



Hamilton

MINUTES: **Tenant Advisory Committee**
Friday, July 15, 2011 - 1:00 p.m.
Room 433, 4th Floor, City Hall

Present: John Hawker (Chair), Andy Cranbury, Connie Bellamy, Laura Ryan,
Larry Husack

Absent with
Regrets: Meaghan Ross

Also Present: Jennie Vengris, City of Hamilton, Housing

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- (i) Added as item 6.1, the Centre for City Ecology Update – Laura Ryan
- (ii) Added as Item 6.2, updating the TAC contact list – Jennie Vengris

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(RYAN/HUSACK)

- 3.1 Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated June 10, 2011 were approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 Jennie reported back on the results of the June TAC strengths and gaps survey. Please see results attached.
- 4.2 Work Plan Exercise Follow Up

Jennie asked the group if rather than mapping out the leads, timelines and activities, if the group would be amenable to going through our five focus areas and priorities/develop key messages.

Jennie handed out information sheets on each focus area for discussion.

Renter Voter Turnout

- Top priority for TAC
- Messages: Tenants pay tax. Tenants have a right and responsibility to vote. Tenants need to understand why they need to vote. Not voting sends a message that you tacitly approve. Tenant voices are needed – both personally and in the community.
- Next steps and ideas: free HSR trip on voting day with your voter card. Invite Tony Fallis to a future TAC meeting. Look at revising the educational pamphlet TAC did previously.

Licensing Rooming Houses

- Critical concern of TAC.
- Need more information about how to best support the work of the Housing Help Centre.
- Next steps: Invite Andrew Loucks to present at TAC.

Landlord Registry Pilot

- Need to consider how this impacts tenants. Will wait for the update. Look at Kitchener as a model.

Tenants Access to City Hall

- TAC wants to better understand the Property Standards and Public Health processes and how customer service is tailored to tenants.
- Next steps: Ask for a presentation from a customer service rep.

Monitoring New Rental Housing Stock Targets

- Jennie to send the Housing Policy for the Official Plan to TAC members.

5. STANDING REPORTS

5.1 City of Hamilton

Jennie updated on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan work. The Planning Group continues to meet. We are just about to launch our community engagement strategy – stay tuned.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Centre for City Ecology

Laura shared some information about the Centre for City Ecology (CCE). It is a not-for-profit organization that helps groups with community development efforts. Laura talked to Mary Rowe from CCE about the work that is happening in the Beasley Neighbourhood. CCE will be coming to Hamilton to talk about Open Data (making raw data more accessible and usable by community groups). Laura also shared some information about Wellbeing Toronto - <http://www.toronto.ca/wellbeing/index.htm>.

Updated TAC Contact List

Jennie sent around a sheet of paper to update the contact list.

8. ADJOURNMENT

(HUSACK/BELLAMY)

The Tenant Advisory Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Member Survey Results – Strengths and Gaps

Skills	Who?
Writing	John, Andy, Connie, Meaghan
Organizing Events	John, Andy, Meaghan
Presenting Information	Andy, Meaghan
Getting People Interested in Issues	John, Andy, Meaghan, Larry
Administrative Tasks	Andy, Meaghan
Facilitating Discussions	Andy, Connie, Meaghan, Larry
Advocacy	John, Andy, Connie, Meaghan, Larry
Networking with other Committees	John, Andy, Meaghan, Larry
Computer Related, Photography and Experience	Andy
Experience as Landlord/Tenant	Connie

Personal Skills to Build

- Leadership
- Presenting
- Patience
- Listening
- Facilitating Discussions

Committee Skills/Perspective we Need

- Funding Projects
- Other populations of tenants represented including: Low-income, roomers and boarders, newcomer/immigrant, youth, women
- Very marginalized tenants – City Housing, rooming/lodging homes, RCF's, transitional housing
- People with oomph and good at mobilizing activities and people
- More City staff
- Link to Ontario government
- Speakers from Province and Federal

Committees/Communities/Groups that are Connected to TAC through Membership

- Solutions for Housing Action Committee ++
- Affordable Housing Flagship
- Tenant Outreach and Education +
- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- The Common Campaign Coalition
- Community Diverse Outreach Network
- Legal Clinics
- Tenant Associations
- Downtown Task Force
- Clean City Liaison Committee
- Urban Native Homes
- Koo gaa da win Manitou