

ADVOCACY ALERT

Action

Planning Commission will continue work on the draft ordinance for the affordable housing development proposed by Bethany Lutheran Church this Thursday, April 14. We urge you to submit letters at pcd@bainbridgewa.gov and/or speak in support of the project. The meeting agenda, background materials, Zoom access, and instructions for making public comment can be found [here](#).

It's time

Planning Commission first met to discuss the request by Bethany Lutheran for an increased density bonus (permitted under state law RCW 36.70A.545) January 13, 2022. We are now four months into the process. It is time to complete the draft recommendations and submit them to City Council for further review.

HRB supports the density bonus formula prescribed in the current version of the ordinance which would yield a total of 21 units on the church's 8-acre property. Amendments have been proposed that would reduce the density bonus, resulting in a development with as few as eight units. Eight units on eight acres is an almost insignificant increase in density. Such a development would squander the opportunity we have today, thanks to the generosity of the church and the unusually large-sized lot, to make a meaningful impact on our affordable housing crisis.

These proposed amendments have also tied any further increases in density to increasingly stringent green building standards, which would make the project cost prohibitive and hold it to a standard far above any other island residence.

These same amendments are to be discussed yet again this Thursday. Let this be the last such meeting. Let Planning Commission know that you support the construction of 21 units of affordable housing at Bethany Lutheran Church.



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