating the next report out.

14:56:55 Let me go for it. Oh, discussion points. Okay, since I'm not... I think we sort of overlap some of that. If we didn't, I'm gonna just ask the will of the group. Can we just defer to staff to come up with the agenda that we need to march through to be positioned for our timeline. Can we just defer to staff to just add what they need?

14:57:22 Is that fine? Do you think for the next 4 meetings? Yes, for the next things, because no matter who sits in what leadership position, or what position, they're not going to be able to think through. I think they can... Okay, then yes. So please, um, the discussion points, please.

14:57:39 adjust them and add what you need to for the next agenda and keep us all on schedule this year. What I'm hearing from the group. Okay. From staff, I'm going to turn to you. What else did you want us to get accomplished? Uh, we'll bring back for the next or not.

14:57:53 Yeah, for the Junogenic draft preliminary for the informational item. Quick update of from the last quarter.

14:58:02 Um, so if we miss anything, we can discuss it through that meeting. That would be awesome. Thank you for offering to do that, because that definitely helps. So you'll publish that ahead of time, so when we sit down at the June meeting, we'll have staff's draft, so you can already start piping in with the response of, like, this is great, this is what we missed, etc. Sarah, I see your end.

14:58:21 May we add one discussion topic, which is our request to the Council in September. Part of, uh, the blowback I'm getting from that report is this committee is going to disband in September, so people are saying, well, what are you putting all this energy into it?

14:58:36 And the reality is, this may dissolve, and it may be, um... morphed into something with a little different purpose, following the same theme in all this work, but adjusting to a future purpose. So... I would like that to be a discussion item on this group's agenda. What do we want to ask the Council for?

14:58:56 In September. Okay. Right, in September. Okay, great. Anything else in the last 2 minutes that we have? Otherwise, great job, everyone, as always, round of applause for us, and for all the hard work. Each of us got awesome. Thank you.

