TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 19, 2011
1:00 p.m.
Room 433, 4th Floor
City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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Present: John Hawker (Chair), Meaghan Ross, Connie Bellamy, Larry Husack

**Absent with
Regrets:**   Laura Ryan, Andy Cranbury

Also Present: Jennie Vengris, City of Hamilton, Housing Division

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

(i)   Added as item 4.1, Updated TAC Contact List – Jennie Vengris
(ii)   Added as Item 6.1, Budget – Jennie Vengris
(iii)   Added as Item 6.2, Volunteer Procedure Handbook – Jennie Vengris
(iv)   Added as Item 6.3, Logistics Check In – Jennie Vengris
(v)   Added as Item 6.4, Feedback from June Meeting – Jennie Vengris

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(BELLAMY/HUSACK)

Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated July 115, 2011 were approved without amendments.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1   Updated Contact List

Jennie handed around an updated contact list for the Tenant Advisory Committee membership.

4.2   Work Plan Exercise Follow Up – Tenants As Voters

The group agreed at the last meeting and through emails after the meeting that Renter Voter Turnout was the priority they wanted to work on first.

The group decided that there were really three key issues they could work on to advance the issue of renter voter turnout in Hamilton.

1) Advocate for polls in large apartment buildings.
2) Educate tenants about why they should vote.
3) Help to organize a forum to hear from candidates about housing for the upcoming provincial election.

The group agreed the right next step was to meeting with the Hamilton Civic League. John Hawker will contact Larry from the League to set up a meeting before our next formally scheduled time.

Jennie and Meghan agreed to bring any tenant voter materials for review, as well.

5. STANDING REPORTS

5.1   Solutions for Housing Action Committee

Not much activity is happening over the summer.

5.2   Tenant Outreach and Education Advisory Committee

Looking to get more tenants on the Advisory Committee in order to hear different perspectives. There is a plan to research the condo-conversion from a tenants rights perspective (Housing Help Centre in partnership with the Legal Clinics). Meghan will keep us posted and may need to consult TAC later on in the process.

5.3   City of Hamilton

Currently working on an Environmental Scan for Housing Services. We are wanting to develop a profile of tenants who live in social housing in order to complete more effective planning. We are also looking to better understand the dynamics of the waiting list – there are currently 5700 households on the list. We are interested in finding out more about their housing needs and the what contributes to longer and shorter wait times.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy priorities were announced.
Please see attached document for reference.

Gillian Hendry sent a letter to TAC requesting time on an upcoming agenda to consult about the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan. Jennie will let the Project Team know that they can come to the September meeting.

5.4   Bed Bug Collaborative

Meghan reported that a coordinator had been hired – Nasir Sawan. He is an employee of the Housing Help Centre in partnership with Public Health. His role will be to ensure education and awareness raising about bed bugs to a range of stakeholders.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1   Budget

Jennie reminded the group that we have an increased budget this year to support ongoing training for TAC members and housing related events.

6.2   Volunteer Procedure Handbook

Jennie let the group know that we now have an updated Volunteer Procedure Handbook. John received a hard copy. Connie and Larry would like hard copies. Meghan will refer to hers electronically.

6.3   Logistics Check In

Jennie asked the group if the current location and time were working, the group indicated that they were. Meghan suggested that we can meet at the Housing Help Centre or community centre. Jennie also indicated that bus tickets would be available next month and to let her know if you have paid for parking – you can be reimbursed.

6.4   Feedback From June Meeting

See attached.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(ROSS/HUSACK)
The Tenant Advisory Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

                                                                CARRIED

Hamilton's HPS Priorities (2012 – 2014)

Priority 1: Direct and Person Centered Housing Supports

Providing Direct Supports that help people find, attain and maintain safe, affordable and appropriate housing.

Core Principles:

- ° Person Centred
- ° Housing First
- ° Direct

Priority 2: Partnerships, joint planning, research and evaluation activities to promote solutions to end homelessness

Supporting Key stakeholders in the community to meaningfully plan, innovate, build collaborations and partnerships and evaluate to best meet the housing needs of people in Hamilton.

Core Principles:

- ° Collaborative
- ° Capacity Building

Priority 3: Aboriginal Community

The Aboriginal Community continues to be resourced to do autonomous community planning and service delivery.

Core Principle:

Each Community Advisory Board is responsible for allocating a level of funding for Aboriginal homelessness that is representative of the percentage of the Aboriginal population in that community. Where feasible and appropriate, Aboriginal groups working with people who are homeless should be considered as the preferred funding recipients to deliver services to homeless or at-risk Aboriginal people.

Feedback From June 8 TAC Meeting

What worked well about today's meeting?

- ° We got a workplan!
- ° Having specific points to discuss and material to review – good practice for moving forward.
- ° Input from two new members.
- ° Felt that something was accomplished.
- ° Peter Hutton was very welcome.
- ° Everyone very informed about the issues – learned a lot

What did not work well? What would you change?

- ° Nothing
- ° Nothing
- ° Nothing so far

Agenda items for next month?

- ° As FYI:
  - o Common Campaign Coalition
  - o Housing and Homelessness Action Plan updates
  - o Allocation of City's provincial $$ going to social services, not just capital (email with context provided)