
From: Alan Peters <alanpeters@gmail.com>
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To: Community Development Email <communitydevelopment@cityofcamas.us>
Subject: Housing Action Plan Comments

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Dear Planning Commission,

First, I'd like to acknowledge the work of the planning commission, staff, and the consultant team on the Housing Action Plan. I participated as a focus group member and know that the project team valued my input and that of other group members. The focus group represented a variety of viewpoints and the team did a great job of synthesizing our perspectives into a plan that reflects the diversity of our group and of the community as a whole.

Second, I'd like to express my support for the Housing Action Plan. The plan's goals and strategies will support the Camas 2035 Comprehensive Plan's vision of a diverse Camas, with a wide variety and range of housing for all ages and income levels. I am excited by the recommendations to expand housing opportunities in our downtown areas, to upzone the city's residential zones, and to allow for a diversity of housing types throughout the city. My neighborhood on Prune Hill includes homes ranging from 1,400 sq. ft. to 8,000 sq. ft. While all these homes are single-family, the assortment makes for an attractive streetscape and a diverse neighborhood of folks in different stages of life. If the plan is implemented, more of Camas may realize the benefits of a variety of housing types and densities present throughout our neighborhoods. If the plan is successful, more people will have access to the quality of life that Camas residents enjoy.

I encourage the planning commission to vote to recommend that the city council adopt the Housing Action Plan. And yet the plan is only a starting point. There is much work to be done if we want to realize the Camas 2035 vision, including work by the community to further explore the plan's strategies and implement them in the coming months and years.

Finally, a word about the mill. Today it is still operating, but if it someday closes, it may continue to be a jobs center, it may turn into housing, it may become a public park. More likely it will be mixed-use. But currently, the mill site is not a viable option we can count on to accommodate anticipated growth over the next 14 years. Still, the plan does not preclude the use of the mill site for future housing development (strategies 1 and 5 support this possibility), but it does not hinge our housing future on the chance that the mill will close. There are many large tracts of vacant land in our urban growth boundary that will be developed before then, and these sites provide our best opportunities to accommodate our housing needs in the coming years.

Alan Peters
4050 NW 12th Ave, Camas, WA