

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting Date: February 6, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: City Administration / Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director
Subject: Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA)
Recommendation: That the City Council Conduct Interviews for Openings on the SCTA’s Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CBPAC)
Funding: Currently Budgeted: Yes No Not Applicable
Account Code: N/A

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE:

The item is to request the Council to conduct interviews for the opening on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority’s Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CBPAC) and to consider making an appointment later in the agenda.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CBPAC) – INDEFINITE TERM

The SCTA’s Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CBPAC) meetings are held once every two months from 1 :00 PM to 3:00 PM. Members of the Board may attend in person at the SCTA Board Room, 411 King Street, Santa Rosa, 95404, or via Zoom.

DISCUSSION:

The interviews to be conducted are to fill one opening on the SCTA’s Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for an indefinite term until the citizen representative chooses to retire or resign. The City Clerk noticed the vacancy in the Press Democrat, City Hall Bulletin Board, and various other media outlets on September 14th, 2023, and received three applications.

15-minute interviews for the applicants are scheduled as follows:

COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (One Seat Open)

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm	Phillip Carter	Resident
6:00 pm – 6:15 pm	Gavin Water	Resident
6:15 pm – 6:30 pm	Silas Stafford	Resident

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

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

ANALYSIS OF CITY STAFF:

The Countywide Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CBPAC) advises the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) on programming decisions for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and aids in project coordination

and planning. It is composed of representatives from each bicycle advisory committee in local cities (and serves as the CBPAC for cities who do not have their own). Duties and responsibilities include:

- Attending meetings
- Reviewing meeting agenda materials
- Providing feedback on agenda items and discussion topics.
- Updating the group on bicycle/pedestrian activities and events in represented jurisdiction.
- Voting on action items
- Reviewing and approving complete streets checklists and funding program lists a few times a year.

GOALS:

This action supports the following 2019 City Council Goals and General Plan Actions:

Goal 5: Provide Open and Responsive Municipal Government Leadership

PUBLIC COMMENT:

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. Any comments received following the publication and distribution of this staff report will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Sebastopol City Council conduct the interviews for the opening on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority's CBPAC and make an appointment later in the agenda.

Attachments:

Applications (redacted)

Approvals:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: January 30th, 2024

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: January 17th, 2024

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

Administrative Services/Financial Approval:

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

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: 1/31/24

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 1/31/24

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:

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Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? Citizen representative on the
Citizen representative on the County Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Name: Phillip Carter

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:
[REDACTED]

Sebastopol Ca, 95472

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Work Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Facsimile Number: n/a

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] 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? 2 years?

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

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

I have been active on SCAC since Jan 2023

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

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: self employed

Job Title: Sustainability Consultant, investment finance

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

No

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

Currently 1) Sebastopol Clean Action Comitee transportation working group 2) WESCO Soccer Club board and coach.



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

No

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

Have deeply researched actived transportation, founded a comunity bus service that was acquired by Boulder County, founding team member of Boulder (BCycle bike share) and Intrago Mobility (failed startup similar to Lime Scooters 2007) . Skilled in financial analysis, marketing strategy, entrepreneurial nonprofit operations.



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

Environmental Policy and planning, Ecology Appalachian State 1997. MBA East Carolina University 2004.



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:

I am very interesting in helping our city wherever possible including how to create a more livable city through active transportation and helping the city reduce its emissions inventory to achieve inclusive California and UN sustainable development goals.



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?

Invited by a SCAC member.

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?

Helped edit the book, "Near 2 Far" by Dan Sturges, which details less environmentally impactful transportation ideas.



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

I have professionally been involved in multimodal transportation planning, I understand city planning processes from actively creating a transportation system a public entity absorbed, and I promote and participate in active transportation in our city with my family, and I continuously familiarize myself with transportation concepts.



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

More separated paths for AT beside main roads and along corridors going towards to southern and western ends of the city and safe routes to schools.



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

Online open discussions and comments can be brought into surveys done by professional planners and used to inform future projects suggested to city/county council.



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

Mostly make sure conversation is open and free in order to understand positions at the deepest levels to hopefully establish win win solutions.

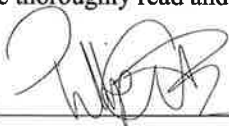


How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

First, I would try to understand the support for the proposal to make sure I am informed properly, then I would try to understand how much fellow citizens support the proposal. If I still do not support the proposal, I am sure there is a venue/process to voice my opinions and concerns, and if the majority still supports it and I do not, I will defer to the system that decides the result.



