

## Sebastopol City Council Goals and Priorities Meeting

January 29, 2013

### Synopsis and Commentary

All Council Members were in attendance.

This process has just started and promises to grind exceedingly slow, and fine too, as it took over an hour before the Council could actually start stating its goals. They evidently weren't listening when the City Manager/Attorney Larry McLaughlin stated at the beginning of the meeting that "...we need to get pragmatic in a hurry."

It then took another twenty minutes to sort out the Mission Statement when Kyes pulled out one word that he deemed defective and we were all buried in an avalanche of adjectives and adverbs. It seemed as if almost everyone found some word they could replace with a better one. And it all ended up just about like it was when they started.

Kyes then asked the Council Members to state their goals one at a time with their first goal being their top priority. For reasons only known to herself, Council Member Gurney objected, refused to do so and listed all ten with a following comma so there was no top pick. It looks like another contentious year.

Listed below are some points that were expressed:

#### **Gurney:**

Wants us to be known as "The City of the Laguna."

Wants us to be designated as Cittaslow Sebastopol

Build community capacity as "Peacetown, USA"

#### **Slyter:**

Maintain city infrastructure

Work on our downtown design

Improve our website

**Jacob:**

Update the general plan

Upgrade traffic light system

Promote downtown core

Inclusion of the disenfranchised (Those who live out of the city limits)

Strengthen our EMF position

**Kyes:**

Cleanup downtown

Resurface streets starting at downtown

**Eder:**

Setup an emergency fund

Attract more business

City hall made more available to the public

Establish a citizens budget advisory committee

The main issue for all was our financial situation, which could be better. After recognizing that, Mayor Kyes immediately (and over some resistance from a few) had an item to put on an upcoming agenda that would authorize \$5,000.00 to help with removing the “non-native” species from something called Railroad Forest just off the Joe Rodota trail. This all volunteer group is headed by one of his supporters, who wants to spray with a Roundup-like substance. You may note that SebastopolCitizens.org is maintaining the landscape at well #8 where the water level is at least 75 feet below the surface (and often at 200') and we can't spray, even with a small hand sprayer.

John Necker