Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Report Reviewed by:
City Manager:

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	January 30, 2017
To:	Honorable Mayor and Honorable City Councilmembers
From:	City Manager Larry McLaughlin
	Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley
Subject:	Planning Commission Interviews
Recommendation :	That the Mayor and City Council Conduct interviews for Openings on the Planning Commission and make appointments later in the agenda.
Funding:	Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No __XX___ N/A Net General Fund Cost: N/A Amount: $0

INTRODUCTION: This item is to request that the City Council Conduct interviews for Openings on the Planning Commission and make appointments later in the agenda.

BACKGROUND:

PLANNING COMMISSION – 4 YEAR TERM

The Planning Commission meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA.

As the Council is aware, the Planning Commission is the advisory body to the City Council and has such duties as:

A. To recommend special studies and amendments to the General Plan

B. To perform such duties and functions as prescribed by law.

C. To perform such other functions and duties with respect to zoning and other matters as prescribed by City Ordinance or as may be directed by the City Council.

D. To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on public park regulatory issues, improvement needs, and on public park development projects; and to serve as a forum for members of the public to voice their comments regarding such matters.

The Commission shall be as follows:

A. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members or such other numbers as the City Council shall, from time to time, determine by resolution, but in no event less than five (5) members. An Alternate may also be appointed who may serve as a member in the absence of a regular member, or if there is a vacant member position.

B. The members of the Commission and the Alternate shall be from among residents of the City of Sebastopol or shall be the owner of a business within the City of Sebastopol, and up to one person who is not in one of the above categories, but who is a resident of the 95472 Zip Code area, may also be appointed. Members and the Alternate shall be appointed by a majority of the members of the City Council.

DISCUSSION:

The appointments tonight are to fill three vacancies as advertised and highlighted below. Two appointments made tonight will have a term ending of December 31, 2020 and one appointment will be to fill the remainder of the term of Geoffrey Skinner who resigned from the Planning Commission November 2016.

PLANNING COMMISSION	TERM ENDING DATE
Russ Pinto	Dec 31, 2016
PAUL FRITZ	Dec 31, 2016
Geoffrey Skinner (Resignation from Planning Commission)	Dec 31, 2019

The interviews to be conducted tonight are to fill the vacancies created by term endings as listed above.

The City Clerk noticed the vacancy in the Sonoma West Time and News, City Hall Bulletin Board and various other media outlets on several separate occasions and received three applications.

Interviews have been scheduled at 20 minute intervals as follows for the three (3) Vacancies as follows:

PLANNING COMMISSION INTERVIEWS

Name of Applicant	Time of Interview
Paul Fritz	9:00 am
Robert Jacob	9:20 am
Gerald Glaser	9:40 am

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Mayor and City Council conduct interviews for Openings on the Planning Commission and make appointments later in the agenda.

Attachments:
Applications

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Paul Fritz

Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153
fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:00 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. 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. Please note your information will not be made public unless otherwise indicated. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information made public.

Name: Paul Fritz

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

Home Phone Number:

If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
☐Yes ☒No

Work Phone Number:
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
☐Yes ☒No

Facsimile Number:
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
☐Yes ☐No

E-Mail Address:

If appointed, do you want this address to be available to the public?
☒Yes ☐No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?
☒Yes ☐No
If so, for how long? 14 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?
☒Yes ☐No

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Paul Fritz

If so, for how long? 6 years

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? **PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Category A

- ☐ Licenses 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?

Yes, I am currently on the planning commission

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?
☒Yes ☐No

If so, when? Yes, I am currently serving on the planning commission

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Paul Fritz

Present Employer: Self-employed, Fritz Architecture-Urbanism

Job Title: Principal

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

Sebastopol Planning Commission, February 2016-present

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

The Core Project
Urban Community Partnership
Charter Foundation
Strong Towns
General Plan Advisory Committee

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

Charter Foundation, Secretary, 2012-2013
The Core Project, Treasurer, 2011-2016

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

As a licensed architect I am familiar with the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and the role it plays in the entitlement process. I have a particular interest in urban design and planning issues and I write a blog about urban design. I am a member of Strong Towns an organization that advocates for the development of financially strong and resilient communities. I am a founding member of Urban Community Partnership which advocates for development patterns that encourage vibrant, resilient and sustainable communities.

