



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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### **Planning Commission Considers New Public Participation Guidelines**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, August 4, 2010 – The Planning Commission will hold its first study session next week on a new ordinance that, if approved by the Commission and the City Council, will make public participation meetings mandatory for larger land use projects.

“Over the past few years, we’ve heard from Bainbridge residents how important it is to them to understand and be able to comment on land use proposals that may affect the physical and visual qualities of the island as early in the process as possible,” said Kathy Cook, Director of Planning and Development. “This ordinance, developed through a collaborative effort between Council members, Planning Commissioners and staff, is one way we can involve the public earlier in the development process.”

If approved, Ordinance 2010-25 will require all new multi-family and commercial projects, as well as institutional projects like schools and churches in residential zones, to hold a public participation meeting to vet community interests and concerns early in the project’s development. It would expand on the city’s existing Public Participation Program, which gives developers the option of holding a public meeting.

The new ordinance is one of several initiatives to emerge from the city’s Land Use Public Process steering group. This group, which involves two members of the City Council, a representative of the Planning Commission, the Planning Director and staff, and the Communications Coordinator, has been meeting for several months to identify opportunities to improve the way the city informs and involves the public in discussion around proposed land use actions. For more information on the Committee’s activities, [see the editorial on page # of this paper, or](#) visit the city’s website at [www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us](http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us). To submit comments or ideas to the Land Use Public Process steering group, email [ccurrie@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us](mailto:ccurrie@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us), or call Cathie Currie, Communications Coordinator, at 780-8632.

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for 7 pm on August 12 in Council Chambers, City Hall, 280 Madison Ave. N. In addition to Ord. 2010-25, Mandatory Public Process, the agenda includes the Land Use Code Update, Title 18, and Capital Facilities Element. For more information, email [pcd@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us](mailto:pcd@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us) or call 780-3758.

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