



Hamilton

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION NOTES

April 30, 2013

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Briggs Boardroom – 350 King Street, 3rd floor

Present: Larry Husack, Marie Raftis, John Hawker (Chair)

Regrets: Andy Cranbury (Vice-Chair), Connie Bellamy, Laura Ryan

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

1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

John welcomed everyone to the meeting

2) CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Leann announced one change on previous minutes- under section 5 it should read Bruce McLean not Pearce.

Addition to agenda – John handed out a list of contacts in certain departments within the City that have affiliation with TAC.

Jennie Vengris is no longer available as Staff Liaison. Janet Surmanski has been asked to step in as of May 1st, 2013.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of March 26, 2013

The minutes were reviewed for information, but not approved, due lack of a membership quorum.

5) STANDING ITEMS

a) Tenants as Voters

A response has been received from Tony Fallis. He feels that TAC needs to get involved with tenant relations and informed the committee by e-mail that no data on voting/multi-residential units would be offered to TAC. Committee wants to keep moving ahead with this issue and feels that Tony Fallis should be invited to attend one of the meetings to let him know where TAC is on this issue. Janet will be following up on this for the next meeting..

b) Tenants Access to City Hall

Jennie contacted Joe Xamin about the municipal by-law enforcement brochure. Joe provided some feedback on TAC's review of the brochure. He advised that the information will be available in other languages, it is still at the pilot stage, the photograph of house on flyer was realistic and well received by the general public. Janet will follow up to see if funding has been approved for the future.

Allison Jones was not able to attend this meeting to talk about the Web Redevelopment Strategy.

c) Rooming Houses/Licensing

No report at this time. TAC will continue to monitor this issue.

6) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Multi – Residential Tax - update

Letter written by John Hawker was given to all to approve. Jennie stated that Bob McKnight gave his approval but suggested that it needs to go through Gillian Hendry. It was decided that we would wait until we have a response from Gillian before it is signed and sent out.

b) Investment in Affordable Housing – Update

Janet and Jennie met with Bob McKnight. Federal government has approved budget but still waiting on Province approval.

7. REPORTS

a) Solutions for Housing Action Committee

No changes or updates.

b) Bed Bug Action Group

No changes. John left messages for Susan Harding Cruz and Matt Lawson. No response as of yet.

c) City of Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan - Jennie informed TAC members that the meeting on June 10th has been moved to September or October. Update will follow.

Rent Supplement Program – Janet informed TAC members that large property management companies from Toronto have purchased large rental apartment buildings, resulting less affordable rents.

d) Neighbourhood Development Strategies

Laura was not at meeting. Leann informed all that the packages for the Neighbourhood Home Improvement Program are available at our office for interested parties.

7) OTHER BUSINESS

Marie attended “Coming of Age” seminar held on April 24th by Dr. Stephen Gaetz. She found it very educational and informative. She stated that the seminar focused on the importance of coordinating social service agencies in order be more effective in service delivery, resulting in less homeless children and adults.

John compiled a reference sheet of contact people with the City of Hamilton. It was noted that Brian Burke be taken off the list as he has moved to another position within the City. Janet will be filling in the information on the list for the next meeting.

Larry wanted to know why the attendance for the monthly TAC meetings is getting smaller. He suggested that a new time and a day of the week be offered in order to get all members in one room, along with pre-meeting attendance survey requests.

8) NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting time and date will be determined once the survey has been completed.