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

Miami University, Bachelor of Environmental Design, 1990
University of California, Berkeley, Master of Architecture, 1994

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:

Having served on the GPAC and the Planning Commission for the past year I am interested in working on the update of our zoning code to align with the newly adopted General Plan. I want to see Sebastopol develop as a vibrant, human-scaled, prosperous community that reflects the unique identity of its citizens. I would like to strengthen connections between neighborhoods and emphasize modes of travel other than the car. I believe we need to focus on infill development to protect the open space surrounding Sebastopol.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Paul Fritz

I want to help craft zoning code language that will support more affordable housing, and housing that is affordable for a wider cross section of our community.

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?

Through the city clerk's email list.

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

Applicant's Signature :_____

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Paul Fritz

Date: November 29, 2016

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Paul Fritz

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW AND SUBMIT WITH THE APPLICATION:

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

As an architect, I understand the mandate of the Planning Commission and its role in the planning process of Sebastopol. Having been involved in the GPAC and the Planning Commission for the past year and the finalizing of the General Plan I think I understand the direction of the General Plan and the work that needs to be done to update the zoning code to reflect the new General Plan. I have been engaged with the planning and development process in Sebastopol for a number of years. I read and write regularly about current urban design and planning issues and attend planning conferences to expand my knowledge. I have a business located downtown and am committed to working on building on Sebastopol's assets to create a strong and resilient community.

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

Much of the work for the next couple of years will involve the updating of the zoning code. As part of the zoning code update, and in our review of development applications I believe the commission should focus on how to support more infill development which utilizes our existing infrastructure and supports a quality human-scaled urban environment. We should focus on policies that support our business community and allows it to thrive generating important revenue for the city. I believe we should continue our support for the urban growth boundary and ensure that development occurs in already developed areas in order to preserve our open spaces and keeps our tendency to sprawl in check. I would love the commission to take a look at the conversion of our 1-way street system downtown back to 2-way.

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

I believe it is important to hear from members of the community that have opinions about items before the planning commission either through written or oral communication. However, I believe that commissioners have a responsibility to rely on their own knowledge and experience and that of city staff while making decisions. I don't think the commission should make decisions based solely on public sentiment. The people that do express their opinions do not necessarily represent the interests of all the community. The commission needs to be able to make decisions that may be 'unpopular' with people that show up at a meeting, but serves the larger interest of the broader community.

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

I do not expect to agree with all commissioners on all issues. That is why we have a 7 member body and not just a single commissioner. We are going to disagree. I would express my opinions as clearly and as strongly as possible but respect the individual opinions of other commissioners and the decision of the body as a whole.

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 my disagreement clear in the public hearing and ask staff to clarify if necessary. I would, and have, vote against a staff recommendation if my understanding of the issues is different. Many of the issues before the commission are open to interpretation. The zoning code is not always black and white. Again, this is why we have a planning commission and not simply leave these decisions to staff.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:00 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. 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. Please note your information will not be made public unless otherwise indicated. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information made public.

Name: Robert Jacob

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

Home Phone Number:

If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
■ Yes ☐ No

Work Phone Number: N/A
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
☐ Yes ☐ No

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Facsimile Number: N/A
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
☐ Yes ☐ No

E-Mail Address:

If appointed, do you want this address to be available to the public?
■ Yes ☐ No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?
■ Yes ☐ No
If so, for how long? 14 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?
■ Yes ☐ No
If so, for how long? 10 years

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? **PLANNING COMMISSION**

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

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

Category A

- ☐ Licenses 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? _____

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Present Employer:_____

Job Title:_____

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

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

- Sebastopol City Council: 2012 – 2016
- Sebastopol Planning Commission: 2010 - 2012

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

- Member, Rotary International – Sebastopol
- Member, Santa Rosa Sub-Committee on Medical Marijuana Regulation
- Member, Sebastopol CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- Board Chair & Development Chair, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC)
- PR Committee Member and Presenter, US Public Health Dept., Region IX and the National Adolescent Health Information Center, Division of Adolescent Medicine and Institute, "*Adolescent Wellness in a Changing Social Environment*"
- Chair, "Champions" Fundraiser, Bay Area Young Positives (BAY+)
- Policy Committee, Physician's HIV Testing and Counseling Conference
- Committee Member, National Conference of State Legislatures Youth and HIV Conference
- Steering Committee Member and Presenter, Adolescents AIDS Program, "*Primary Care Needs of Lesbian and Gay Youth*"

