Housing Resources Bainbridge

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, City Council voted to adopt the Housing Action Plan (HAP). After further deliberation among city staff and members of Council and Planning Commission, the motion to adopt included directions to staff to prepare a biannual scorecard and two memos identifying HAP actions that can and cannot be addressed through the Winslow Subarea Plan and Comprehensive Plan update processes.

This document, commissioned by the city and prepared by ECONorthwest, outlines overall strategy; policy and program ideas; and resource and funding allocations that can help the city meet existing and anticipated needs for both affordable and market-rate housing.

Why this matters to HRB

Over the years, there have been commendable attempts to address the island's need for affordable housing but with limited results. While many of the HAP recommendations are not new, we are hopeful that this latest attempt will be different. The HAP provides structure and a shared lexicon and is more extensive than earlier tools. More important, the work environment has changed. The efforts of City Council and Planning Commission will be supported by directives and new legislation from the state and by a community that is more informed and frustrated about local housing conditions than ever before.

Action

Be patient but ever-vigilant. This is a powerful opportunity to create a more sustainable housing ecosystem and to make our community more resilient and equitable. Let's not squander it.

Be glad. Send a note of gratitude to City Council.

And stick with us. We'll be sending you alerts during the lengthy HAP implementation phase, keeping you apprised of the process and letting you know when key decisions are being made that have the potential to advance our primary goal of creating permanently affordable housing for Bainbridge Island.











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