



Hamilton

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 14, 2011

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Room 433, 4th Floor

City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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

**Absent with
Regrets:** Andy Cranbury

Also Present: Jennie Vengris, City of Hamilton - Housing Division, Staff Liaison (part of the meeting only)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were done.

2. CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes. Agenda approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None noted.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 14, 2011

There was not quorum at the November 2011 meeting, therefore, the October minutes were not approved at that time.

No changes. Minutes approved.

(Ryan/Bellamy – Carried)

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Work Plan Next Steps

Tenants As Voters

One idea that has come up for this particular work plan item is to explore the possibility of exploring polling stations at Multi Residential Housing for Municipal Elections:

- Work w/ Tony Fallis to identify 100+ unit residents and look at Municipal Elections Act Re: providing polls
- Want update re: which residences have tenants associations
- Council want to promote development of tenants associations- Meaghan to follow up with the work of the HHC re: citizen's engagement to identify what they would prefer
- Presently council is considering increasing polling stations. We are responding to additional questions in this regard.
- Mobilizing vote needs addition work/investigation

Action: John approach Tony Fallis for response re: councilors query.

Rooming Houses

Voluntary Registration Rooming Houses:

- McHattie asked Marty Hazell to update re: voluntary registry
- Hazell to provide the list of registered houses to council and TAC
- Not all are licensed nor are all on
- Registry not exist outside the city

Action: Meaghan to refer the questions to Andrew Loucks

TAC to request council to have staff get this information

Action: Connie to develop a response and some direction to council about gathering this information themselves

Tenants access to City Hall

- Chance to do a tenants access audit by phone/ internet to result in recommendations. to council.

Action: Jennie

- Who is responsible for coordinating first point contact at City Hall? Clerks Office?
- What is the operational map of this process?
- Invite CATCH to discuss their work in the community: Contact Don McLean
- Discuss the need for information racks? Redirect to Heritage about what would be in keeping with the historical standards of the building interior.

General Update on Work Plan moving forward:

- Satisfied that completed items for 2011
- Will be attending to a number of items with the response we send back to council
- When the procedural handbook is distributed, we will advise Jennie that it has been received and read

6. REPORTS

6.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee

- Working on a work plan
- Possibly looking at the subsidized housing wait list.
- Auditing barriers associated with the housing application. I.e. readability, languages translations available, complexity.
- More information from SHAC to come in future

6.2 Tenant Outreach and Education Project

Ongoing. No new projects or concerns

6.3 City of Hamilton

- E&CS Domiciliary Hostel discussion re: action Plan
- November 23rd budget approved and forwarded on for the budget process
- November 23rd discussion re: affordable housing funding from the province
- TAC has a communication being forwarded to council pursue
- Emergency and Community Services December 7th, 2011
- Housing and Homelessness Action Plan presented by Molly Elliot and Gillian Hendry

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Neighbourhood Development

- Concerns: is the Neighbourhood Action project working w/ school boards
- Yes. Following the direction of the residents but are in direct contact with the B's of Ed
- This is the primary responsibilities of the Arcs associated with the schools and various city areas

7.2 Laneway Housing

- Some discussion w/ council members
- Councilor McHattie requested that TAC investigate this and propose more comprehensive information

- Granny Flat housing existing that are illegal units
- Some discussion w/ MLE to allow amnesty for existing illegal units so long as they meet safety codes
- Meghan to investigate existing policy/proposals re: amnesty for existing units
- **Action:** Laura to refer to the Housing Network of Ontario
- Will discuss with Renee re: the best practices the existing
- **Action:** John to contact Emma Cubitt

7.3 Bed Bugs

- City wants updated info re: Bed Bugs
- Want to understand extent of problems and what working to address
- Questions about how can assist financial difficulties for home owners treating home
- TAC will direct council to Housing Help Centre with questions/concerns/consultations
- Action: TAC to suggest council request Bed Bugs service providers present a delegation at a GIC

7.4 TAC's position on the Living Wage Committee

- **Action:** to have report forwarded to all TAC members to read
- Put question on discussion on agenda for the January meeting

7.5 By-law 101

- **Action:** John to follow up with Kelly Barnett re: distribution of pamphlet about By Law 101. (yard waste, maintenance and noise regulations.)

7.6 Update Roomers and Boarders Committee

- Has been re-established by Andrew Loucks at Housing Help. Meaghan requested to keep us updated with the efforts of this committee.

7.7 Municipal Tax Competitiveness Study

- Andy Cranbury reviewing and will advise TAC accordingly

7.8 Accountability and Transparency Committee

- Defer discussion to next meeting Re: Application fee for citizen complaints to the Integrity Commissioner.

8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next TAC meeting will be on Friday January 20, 2012 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the new Housing Services Office at 350 King Street East, Unit 110.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

(Husack/Bellamy – Carried)