



Memorandum

To: Windover Heights Board of Review
From: Maggie Costello, Principal Planner
Meeting Date: June 4, 2024
Re: Drafted Language to Planning Commission for Proposed Changes to the Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Vienna is in the process of revising the Comprehensive Plan, which was last updated in 2016. As part of this process, the Planning Commission, which under State law is responsible for developing a proposed update, is requesting input from the Town's boards and committees.

The Windover Heights Board of Review (WHBR) met to discuss the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Revision during their May 7th work session and outlined several suggested changes. The WHBR asked that staff reflect the discussion in a draft memorandum for the following meeting.

In accordance with that request, the following content is drafted language for review by the WHBR, based on the discussion of several suggested changes. Once the WHBR is satisfied with the language, this content would be forwarded to the Planning Commission in a memorandum format. The information presented will be considered by the Planning Commission, along with information from the other boards and committees, as well as the general public, during the Comprehensive Plan revision process.

To: Vienna Planning Commission
From: Windover Heights Board of Review

The Windover Heights Board of Review (WHBR) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the upcoming update to the Comprehensive Plan. We have taken this opportunity seriously offer the following comments regarding the Windover Height Historic District, which we believe would enhance understanding and clarity about the purpose and role of the District within Vienna. The comments are provided by section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Land Use Section

- The WHBR requests that Objective & Strategies be added to the Land Use Section, as follows:

Objective: Preserve, protect, enhance, improve, and strengthen the Windover Heights Historic District

Implementation Strategies:

- a. Improve communication and information dissemination within the district.
- b. Continue to support the purpose of WHBR.
- c. Develop Small Area Study to include architectural considerations, consistent with the character and aesthetics of the district.
- d. Create a future vision specifically for WHBR
- e. Develop appropriate cross sections for street design.
- f. Develop recommendations to enhance pedestrian walkability and safety of the district.

Transportation Section

- The WHBR requests the following be integrated into the Transportation section of the Comprehensive Plan:
 1. Provide appropriate cross-sections specifically for street design/improvements within the Windover Heights Historic District
 2. Pedestrian Mobility – exclude Windover Heights from the pedestrian plan; develop recommendations specifically for walkability and pedestrian safety within the district. (Staff suggests that an alternative comment could be – “Vienna’s pedestrian plan should include solutions to walkability and pedestrian safety that are not the Townwide standard approach but are, instead, customized so as to preserve the character of the Windover Heights Historic District.”)

Environment and Sustainability Section

- The WHBR requests that language be added to the Environment and Sustainability section to specifically promote the preservation of existing trees & natural landscapes on sites within the Windover Heights Historic District where new development is occurring.

Community Profile – History

- The WHBR requests that the history portion of the Community Profile section be enhanced with additional historical information about Windover Heights, which would 1) connect Captain Salisbury and the history of welcoming settlers to the area and the freed slave population; 2) discuss Edmund Harris as historic figure; and 3) fact-check the district’s date of creation.

Once again, the WHBR appreciates this opportunity to provide input. We would be very happy to participate in any discussion on this topic that the Planning Commission may wish to have.