City of Sebastopol | Planning Department 7120 Bodega Avenue | Sebastopol, CA 95472 (707) 823-6167 phone www.cityofsebastopol.gov



City offices are open Monday - Thursday, 7:00 am - 5:30 pm, Closed every Friday/and holidays

Dear Community Members,

## **Keep Design Review Board & Planning Commission**

I strongly oppose merging the Design Review Board and Planning Commission. As a town we value diverse thoughtful perspectives, thus more eyes and input is critical when making building decisions. **A single board gives too much authority to a few unelected individuals**. Creating a "one stop" process can be approved with 3 out of 5 members agreeing. Putting architects and developers in charge without oversight is not what citizens want. I have very much appreciated the grounded review and vision of the Design Review Board to "determine projects that fit well within our town".

In future, I suggest to include a council member on the Planning Commission as several cities require. It is clear there is a disconnect between the Planning Commission and City Council. Additionally the city's commission and boards application is outdated in that the questions prevent inclusion. I suggest removing application requirements of listing jobs, degrees, organizations and clubs (smacks of privilege). Simply ask applicants to state why they are interested and what qualifications they would bring to a volunteer position.

## **Transportation Plan Comments**

**Tier 1 support for ADA compliant sidewalks** - look at what overgrown foliage does to pedestrians walking on the sidewalks from the new Woodmark housing at Robinson and Bodega to town and also all along Johnson street for examples of unsafe walking routes. The adjacent properties have shrubs that occupy the public sidewalk. Additionally, on trash days, the bins are placed on the sidewalk instead of in the street because the curb is red. It's completely unsafe to have pedestrians walk in the street because of overgrown brush and Recology bins.

## Tier 1 support of the Apple Blossom & Gravenstein Trails

Yes to multi-use trail on Ragle Road and Mill Station to provide safe connection to the JRT across 116.

Support for contiguous ADA compliant sidewalks and connection sidewalks, specifically along Bodega Avenue and on Palm Street between Main Street/116 and Petaluma Blvd/116 to connect two major crosswalks.

Support bicycle boulevards as proposed

Advocate to install overhead shelter at all major bus stops- make it comfortable to use mass transit not arduous on hot or wet days.

**Slowing traffic down is a priority for everyone's safety.** The recent addition of crosswalks with button dependent flashing lights is helpful when vehicles are traveling within the speed limit. Above 30 mph the new crosswalk lights have less effect. I would ask the city to advocate for adding at least two slow down signs flashing the vehicle speed on hwy 116 starting at Pacific Market (30mph zone), a second one at Safeway (25mph zone). Latest accident data reveals a high number of accidents in this section of Sebastopol.

Thank you for considering my input. Michelle Kelly