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

- Board Chair & Development Chair, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC)
- Chair of the Planning Commission
- Mayor of the City of Sebastopol

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

I am very interested in helping draft new laws for consideration by the council. There is much work that must be done to consider all policy options, and doing this work well will allow the council to make a more informed decision in an expeditious way. I have an eye for social equality, local economic sustainability, and environmental protection. I work well with a group, and understand the process having serviced as Chair of the Planning Commission in 2012. I am familiarized with the new General Plan, our zoning code, and other critical documents necessary to make informed decisions.

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

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PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

- Top Forty Under 40 Business Professionals Award – North Bay Business Journal
- Hero/Heroine Award – Mobilization Against AIDS 14th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial
- Community Service Award – San Francisco AIDS Dance-a-Thon

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:

A well-run city is a sum of all its parts. City staff does an excellent job digesting new information, preparing the DRB, commission and council, and the council works hard in committees to contribute input into policy and land-use decisions in our town. The Planning Commission is a critical part of the total. When there is alignment with the commission and council the whole ship runs smoother. Coming from a copacetic council to the commission can assist the overall flow of good governance; transparent, smooth, and efficient.

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: Peace in Medicine

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?

City Council meeting

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

I am honored to continue serving the City of Sebastopol. Being a participating member of the community is very rewarding. I will give all that I must make a positive influence for the city. I appreciate your consideration for serving on the Planning Commission.

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PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

Applicant's Signature : Robert Jacob

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Robert Jacob

Date: 12/12/16

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PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW AND SUBMIT WITH THE APPLICATION:

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

My qualifications include:

1. Ability to understand the issues without a learning curve
2. Cooperative nature
3. Passion for issues that are in-line with Sebastopol and the trend setting efforts
4. Drive to serve the local community as evidenced over the last six years
5. Great working relationship with City staff
6. Strong relationships with members of the community

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

I would like to see the commission focus on the following:

1. Land use decisions are a critical part of the commission. I am very interested in helping craft thoughtful decisions regarding Sebastopol's public areas, our parks and parking lots, for best use.
2. Environmental protection is essential in all policy and land-use considerations. We already have a mandatory green-building ordinance and a solar ordinance, but how do we do even more? I will look for simple ways to better integrate environmental stewardship in every decision.
3. Social equality is paramount in any decision. What do we do to ensure that all Sebastopol residents are being looked out for is very important to me.
4. Housing considerations are hugely important. There is a proposal to consider amending the inclusionary zoning ordinance for developments that are all smaller units as logically they will be relatively more affordable. I have some important thoughts on this soon to be discussed policy decision.
5. Living wages are part of what makes affordable housing affordable. How do we cultivate strong local economic development and policies in order that folks have careers versus jobs? I will focus my effort on this as well.
6. Upcoming zoning code update will be very important. My contributions will help to streamline the process, in line with our General Plan.

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

Besides the standard written and oral testimony, we can meet with interested persons. I will be a proactive Planning Commissioner, able and willing to meet with constituents to find resolution and make informed decisions. This will be another added comment influx. We can also do more to inspire online contributions and polling using modern technology and apps in concert with our updated website.

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City of Sebastopol

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: Robert Jacob

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

I would handle such a circumstance professionally and with grace. Discourse, and the ability to disagree while maintaining decorum, is a critical part of good governance.

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?

Consistency counts for a lot, but is not always the ultimate lens for making a decision. There are discretionary permits that must also consider cumulative impacts, for example, that alter a decision. Each decision must be considered from many different perspectives. I will give my all to be transparent, direct, cordial, and clear with my positions.

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City of Sebastopol

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: _Gerald A Glaser_____

fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:00 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. 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. Please note your information will not be made public unless otherwise indicated. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information made public.