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

Applicant's Signature : 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Phillip Carter

Date: Sept. 29, 2023

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Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
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Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

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fax: 707-823-1135

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Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? The Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Name: Gavin Waters

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:
[REDACTED]

Sebastopol, CA 95472

Name: Gavin Waters

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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

Yes No

Work Phone Number: ^{N/A} _____

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

Yes No

Facsimile Number: ^{N/A} _____

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

Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED] 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? ^{1 year} _____

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

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Occasional virtual participation - irregular

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

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: One Zero Solutions, LLC

Job Title: Senior Program Manager, Dept. of State

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

No; applicable experience:

- I co-founded a political club in college to foster cross-ideology dialogue
- Volunteer intern, US Congresswoman Connie Morella, 1999

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

- Volunteer, Butterfly Garden Program, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Volunteer, gardener, Historic Annapolis Foundation
- Member, Friends of SMART

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

No.

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

I am exceptionally passionate about pedestrian and bike safety, equal access and design efficiency. I am a long time walker and biker by choice and to set an example. I have a keen interest in design and designing people and bikes into our transportation system as a first thought, not an afterthought. I am a certified military planner with years of military board, committee and collaboration experience.

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

Rutgers University - Political Science - 1997-2001 - BA
US Naval War College - Strategy and Military Decision Making - 2015-2018 - MA

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America
Numerous personal decorations, including Defense Meritorious Service Medal and
Afghanistan Campaign Medal, United States Navy

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:

I would like to participate in civic life and I think this is the perfect issue for me to advocate for. I see a future where most people, especially in small towns like Sebastopol, and forward thinking places like Sonoma County, use walking and bikes more than they use cars for local transport.

My objectives will be to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian equal access and awareness.

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?

Councilwoman Mauer's email newsletter.

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?

No.

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

I have strong opinions on these matters; I walk and bike to local establishments and on local errands everyday.

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

Encouraging use of these more sustainable modalities. I also think there should be significant emphasis on the health benefits of these modalities.

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

Community comments and feedback should drive the decision making process. They should be integral to it. Comments that are negative or counter-productive should be judged accordingly but should be examined for underlying points of view that have validity to the 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?

I would view this in the spirit of healthy debate - not as a personal affront. If I thought the disagreement was personal, I would seek a private dialogue with that member, ideally with a moderator or neutral party present.

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 would make known my viewpoint but ultimately I would act in a manner conducive to good order and in alignment with the policy and standards in the interest of moving forward. If a disagreed with the policy and standards I would seek to learn more about them and consider advocating for a change if warranted.



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

Applicant's Signature : _____ 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Gavin Waters

Date: 21SEP2023

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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? CBPAC Citizen representative

Name: Silas Stafford

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:


Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

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: [REDACTED] 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? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

I have not attended the CBPAC

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

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: Vector Labs Inc.

Job Title: Deployment Strategist

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

No

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

Bike Sebastopol
Sebastopol Trailmakers



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

No

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

- Avid cyclist
- Parent
- Geospatial analysis (aka making maps)
- Project management



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

Stanford University, BS Geological and Environmental Science, 2008
University of Cambridge, MPhil, Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing, 2009



Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

N/A

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:

I drop my kids off, and commute into downtown every weekday. I care deeply about making our community safer and more inclusive, and reducing our environmental footprint by encouraging cycling.

I want to see cycling in our County and City become safer and more inclusive



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?

John Jay

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?

I have 2 years of experience implementing policy agreements between the State and Federal Agencies, and 4 years as a contractor in the Federal Government



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

My private professional roles have all been centered around integrating input from stakeholders, creating a plan, and implementing it. This means bringing folks to the table who may not always have the strongest voice, listening to the community with humility, and integrating their input with engineers, policy, and an eye to the future. I care deeply about making our community better, and have spent hundreds of hours cycling in Sonoma County. Additionally, I am a parent of young children, so can provide my own perspective on how to meaningfully make it safer for kids to bike comm Coun



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

I want our county to dream big about increasing access to cycling through infrastructure, which has many community benefits, including health, safety and environmental.



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

Community comments should be a core part of how a board makes it's decision. Being an effective committee requires that constituents are heard, and that the local expertise of members of the community is leveraged.



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

I'm a firm believer that kind, respectful, civil disagreement is a key to reaching higher understanding. If someone vehemently disagreed with me, I would ask them questions to understand where they were coming from, empathise, and update my understanding, and change my mind accordingly.



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?

Assuming my disagreement was based on community interests, I would register my disagreement but would not block the committee from performing its duties, following the process and guidelines laid out in the code of conduct



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

Applicant's Signature : 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Silas Stafford

Date: 30 Oct 2023