

Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM

Meeting Date: July 6, 2021
To: Honorable City Councilmembers
From: City Administration
Subject: Approval and Receipt for Notice to the Community to Fill the Vacancy (Remaining Term) Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Current Rep: Joel Neuberg - Term Ends July 31, 2022)
Recommendation : That the City Council Receive the Informational Report and Authorize City Staff to Notice Opening
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost:
Amount: \$

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

INTRODUCTION: This item is to request that the City Council Approve and Receive Notice to the Community to Fill the Vacancy (Remaining Term) Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Current Rep: Joel Neuberg – Term Ends July 31, 2022).

BACKGROUND:
The Sonoma County Library was established in 1975 with a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). In 2014 a JPA Review Committee with representatives from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors as well as from city councils of each incorporated city within Sonoma County completed a two-year review process and approved the First Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement for the County-Wide Provision of Library Services by the Sonoma County Library. The city councils of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma and Windsor, along with the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors each appoint a library commissioner. The City of Santa Rosa and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors also jointly appoint one library commissioner for a total of an eleven-member governing board.

At the May 20, 2014 Sebastopol City Council Meeting, the City Council approved the Amended Sonoma County Library Joint Powers Agreement and gave direction to staff to begin the application process. Applicants need not be a resident of the City but may be appointed from the City, Sebastopol Greater Area or any other location within Sonoma County. The first Library Commissioner (Helena Whistler) was appointed by the City of Sebastopol City Council for a 4-year term beginning August 2014 through July 2018. Stephen Zollman was appointed to succeed Helena Whistler in 2018 for a four-year term ending 2022. Mr. Neuberg was appointed to fill out the remainder of Mr. Zollman’s term who resigned from this position in 2019.

The Commission generally meets monthly, with additional special meetings as needed. Each commissioner is liaison to a Library Advisory Board (LAB), attending LAB meetings and participating in an ex-officio capacity. Commissioners may be asked by the Chair to participate in one of the library commission’s committees (advocacy, finance, director evaluation, etc.). Committees generally meet monthly and make recommendations to the

Commission on various policy matters. Commissioners are encouraged to regularly liaison and to report annually to their appointing authority.

DISCUSSION:

Currently, Joel Neuberg is the City Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission. His term expires July 31, 2022.

Per City Council Policy 86, "When an unplanned vacancy or the expiration of a member's term occurs on an Advisory Board, Committee, or Commission ("Board) to the City Council, staff will give notice to the Council of the vacancy(ies) at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Council will direct staff to initiate the public process to fill the vacancy(ies). All vacancies shall be publicly noticed. Notice of the vacancy(ies) will be published for a period of four weeks. Applications will be available at City Hall and on the city website. If fewer applications are received than the number of vacancy(ies), the application period will be extended automatically for an additional two weeks, When the application period closes, interviews will be arranged by staff with the City Council. Following the interviews, the applicant(s) receiving a majority of votes by the City Council will be appointed."

City staff received notification of resignation from Joel Neuberg on June 17, 2021. Mr. Neuberg requested his resignation date of July 17, 2021 or as soon as a replacement can be appointed.

This recruitment will be to have a member the community fill out his remaining term of office as the City of Sebastopol Representative on the Sonoma County Library Commission until July 31, 2022.

City Staff will initiate the public application process for this vacancy. Applications will be available on the City website and at City Hall. Notice of the vacancy will be published and the application period will be open for a period of approximately four weeks (July 8, 2021 to August 5, 2021) City staff will work with the Agenda Review Committee to schedule a date for interviews/appointment.

City staff has provided a copy of the job description to this report for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council City Council Approve and Receive Notice to the Community to Fill the Vacancy (Remaining Term) Due to Resignation for the Position on the Sonoma County Library Commission for a Representative from Sebastopol (Current Rep: Joel Neuberg - -- Term Ends July 31, 2022).

Attachment:

Job Description

Sonoma County Library Commissioner Job Description

Summary

Provides governance for the Sonoma County Library; establishes policy; sets goals and objectives; hires and evaluates the director; establishes and monitors the annual budget; signs necessary contracts; exercises such other powers, consistent with the law to foster the effective use and management of the library.

