


City Council
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Vice Mayor Una Glass
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Planning Director
Kari Svanstrom
Associate Planner
Alan Montes
Senior Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Mansour

City of Sebastopol Planning Commission Staff Report

Meeting Date: March 10, 2020
Agenda Item: 8B
To: Planning Commission
From: Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director 
Alan Montes, Associate Planner
Subject: Climate Action Subcommittee
Recommendation: Receive Staff Report and Nominate a Planning Commission member to serve on the Subcommittee

Background/Discussion:

At the December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting, the City Council adopted a City Council Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency and Committing to on-going actions to restore a safe environment. As part of that discussion, the City Council directed the staff to establish a Climate Action Ad Hoc Sub-Committee. It is anticipated that the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee would include a cross-section of community members representing all sectors to work together to create a recommendation to the City Council on specific actions discussed below as well as on any proposed future actions and/or the creation of a standing committee.

At its January 7, 2020 Council meeting, the City Council authorized a Climate Action Sub-Committee, with the membership to include one Councilmember, one Planning Commission member, and several members of the public with various backgrounds.

The application process for the Climate Action Subcommittee is underway, with recruitment flyer and application materials available on the City's Website: <https://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/City-Government/Boards-Commissions-Committees/Climate-Action-Sub-committee>. Members for the Subcommittee will be reviewed (interviewed) and selected by the Council, with the Subcommittee consisting of eleven (11) to thirteen (13) members from the following backgrounds:

- One City Councilmember
- One Planning Commissioner
- One Member of City Staff (Planning Director or designee)
- Youth (ages 17-23)
- Sebastopol business owner

- Sebastopol Climate Action or other local climate group representative
- Environmental justice/equity background
- Rights of nature background
- Climate background
- Reside within Sebastopol city limits
- Reside outside Sebastopol city limits within the 95472-zip code

The applications for the public are due March 20, 2020, with interviews by Council to be scheduled after that date. In the meantime, both Council and the Planning Commission need to select a representative for the sub-committee. Having a Planning Commissioner on this sub-committee will help to maintain consistency of any potential future policy development and implementation that may come before the Planning Commission, and vice versa.

The Sub-Committee would be expected to meet with some regularity, likely on a monthly basis at the outset, to discuss the items outlined below, as well as additional topics, programs, education, outreach, etc. that would be of benefit to the City or a future standing sub-committee:

Duties of Climate Action Sub-committee:

- Formulate a Work Plan for the sub-committee
- Research composition and duties of other cities sub-committees
- Update CAP Document for City
- Prioritize Climate Emergency Resolution Attachment A
- Create Climate Calendar
- Create Volunteer Appreciation Events/Ideas for Climate Events

General Plan Consistency:

The General Plan’s Conservation and Open Space (COS) Element includes several policies related to environmental stewardship, including:

Goal COS1: Make Proactive, Forward-Thinking Environmental Protection and Resource Management the Cornerstone of Sebastopol’s Identity

Goal COS 2: Protect and Enhance Sebastopol’s Ecosystem and Natural Habitats

Goal COS 3: Protect and Enhance Water Resources in Local Creeks, Riparian Habitat, Wetlands, the Laguna De Santa Rosa Watershed, Atascadero Creek, and Aquatic Habitat

Recommendation:

Select a Planning Commission member to serve on the Subcommittee