

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND ANNOUNCES FURTHER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
ON THE EVANS VISTA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN**

*Financial feasibility discussed with Planning Commission on 7/19, information
at Concerts on the Dock on 7/20, and City Council briefed on 8/7*

PORT TOWNSEND - The City of Port Townsend is thrilled to announce the continuation of public engagement for the Evans Vista Housing Development Master Plan. The City invites the community to participate and share their valuable insights as the project progresses, offering a fun opportunity to shape the future of our new neighborhood. With a focus on conceptual site plan renderings and preliminary financial pro forma, the City is dedicated to creating an inclusive and sustainable community.

This initiative links directly to the recent findings of the Financial Sustainability Task Force in their report to City Council earlier this month which, among other findings, concludes that efficient urban form drives both greater affordability and greater financial sustainability.

The City's project team, consisting of the Department of Planning & Community Development, Department of Public Works and Thomas Architecture Studios (TAS) along with a consortium of consultants including Terrapin Architecture, SCJ Alliance, Landau Associates and ECONorthwest is committed to incorporating diverse perspectives into the planning process.

The next engagement opportunities include a discussion on the plan's financial feasibility on July 19th in front of the Planning Commission at 6:30pm in City Council Chambers. The meeting will also unveil findings from the community survey, which received over 300 responses. The survey, conducted in May and reopened for additional input in July and July, focused on housing needs, amenity interests, and demographics.

On July 20th, visit the City Evans Vista booth at Concerts on the Dock to explore poster boards showing site plan alternatives and early financial key points, like amount of subsidy required, Area Median Income (AMI) levels and the resulting affordability in terms of rent or mortgage within the city. There will be a virtual Zoom workshop on Thursday July 27th in the evening for those who cannot attend in-person activities. Visit the project website for details and to access the Zoom link.



City Council will also hear a comprehensive presentation on the project's financial analysis, outreach summary, and design options on August 7. Based on this outreach on community preferences, the project team hopes to answer key questions such as how many units are possible and what type, what affordability mix is feasible, what role may exist for commercial or mixed-use development, and what amenities the project can support. The project team will prepare a final option and summary for a joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting on October 9. This meeting will serve as a significant milestone in the planning process that refines alternatives with a feasibility analysis, engineering study, and framework for desired affordability goals and vision so that the City can request proposals for development in early 2024.

Emma Bolin, the Director of Planning & Community Development stated "The Evans Vista planning process is and will be an incredible journey, co-developed with our amazing community, to construct over 150 units of new housing that addresses the pressing issue of affordable housing in our City. We are not only excited about providing affordable homes, but also about creating a vibrant new destination for commercial and mixed-use activity that will serve the surrounding area, while adding a new sense of place and identity. Evans Vista will truly become the 'there' that our community deserves." Bolin acknowledged the financial assistance received from the Washington State legislature, which provided \$3.1 million, and the federal government which provided \$2.5 million, for land acquisition and necessary infrastructure. In addition, Jefferson County has awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the City to assist in the master planning and entitlement of the project. These contributions reduce the amount of subsidy needed to construct affordably priced homes.

Director Bolin also thanked the hard work from the Evans Vista Technical Advisory Group who meets periodically to provide guidance to the project team as well as Planning Commission, "It's rewarding to discuss what we can accomplish with so many community partners early in the process so that this Master Plan is built in a way we can all be proud."

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For more information on Evans Vista Housing Development Master Plan, visit the project website:
<https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/evans-vista-housing-development-master-plan>



Read the Financial Sustainability Task Force report here:

https://cityofpt.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=2708&meta_id=216816

For more about how the City is exploring strategies for infill and affordable housing visit:

https://cityofpt.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=4&event_id=3666&meta_id=215533

