

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

This Tuesday, June 7, 2022, City Council will review a request by Bethany Lutheran Church for an increased density bonus to build affordable housing on its land.

Planning Commission drafted an ordinance which would allow the church to build 21 units with a maximum size of 1,400 sq. ft. per unit, but after three months of deliberation, it could not come to an agreement. Council is now in possession of the work completed by Planning Commission.

Action

Tuesday's meeting is a study session and does not include public comment . **However, we urge you to write an email to [Council](#) expressing support for this project at the density of 21 units.** Council members have told HRB that they want and need to hear from the community.

There is a risk that Council will send the draft ordinance back to Commission, where yet more time will be lost. Demonstrating broad community support so early in Council deliberations will empower members to act decisively and favorably and counter email they receive from those opposed to affordable housing.

Key points to include in your email to Council

- The project is needed and innovative: Our community is in desperate need of affordable homes and must seize opportunity such as this. This is just the sort of innovative project championed in the 2018 report by the Affordable Housing Task Force. It deserves the support of the City.
- The current density bonus is appropriate: Twenty-one small units are well supported by 8 acres and existing infrastructure and are compatible with nearby development.
- Do not delay: Planning Commission has done what they can do. It is now the duty of City Council to move this project forward. It has been over one year since the church requested a density bonus. With construction costs skyrocketing, further delay will make building affordably more challenging.

Thank you for your action and support. It makes a difference.

Meeting details

City Council
June 7, 2022
6:00 pm

To listen, click the meeting link on the city's homepage calendar at www.bainbridgewa.gov.

For more information, see the meeting agenda packet [here](#).



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