

PLANNING COMMISSION

The charge of the Planning Commission is to assist the Council in achieving the Town's Comprehensive Plan for orderly growth and development by analyzing, evaluating, and recommending responsible town policies, ordinances, and planning standards that manage land use and involving the community in long-range planning.

RECOMMENDATION FOR LAND USE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT – PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLES 3,4,6 AND APPENDIX A REGARDING SHORT-TERM RENTALS (STRS)

May 5, 2021

Recommendation: Approval Approval with Conditions Denial

Motion: Melissa McCullough moved and Neal Bench seconded a motion to recommend that the Council deny the Resolution of Consistency.

Vote: 8 – 0

Yeas: Michael Everhart (Chair), James Baxter (Vice-Chair), Neal Bench, Elizabeth Losos, Melissa McCullough, John Rees, Louie Rivers, Stephen Whitlow

Nays:

Excused: Buffie Webber

Recommendation: Approval Approval with Conditions Denial
No Action

Motion: Neal Bench moved and Melissa McCullough seconded a motion to recommend that the Council take no action on Ordinance A, amending the Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance Section 3.6.2 Historic Districts related to review criteria and Section 8.4 Historic District Commission.

Vote: 8 – 0

Yeas: Michael Everhart (Chair), James Baxter (Vice-Chair), Neal Bench, Elizabeth Losos, Melissa McCullough, John Rees, Louie Rivers, Stephen Whitlow

Nays:

Excused: Buffie Webber

Reasons for No Action:

- The Planning Commission is generally in support of an updated STR ordinance but is concerned that the scope and magnitude of the problems caused by STRs to the Town are unclear and do not necessarily merit some of the proposed changes to the ordinance.
- Support for providing a sunset clause to bring existing STRs into compliance and grandfather STRs that cannot come into compliance.
- Many STR hosts and operators are financially dependent on their STRs and any new ordinance should allow them to maintain their businesses.
- STRs should be permitted in all zoning districts that allow residential uses.
- Create a dedicated framework for collecting data. Interest in reviewing the data collected in two years.
- No STR permit fee should be charged, to promote compliance, to facilitate data collection, and not drive STR operators underground.
- Concerns that other details of the proposed ordinance are overly burdensome on some STR operators (e.g. 2-hour requirement for an on-site designated party, the 3-strikes provision, simultaneous rental prohibition, trash collection rules)

Prepared by: Anya Grahn, Senior Planner