

## **Bainbridge Island City Council Instructions to 2017 Affordable Housing Task Force**

Among the high priority implementing actions of the 2017 revised Comprehensive Plan is the establishment of an Affordable Housing Task Force to consider the revised Housing Element and make specific recommendations to the Council for near-term action.

Members of the Task Force have been chosen both for their interest in working on this issue, and for their recognition that improving access to affordable housing on Bainbridge Island is critical to maintaining a diverse and vibrant community.

The Bainbridge Island Comprehensive Plan defines “affordable housing” as “...*housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state. This is a goal of the state Growth Management Act. RCW 36.70A.020(4). When residential housing for rental or private individual ownership is occupied by low-income households, it is considered affordable if it requires payment of monthly housing costs, including utilities other than telephone, of no more than thirty percent of the family's income. WAC 365- 200-030(1).*”

From this definition, the Task Force should understand that its mandate is broader than simply considering low-income housing. It should consider housing affordability on Bainbridge Island across the economic spectrum.

The Task Force should review affordable housing-related materials that have been generated by or for the City in recent years, review relevant resource material, and review the goals and policies of our current Comprehensive Plan. While Affordable Housing, and therefore the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan, is the focus of this Task Force, it will be important for it to consider the goals and policies of ALL elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Where goals and policies seem to be in conflict, it will be incumbent on the Task Force to recommend solutions that balance the costs and benefits for the community.

The Task Force will decide on what detailed work is necessary to deliver to the Council specific recommendations, including but not limited to recommended changes to City zoning codes and regulations, which would most effectively advance the stated goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The Task Force also may arrive at conclusions or recommendations that involve the work of non-governmental organizations, which can be shared with those organizations either as part of the Task Force’s work, or after its final report.

The Task Force is asked to deliver a report to the City Council by the end of June, 2018. The Task Force will be dissolved upon acceptance of its report by the Council.