



Hamilton

## **TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

February 26th, 2013

10:00 – 12:00 pm

Board Room – Housing Services Division

Freeway Coffee House – Basement Mtg. Room

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Present: John Hawker (Chair), Larry Husack, Connie Bellamy, Marie Raftis, Connie Belamy, Laura Ryan, Miles Gardiner (student)

Regrets: Andy Cranbury

Also Present: Jennie Vengis, Janet Surmanski (Staff Support)

### **1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

John Hawker, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(Husack/Raftis)

### **2) CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was noted that Bruce McLean, from the Housing Division will not be in attendance.

The agenda was approved.

(Raftis/Bellamy)

### **3) DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared.

### **4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of November 23rd, 2012**

(Belamy/ Husack/ – Carried)

## **5) STANDING ITEMS**

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

A discussion regarding the draft criteria for polling stations took place. Sites that are accessible, centrally located, highly visible, and close to high density rental buildings were highlighted.

Action: Data listing high rise buildings for wards two and five will be requested from Tony Fallis in order to compile an inventory of potential sites and associated analysis.

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

Jennie distributed a pamphlet on Municipal Law Enforcement procedures for tenants. The process of filing a complaint and the responsibilities of the owner followed. Suggestions for points of distribution took place with suggested locations to target the largest number of tenants and the general public.

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

The Committee requested an update on the follow up action from the licencing report presented by Joe Xamin. Janet will follow up and contact Joe for an update.

### **d) Multi – Residential Tax**

The Committee enquired about an update. Jennie advised that she will consult with housing management staff regarding the next steps in this area. After a general discussion it was decided that a second letter will be sent from the TAC Committee as a follow-up.

## **6 ) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

The Committee discussed their support for the Living Wage Campaign and the importance of advocating for this initiative. Jennie advised that she will discuss the possibility of providing a letter of support from the Committee and other strategies with housing management staff.

## **7. REPORTS**

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

Jennie presented the SHAC conference highlights to the Committee.

The topic of housing affordability and the importance of maintenance standards were noted as two of the key topics for tenants. Jennie further advised that the 10 year plan in the Housing and Homeless Action Plan includes a section on the importance of recognizing tenant rights in housing planning.

**b) Bed Bug Action Group**

Jennie advised that Housing Services was successful in obtaining \$350,000 in a capital request from the City for bed bug remediation. The Housing Division and Public Health will discuss the possibility of working with the Bed Bug Action Group to develop a strategy to use the funding.

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**c) City of Hamilton – Presentation**

Jennie advised that she has been offered a permanent position in the Homelessness Policy and Programs team. Jennie also advised that she will be making a presentation on June 10<sup>th</sup> to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the strategies and priorities in the Housing and Homeless Action Plan. This presentation will be shared with the TAC Committee.

**d) Neighbourhood Development Strategies**

Laura advised that she is currently she is working on a joint project which includes student research and the work of the TAC committee. She reviewed the importance of landlord relationships, safety and housing along with neighbourhood beautification as important factors in neighbourhood development discussions.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled on Tuesday March 26 from 10:00 – 12:00 .