Responsibilities

- Hires, sets salary, evaluates and supervises a qualified library Director to implement Commission decisions and directions and to carry out day-to-day operation of the library and its programs and services
- Determines and adopts written policies to govern the operation and services of the library
- Works with Director to establish short and long range goals for the library
- Attends all regular and special meetings of the Commission and participates in subcommittees as necessary
- Attends appropriate library functions including Library Advisory Board meetings, fundraisers, special events and other activities
- Sets an annual budget and approves expenditure of funds; monitors budget and expenses throughout the year
- Understands pertinent local, state, and federal laws; actively supports library legislation in the state and nation
- Advocates for the interests and needs of the countywide library system
- Represents the interests and needs of the community
- Acts as liaison with the public, interpreting and informing local government, media and public of library services and needs
- Sets parameters and authority level for Library Management's labor negotiations with the Union; adopts MOU contract; serves as the employer to library staff
- Lends expertise and experience to the organization
- Maintains knowledge of library issues, laws, and trends, and their implications for library use
- Understands the Brown Act as it applies to Library governance
- Is familiar with the Joint Powers Agreement governing the Library
- Reviews and signs necessary contracts
- Reports activities to local officials

Qualifications

- Is interested in the library and its services
- Has the ability and time to participate effectively in Commission activities and decision making
- Is able to represent varied needs and interests of the community and of the library
- Has strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Has the ability to work with governing bodies, agencies, elected officials, library staff and members of the public
- Has the ability to handle opposition and make decisions in the interest of library service

Desired Experience

- Familiarity with the Sonoma County Library
- Experience working with one of the Library's Advisory Boards, Friends of the Library groups, or other support group

Time Commitment

- The Commission meets monthly at a time convenient for members. (Currently, meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm). Meetings can last up to four hours, and considerable preparation time is needed prior to each meeting.
- It has been common practice for the Commission to devote two all-day workshop meetings to budget planning.
- Commissioners may serve on one or more subcommittees or ad hoc task forces in addition to their regular duties.
- Under terms of the Joint Powers Agreement, trustees shall hold their office for four years from the date of appointment and until their successors are appointed.
- Special meetings or committee meetings may be called as necessary at times that are convenient to members and that comply with the open public meeting law.

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY BOARDS/COMMITTEES/AND COMMISSIONS

City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

The City Council appoints members to various boards, committees, and commissions as listed below:

- Planning Commission
- Design Review Board
- Public Arts Committee
- Other Miscellaneous Boards/Committees/Commission as Approved by the City Council

The bodies are comprised of community members who volunteer for service and are appointed by the City Council. All committee members serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The primary responsibility of the committees is to implement adopted City policy, and advise and make recommendations to the City Council. The adoption of policies, the issuance of proclamations, and the approval of agreements and other official acts of the City are the responsibility of the City Council. The City Manager designates as official staff liaison to each committee.

Application Process

When a vacancy on a board, committee or commission occurs, the City Clerk prepares a press release that is distributed to local media, including the Sonoma West County Times and News. The vacancy is also announced at City Hall and on the City of Sebastopol's web site <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/>

Applications for vacancies are obtained from the City Clerk's office and completed applications are submitted to the City Clerk's office. Three to four weeks after the vacancy announcement, the completed applications are forwarded to the City Council in a regular agenda packet for public review. The City Council interviews all applicants at a meeting open to the public. The official appointment of Commission, Board or Committee members is made at a City Council meeting.

Terms of Office

Board, commission, and committee members generally serve two, three, or four-year overlapping terms. There is no monetary compensation or benefits for board, commission, or committee members.

The City Council may reappoint incumbent members or fill vacancies with new appointees. Some bodies limit the number of consecutive terms an individual may serve.

Members are expected to serve their full terms of office; however, when a member must resign, due to personal or professional circumstances, he/she should send a letter to the City Council stating the effective date of the resignation. A member shall be removed from office upon three affirmative votes of the City Council, based on one of the following grounds:

- At the pleasure of the City Council, without cause:
- If he/she is absent from three consecutive meetings, unless permission by a majority vote of the board, committee or commission had been granted as reflected in the official minutes of the body.
- Or by operation of the City Code if:
- If he/she is convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.
- If he/she ceases to be a qualified board, commission or committee member per the City of Sebastopol Municipal Code.

