

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

May 25, 2023, Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the Housing Action Plan (HAP) with **minor changes** and three stipulations for city staff:

1. Prepare a bi-annual scorecard that evaluates the city's progress.
2. Prepare a memo explaining how the Winslow Subarea Plan and the Comprehensive Plan can address the objectives of the HAP.
3. Prepare a memo that identifies actions that do not fall under either of the above plans.

Staff responded to these motions at Planning Commission's June 22 meeting. Staff made clear that they are able to take on the creation of a work program that outlines the implementation of the HAP in the Winslow Subarea Plan Update and 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update now underway should Council direct them to do so. Commissioners who felt strongly about the inclusion of the scorecard motion were encouraged to make comment in front of Council at the upcoming June 27 meeting.

Why this matters to HRB

As the city prepares to embark on the HAP, there has been much attention paid to process. HRB would also like to see a methodical and transparent process, but we are eager for work to begin. (Note that the Washington State Department of Commerce grant that funded the development of a housing action plan requires that the city adopt one by June 30, 2023.)

Our desire for action, however, does not come at the expense of accountability, and we consider tracking and reporting an integral part of the the implementation process.

HRB would also like to see a focus on permanent affordability, as it is arguably the most sustainable use of resources. Without it, homes enter the open market after the period of required affordability ends—more money and land must then be found to replace them. While we recognize that the affordability crisis on Bainbridge demands a variety of strategies and models, we urge the city to prioritize permanent affordability.

Action

City Council meets tomorrow, Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Please write to [City Council](#) or deliver public comment at the start of the meeting, encouraging councilors to adopt the HAP. This is also an opportunity to emphasize the importance of permanent affordability.

Key points to include in your email

- Please adopt the HAP and prioritize actions that result in permanent affordability.
- In line with Planning Commission's unanimous recommendations, urge the city manager to do the following: 1) direct staff to develop a work program that guides implementation of HAP actions in the Winslow Subarea Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, and 2) develop an annual reporting process that captures progress on the work program.
- Let's get to work! The HAP is not an endpoint, but the beginning of an energetic and productive response to our housing crisis.

Meeting details

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
6:00 pm
Council Chambers
City Hall
280 Madison Avenue North
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

You can attend in person or via Zoom: <https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/92947338351>

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



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