

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – Feb 21, 2012 – Synopsis and Commentary

--John Necker, a Sebastopol Citizen

After four hours, the City Council upheld the Design Review Board denial of the **CVS project** making several changes in the language submitted to them by City staff. The vote was 3 to 2, Slater and Shaffer voting not to approve the denial, and Wilson, Gurney and Kyes voting to uphold it.

Council member Gurney often suggested stronger language than that submitted, stating at one time that the proposed portico had a “corporate look”, and was “dominate and “aggressive.”

Council member Kyes seemed somewhat vague about reasons to uphold the denial and was often was silent during discussions.

Mayor Wilson had suggestions but was more focused on finding language that could be agreed upon.

Council members Slater and Shaffer seemed to be resigned that they would almost always be outvoted but did win a few small concessions.

Shaffer expressed hopes that the project would be submitted to Design Review yet again.

Slater pointed out various technical problems in the denial relating to access, security and safety.

In general, it would appear that there is nothing that the CVS project could do that would win the support of Gurney or Kyes. Wilson appeared to be more open but still wanting some major changes to take place.

Other items:

The vote was 5 to 0 to approve reducing the Documentary Transfer Taxes to \$0.55 per

thousand, down from \$3.10. It was done to bring Sebastopol into compliance with the county and will reduce the revenue generated to about \$103,000, down from about \$110,00.

Public comment:

Two speakers expressed concern about the increase of drugs, alcohol, and vandalism at the skate park.

Another called for the Council to remove Sebastopol Planning Commissioner Clare Najarian for the comments she made to County Supervisor Efren Carrillo.

<http://sebastopol.towns.pressdemocrat.com/2012/02/news/najarian-says-shes-sorry/>