General Responsibilities of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

City boards, commissions, and committees shall have the following general powers, duties and responsibilities in addition to those set forth in the Sebastopol Municipal Code and various Resolutions:

- To establish rules and regulations governing the election of their officers, the holding of meetings and the conduct of business for these meetings.
- To use all appropriate techniques in crystallizing and testing public sentiment on major public issues in their respective fields.
- To hold official hearings as required by law or requested by the City Council.

- To advise and recommend on City policies and procedures pertinent to their respective activities and functions.
- To support and adhere to all City policies promulgated by the City Council and to establish needed interim policies in the absence of the same.
- To provide information and promote good public relations between the City and the general public.
- To perform such other related functions as may be assigned to them by the City Council.

Desirable Characteristics in Applicants for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

While membership on City boards, committees and commissions requires no specific qualifications, with the exception of some seats on the Design Review Board and the Public Arts Committee, there are desirable characteristics for which the Council will be looking as they review applications:

- **Familiarity with Community**

The Council would require appointees to be familiar with the physical, social, and economic make-up of the City. Applicants should have demonstrated an active interest and involvement in the community.

Familiarity with Major Issues

While it will be assumed that applicants are familiar with the specific issues that are being addressed by the board, committee or commission for which they are applying, it is also expected that applicants be aware of issues which will impact all sectors of City programs and services.

Knowledge of the Board, Commission or Committee

During the application process, applicants should become familiar with the responsibilities and role in the City's policy-making structure of the board, committee or commission for which they are applying.

Commitment to Serve

When appointed, members are expected to serve their term of office. While personal or professional circumstances might prompt an unexpected resignation, applicants who are aware of any reasons why they may not be able to complete a full term or attend regularly scheduled meetings, should indicate this on the application. While time commitments will vary depending upon schedules and workload, members are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. In addition to attending scheduled meetings, members may be expected to participate in study sessions or serve on subcommittees.

Relationship with the Community

As a member of a City board, committee or commission, your actions will reflect on the City of Sebastopol and you are required to relate to the community with impartiality and courtesy.

Commitment to City Policy:

The City Council has adopted ordinances and policies following an appropriate public process. As an appointed board, committee or commission member, your duty is to abide by such policies rather than implement personal preferences.

Tips for Applying for a City Board, Commission, or Committee

Type or neatly print your application. Due to the quantity of applications the Council must review, a neat application is appreciated.

Answer all questions on the application. Council reviews your application to gain an understanding of your background and experience, and what skills and talents you believe you could bring to a particular board, committee or commission. Don't forget to sign and date your application.

Attend one or two meetings of the board, committee or commission for which you are applying. Find out what the current issues are, and what issues may be coming in the future. Review the minutes of past meetings, available on the City web site or at City Hall depending on the appointment being applied for.

Talk to a current member. Current members can share with you their experience, they can give you an estimate of the time commitment involved, and they can discuss with you what they see as current and future issues for the City.

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council's priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City's website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk's Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
7120 Bodega Avenue
P.O. Box 1776
Sebastopol, CA 95473
Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153

fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)

Closed every Friday

Instructions:

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol's Boards, Committees or Commissions. Please complete the entire form and either print and mail it to the address above, or email your completed application to mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org. If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due, to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? _____

Name: _____

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

Home Phone Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Work Phone Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: _____ If

appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

**For Design Review Board Applicants:
Design Review Board Supplemental Questions:
Which Category are you Applying For?**

Category A

- Licensed Architect
- Licensed Landscape Architect

Category B

- Licenses Architect
- Licensed Landscape Architect
- Unlicensed Building Designer
- Licensed Building Contractor
- Landscape Contractor

Category C

- Any Applicant Not in Category A or Category B

Category D

- Any Applicant from Category A or who possesses a particular expertise in the area of design, land use patterns, urban development or other related fields to serve at any meeting or on any matter in the absence of a Board member, or in the event a member has a conflict of interest.

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

- Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

Agenda Item Number 9

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : _____

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Date: _____