



Hamilton

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 6, 2014

11:30 – 1:30 pm

Boardroom – 350 King Street, Hamilton

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

Regrets: Andy Cranbury

Also Present: Janet Surmanski, Dave Brodati

1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Connie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda approved.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST /APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4th MINUTES

There were no conflicts of interest declared. It was moved by Marie, seconded by Larry that the minutes of December 12th be approved.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Connie contacted the Hamilton Legal Clinic, the Housing Help Centre and the Civic League to discuss TAC's interest in the issue voter participation in the next election. A meeting will be set up to discuss this issue in further detail.

Laura advised that the importance of voter engagement was discussed at a recent Neighbourhood Action strategy meeting.

4) TENANT ENGAGEMENT – CITY HOUSING HAMILTON

Matt Bowen, Manager of Tenant Engagement, provided an overview the neighbourhood development strategies, which address property maintenance, on site security and improved tenant relations. Engagement activities include community gardens, newsletters, summer recreation programs, annual BBQ's, and health promotion programs.

5) CONDOMINIUM CONVERSIONS – Kirsten Maxwell

Dave Brodati introduced Kirsten Maxwell from Housing Services. He advised that the issue of conversion of rental units to condominiums was an important policy area in the Official Plan. One new policy allows conversion if at least 75% of the tenants are in support. Kirsten indicated the importance of community input and TAC's suggestions to improve the process for tenants. Kirsten provided an overview of the pros and cons, and asked for suggestions to ensure that tenant support is given freely, without an coercion tactics.. Kirsten referred to a proposal for a process to ensure tenant consent and asked the members for feedback.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

John advised the presentation was well received, and there were some questions from Councillors. He further advised that there was a motion for Tony Fallis to report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the voter station issue. Larry asked if the speaker notes were approved by the TAC or if John was speaking on his own. John advised that he added his own notes to the presentation.

Larry asked if we could draft a letter to reiterate TAC's position on the voter station pilot. TAC agreed and endorsed this idea.

Connie advised that she will contact Marie Antelo from the Hamilton Legal Clinic and Larry Huibers from the Housing Help Center in the New Year in order to work on ways to activate and encourage an increase in the number of tenant voters. Marie offered to assist Connie and Andy suggested that the Hamilton Civic League may also be interested in hosting a meeting. The Committee agreed that all community groups should be invited to participate in the process.

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Dave advised that the Action Plan was approved by City Council in December. He further advised that TAC will be involved in the implementation of tenant educational strategies that are highlighted in the plan. Connie indicated that TAC was in support of the Action Plan when the committee was consulted.

ONPHA – Feedback on the registration Process

Janet contacted ONPHA and advised that the TAC members had questions about the delays and confusion at the conference registration desk. Janet

received a written response from OHPHA in which they acknowledged the issues. The e-mail from OHPHA will be forwarded to the members for their information. Larry suggested that the number of registrations should be reduced in the future, and that it is not necessary for four members of the committee to attend.