

To: Jessica Louisos, Planning Commission

From: Chris Trombly, Affordable Housing Committee

CC: Kelsey Peterson; Planning and Zoning

Date: August 3, 2023

RE: AHC Feedback on Housing Section

Dear Jessica,

The Affordable Housing Committee reviewed the housing section of the working draft comprehensive plan dated July 6, 2023. The overall impression of the plan was positive. After thoughtful discussion, the committee unanimously endorsed (8-0, 2 absent) the following recommendations to be submitted the PC:

1. Change last sentence on page 16 to “homes from that era should be prioritized for weatherization, energy efficiency, and building materials.”

The committee recognized the age of the properties and agreed prioritization over newer built homes that likely have higher building standards.

2. Specifically include/mention ADU’s

The committee recognized Accessory Dwelling Units as a priority housing type and has prioritized its awareness in the community. This underutilized housing type has infill potential that is compatible with land use goals while increasing the supply of housing at lower price points. We’d appreciate this specific housing type is called out specifically to increase awareness and support its importance.

3. Include under Housing Action section: “Update Housing Needs Assessment and Analysis”

The committee is thankful for the inclusion of this report. Similar to a Parks and Mobility masterplan, the committee would like to see language to include “housing assessment and analysis” that would replicate the excellent work of the 2013 South Burlington Affordable Housing Report “The Path to Affordability”. This analysis included actionable recommendations to be considered. This served as a guide and led to successful policies still in place today such as inclusionary zoning and the housing trust fund.

4. Include language for Fair and Just transition in housing section

The city council's Declaration of Inclusion signed July 18th, 2022 is an important document for the Affordable Housing Committee and would appreciate the housing section is updated with language to incorporate its inclusive message and is front and center in future planning discussions.

To that end, the South Burlington City Council condemns racism, sexism, classism, ableism, ageism, religious intolerance, and homophobia, in all its forms. We welcome all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, age, or physical and/or mental capabilities, to participate in governance, and we will make every effort to provide a safe and welcoming community for all.

The South Burlington City Council stands with our community and commits to being more visible, vocal, and supportive in our efforts to ensure equity and racial justice, and to directly address systemic and overt racism, sexism, classism, ableism, ageism, religious intolerance, homophobia, and implicit bias. We will work together with the City Manager and City staff, to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operation procedures reflect this commitment.

Note: The following language from the plan generated a healthy and respectful discussion within the committee but we ultimately did not call to a vote and members agreed to send their individual opinions to the planning commission separately. *"The overriding objective of the Plan is to make every policy decision through the lens of climate resilience and reduction in greenhouse emissions."*

Thank you to the Planning Commission and the Planning Department for your work on this document. The committee shared abundant praise for the overall quality and improvement which reflects your hard work.

Thank you,

Christopher Trombly