



Hamilton

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 26, 2013
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Freeway Coffee House

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

Regrets: Andy Cranbury (Vice-Chair)

Also Present: Janet Surmanski (Staff Support), Jennie Vengris (Staff Support)
Miles Gardner (Student), Bruce McLean – Housing Services
Division (Guest)

1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

John welcomed everyone to the meeting

2) CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Jennie announced one change – that Bruce McLean from Housing Services Division would attend to give an update on the Request for Proposals for the Investment in Affordable Housing program.

The agenda was approved

(Raftis/Husack)

3) DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of February 26, 2013

(Raftis/Husack – Carried)

5) GUEST: BRUCE MACLEAN – HOUSING SERVICES DIVISION

Bruce came to TAC to follow up on the consultation David Brodati did for the Investment in Affordable Housing program Request for Proposals (RFP). He explained that he needs to keep the exact criteria and scoring confidential (until the RFP is released) but can share what the Division learned through its consultation.

What the consultation found:

- Units should be as affordable as possible for as long as possible (having the rents be as affordable as possible)
- There is a need to accommodate larger families (5+ bedrooms) – there are currently 289 families waiting for 5+ bedrooms on the wait list
- There is a need to accommodate persons with disabilities (both physical and mental)

In terms of the schedule – a Request for Proposals will be issued in late April/early May, a decision will be made through the summer, Council will make its decision in September and then the Province will need to sign off. Hopeful that the Construction Agreement will be signed in December.

Bruce offered to come back to update TAC about the project once the money is awarded.

6) STANDING ITEMS

a) Tenants as Voters

A request has been submitted to Tony Fallis to collect data on voting/multi-residential units. More work to be done at the next meeting.

b) Tenants Access to City Hall

Jennie sent TAC's feedback to Joe Xamin about the Planning materials. Jennie will bring any information back.

Allison Jones will be attending the next meeting to talk about the Web Redevelopment Strategy – to talk about how tenants can be engaged.

c) Rooming Houses/Licensing

Joe Xamin sent an update via Janet Surmanski. Joe explained that he was working on an information report for this Spring as a follow up to the December 11th report. Joe agreed to come back to speak with TAC as the licensing decisions unfold.

d) Multi – Residential Tax

The Housing Services Division will forward the letter on multi-residential tax as drafted by John Hawker on behalf of TAC.

7) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Signs of Hope – Update

Marie attended Signs of Home – an event held by the McMaster Poverty Initiative. Some highlights included:

- The Good Food Box – 100 free boxes of healthy food to Ontario Works recipients – first come, first served
- A student described her experience trying the ‘food bank challenge’ (living off of a food bank ration for a week) but could not last more than 5 days
- The Discovery Program – there is an opening happening at the Freeway Coffee House

b) Supporting the Living Wage Campaign

No news at this time.

8) REPORTS

a) Solutions for Housing Action Committee

No updates.

b) Bed Bug Action Group

John asked Matt Lawson if TAC can receive the Bed Bug Action Group’s minutes so as to keep apprised. John will update the group.

c) City of Hamilton – Presentation on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Jennie provided a presentation on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. The TAC members provided good feedback which will be taken back to the larger Project Team. Jennie explained that they are entertaining feedback until April 8. Jennie invited the group to attend the June 10 Emergency and Community Services meeting to hear more.

d) Neighbourhood Development Strategies

Laura updated on the Neighbourhood Development Strategies work. She described a really interesting new program that has the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Threshold School of Building and the City of

Hamilton partnered to provide basic home repairs for low to moderate income earners. The project begins on April 2 and will run until October 1st. This is a pilot project which will be evaluated. Laura will keep the group posted.

9) OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10)NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. (Ryan, Raftis)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 30th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Freeway Coffee House – Basement Meeting Room