Name: __Gerald A Glaser_____

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

_ _____

_____

Home Phone Number:

If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
√Yes □No

Work Phone Number:_
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
□Yes √□No

Facsimile Number:_____None_____
If appointed, do you want this number to be available to the public?
□Yes □No

E-Mail Address: ___ _____

If appointed, do you want this address to be available to the public?
√□Yes □No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?
□Yes √□No
If so, for how long? ___Need to complete that in the next month_____

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?
□Yes √□No
If so, for how long? _____

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: _Gerald A Glaser_____

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? **PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

Category A

- ☐ Licenses 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:_____

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: _Gerald A Glaser_____

Job Title:_____

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:
Sunnyvale Planning Commissioner (one term)
Sunnyvale Sustainability Commissioner (two terms)
Sunnyvale Chairman of Horizon 2035 Committee (develop revision to Land Use and Transportation Elements; create Climate Action Plan)

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:
No

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?
Studied for Masters in Architecture – and work 6 year for Skidmore Ownings and Merrill
Design own home
Worked on Downtown development committee
Speak to promote creation of Silicon Valley (CCA)

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:
BS Physics C-MU
3 years toward March C-MU
Multiple technical courses at Berkeley, Standford, and Santa Cruz Universities

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: _Gerald A Glaser_____

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 enjoy being involved in helping the community develop.

As a relatively new member of the community, I don't have specific objectives as to how the community develops. I do have personal objectives though to learn more about the community and what values are most dear. I would like to help preserve those. In many cases that means promoting change so that the things people most value in the community character can be preserved.

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?

As part of learning about the community, my wife, DJ, has been meeting with neighbors and reviewing publications of the City. She knows of my interest in participating in the development of the community, so forwarded the link to me.

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

We have owned property in Sebastopol since 2014 (911 Litchfield). We originally planned to build a new home on that property and worked two years towards that. Instead we bought our current home on Brookside and moved in recently.

So we are new as residents, but have been coming to visit Sebastopol regularly for over 2 years as we tried to find or develop our new home.

Applicant's Signature :_____

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): _Gerald A. Glaser (Gerry)

Date:__30-Nov-2016

PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATION

NAME: _Gerald A Glaser_____

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW AND SUBMIT WITH THE APPLICATION:

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

Interesting question – when I applied as Planning Commissioner in Sunnyvale in 1994 I had to admit I had no experience other than working as an architect – and that I knew nothing of how government worked.

Now with those experiences in Sunnyvale, I guess this is no longer true; my innocence (that appealed to that council) has been compromised. SO my experience working in Sunnyvale over the past 25 years is one qualification.

But I tend to think what really qualifies me is that I spend a great deal of time researching the issues – I recognize the responsibility being assumed and take it seriously. This is not something you do in a meeting – it is just summarized there. The rest is the result of work done before a meeting in preparation.

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

I'm not bringing any particular baggage with me.

One observation though is there is a challenge the city faces… The traffic flow downtown is disruptive. However, if it was eliminated, the vitality of the city would be impacted.

So there is a challenge to determine how to address the through traffic issues while still allowing Sebastopol to work as a crossroads that people become aware of.

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

They should be included directly.

One thing I learned was that the 5 people who show up to speak at a meeting can often determine the direction taken. I wonder if that is always best.
The challenge is to learn how to take those comments and incorporate them into the comments unsaid (from folks who don't regularly attend city government meetings.) Sometimes that means reaching out to bring those other opinions and wants to the table.

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

I would want to know WHY they have that/those opinions. The most valuable input is from those who disagree with me, not those who agree. The ones who disagree have the arguments that I have not yet thought of or have a different value base that needs to be respected.

Generally, I would argue. I would explain the rational for my position.

On one committee that I served with many contentious issues , a member came up with this kind of voting:

- *I strongly support*
- *I can live with*
- *I can't live with*

That type of vote allowed us to come to agreement quickly, because it focused on WHY someone could not live with a specific decision.
That needs to be understood – not necessarily agreed with, but understood before a quality decision can be made by a group.

If your key in the question is "consistently", then I would argue that it can be broken over time by the approaches I mention above. Eventually, we get to know why each of us is arguing and we come to recognize that basis. That allows us to also recognize our common grounds on individual issues. I find if you want to be a productive group, you naturally start to look for the areas of agreement over time…

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?

The question of working with staff and incorporating their input is somewhat of a challenge. It has to do with the assumed authority over the topic. But we have to recognize that Staff is not expressing an opinion, but rather stating what they have discovered. In any city charter, there are many proposals consistent with policy and standards that support things that are not good ideas.

If we could rely simply on policy and standards, we wouldn't need commissions… the math would determine the response… But we do have commissions and boards – because policies and standards can only provide guidance; not quality answers.