

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

A draft of the Housing Action Plan (HAP) is complete. It has been reviewed by City Council and forwarded to Planning Commission for next steps. The first Commission meeting to discuss the HAP is tomorrow, Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Planning Commission is tasked with selecting from the array of policies and programs outlined in the plan, prioritizing and refining them, and determining their areas of application (e.g., Winslow Subarea). The work of Commission will be complex, entail hard choices, and take time. It is critical that members hear from housing advocates so that they prioritize affordability and know that their efforts are supported by the community.

Background

With a 2022 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, the city commissioned ECONorthwest to write a housing action plan for Bainbridge Island. The document identifies steps that the city can take to meet our housing needs over the next 20 years based on projected population growth and the community's well-established need for greater housing diversity and affordability.

ECONorthwest defines the HAP guiding principles as follows:

- Provide more diverse types of housing.
- Increase affordable housing for low to moderate household income levels.
- Stabilize households & prevent residential displacement.
- Provide supportive housing for seniors and special populations.
- Increase housing for Bainbridge workers.
- Encourage sustainable development.

The plan was informed by several months of community engagement, a data-rich review of current conditions, a survey of existing city policies and their application, and the introduction of new policies and models for the city to consider.

Action

Please read the Housing Action Plan. You can find it in the lower right-hand corner of the city's HAP [website](#) under "Supporting Documents." Some of the content is readily accessible; some less so. Participation in the process that will shape the housing landscape for years to come does not require that you formulate a plan of your own nor that you be an expert. Instead, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with key policies/terms so that you can follow developments more easily and most importantly, that you reaffirm for yourself what is most important to you and be ready to share that focus with Planning Commission.

Get ready! We will be communicating regularly about the process and alert you to opportunities to either weigh in on a particular choice or simply convey to the Commission your concern for housing affordability and your desire to see a useful product that will have tangible and immediate impact.

Watch Planning Commission in person or via Zoom.

Thursday, April 27, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Council Chambers

City Hall

280 Madison Avenue North

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Zoom (as feasible): <https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/81285913438>



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