



Hamilton

## **TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Board Room – Housing Services Division  
350 King Street East, Suite 110

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Present: John Hawker (Chair), Larry Husack, Connie Bellamy

Also Present: Jennie Vengris (Staff Support), Janet Surmanski (Staff Support)  
and Leann Bird (Administrative Support)

Regrets: Andy Cranbury, Laura Ryan

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

John welcomed all that attended as well as special welcome to Janet Surmanski. Jennie explained to all that she has accepted a position with Homelessness and that she will now share the responsibility of staff liaison for Tenant Advisory Committee with Janet. Janet gave a brief description of the positions that she has held within the City for the past 23 years.

### **2. Changes to and approval of the Agenda**

Special Guest Marilyn Pankhurst was not able to attend this meeting. Jennie Vengris stated that she needed to leave at 3 pm for another meeting. Agenda approved.  
(Husack/Bellamy – Carried)

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None noted

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

No changes, Minutes approved  
(Husack/Bellamy – Carried)

## **5. STANDING ITEMS**

### **a) Tenants as Voters**

John indicated that based on his research, no new polling stations were being considered for the 2014 election. It was suggested that the group may consider proposing to Council, via Emergency and Community Services, that two new polling stations be piloted in apartment buildings with more than 100 units in 2014 (as per the Committee's previous discussions and the Provincial legislation). The group agreed.

Action: To write a recommendation report to Community Services. John will write and Jennie will review in the next 2 weeks.

### **b) Tenants Access to City Hall**

Action: Marilyn Pankhurst will be invited to an upcoming TAC meeting (based on her availability) to talk about the website.

### **c) Rooming Houses/Licensing**

A report went to Planning and Economic Development around rental housing licensing. The end result is that it is being rewritten again and being brought back to Council again at a later date. TAC agreed to keep apprised of this work.

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE NOTES (July 27, 2012)**

### **a) Supporting the Living Wage Campaign**

Laura was not at this meeting. Nothing to report.

### **b) TAC ONPHA Attendance Update**

Jennie wanted to make sure that anyone who wanted to attend was registered – Connie, Laura and John are attending. Jennie stated that the budget can only afford 1 day session per person. Jennie wanted it added to the Agenda for December to get feedback from all 3 in attendance to share with group.

### **c) Membership Update**

Jennie informed all that four applicants had interviews on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Tom Jackson and Bernie Morelli did the interviews. Two of the four will be put forward at the E&CS meeting on October 4, 2012. When we know who the new members are they will be invited to our meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. John, Jennie and Janet will meet with the new Members to complete an orientation.

### **d) Multi-Residential Tax**

Andy was not at this meeting. Nothing to report.

### **e) TAC Budget Submission**

The 2013 budget must be submitted on December 10, 2012 for approval at Emergency and Community Services. The Tenant Advisory Committee members agreed that this current submission should request \$1,250. The rationale is that TAC has spent all of their current allocation and would like to be able to attend more conferences to learn more about housing status and efforts in other communities. Such would also be an opportunity to network and exchange current conditions and efforts. Jennie and Janet will do up a budget for the next meeting and present it to all at that time.

### **f) TAC Display**

TAC members decided what their display should entail:

- TAC Mandate
- work plan items
- highlights of achievements
- involvement & other groups
- some data

Working vision: Continue to aspire, to voice the concerns of tenants to their elected representatives

## **7. REPORTS**

### **a) Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)**

The Solutions for Housing Action Committee is hosting a Tenant Conference at the Perkins Centre on October 1, 2012 from 9:30 am until 1 pm, (with organizational support by the Legal Clinic). The Tenant Advisory Committee contributed financially to this event. We agreed to make sure to include this information in our milestones presentation in December.

### **b) Bed Bug Action Group**

Jennie has informed all that a survey of housing providers about bed bug remediation has been completed. Written report to be submitted and distributed. The group felt that there needs to be more information on bed bugs for tenants who are not aware of them or what they should be looking for. Connie felt that pamphlets or a video should be displayed at rental offices when rent is being paid. Was suggested that a brochure be created. It is felt that maintenance and standards need to be in place across the board as well as an educational session for tenants and landlords.

### **c) City of Hamilton**

Jennie updated all on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan – Phase 2 is being started. Workshops are being electronically sent out to all interested parties by Leann

Bird. They have committed to 11 work groups being completed by the end of November 2012. Jennie will do a presentation on the Action Plan for TAC at the next meeting.

#### **d) Neighbourhood Development Strategies**

Laura was not at meeting. No updates for this month.

### **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

John handed out copies from the Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting September 10, 2012 – Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). Spoke about the radial separation issue related to Lynwood Hall – John wanted to know if TAC wanted to be involved with this issue. It was agreed that TAC would not be getting involved but was advised that John could get involved on a personal level but not on behalf of TAC.

### **8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm @ 350 King Street East, Unit 110 Boardroom A.

2012 Meetings: All booked at 350 Main Street East, Unit 110

- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm