



Hamilton

## **TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

February 17, 2012

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Room 433, 4th Floor

City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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**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**

Changes made to the date (was incorrect) and added Membership and Roundtable Check In to item #8 – Other Business. Agenda with revisions approved.

(Bellamy/Ross – Carried)

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None noted.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 14, 2011**

There was not quorum at the January 2012 meeting, therefore, the December minutes were not approved at that time.

No changes. Minutes approved.

(Ryan/Bellamy – Carried)

## 5. STANDING ITEMS

### 5.1 Tenants As Voters

<b>Action</b>	Start working on a proposal to pilot 2 – 3 new polls in high density apartment buildings to encourage increased renter voter turn out
<b>Who</b>	John Hawker is leading this effort
<b>Timeline</b>	Start working on the proposal in May

Discussion:

- Ward restructuring is currently being considered, John Hawker will continue with background work

### 5.2 Rooming Houses

<b>Action</b>	Ask for an update from By-Law Neighbourhoods connection to Rooming House as next agenda item
<b>Who</b>	Jennie to request info from By-Law
<b>Timeline</b>	By March mtg.

Discussion:

- Meaghan sent an email to TAC to describe the current state of the Housing Help Centre Rooming House Project – currently not funded by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy but some of the rooming house work will be supported by the Housing Help Centre
- As far as Meaghan knows, the licensing issue is still the same – some operators would license but zoning criteria means some places could be shut down and people could be left without accommodation
- City was looking at grandfathering in some of the non-conforming operators
- Laura suggested that this would be a good issue for the Neighbourhood Development Strategy work to be looking into. Perhaps TAC should suggest that?
- Keep Andrew or Housing Help Centre involved once a plan is developed

### 5.3 Tenants access to City Hall

<b>Action</b>	Get in touch with Corporate Services – Customer Service to find out how tenant issues are tracked and dealt with
<b>Who</b>	Jennie
<b>Timeline</b>	By March mtg.

Discussion:

- No discussion

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 6.1 Laneway Housing

- Nothing can be done until the Urban Official Plan is approved and it is currently held up at the Ontario Municipal Board with appeals
- Look to Vancouver and Toronto for models of good use of laneways for housing

### 6.2 Bed Bugs

- Jennie to add Bed Bug Action Group as a standing agenda item
- TAC's role should be as consultants when 'how to educate tenants' questions come up

### 6.3 Supporting the Living Wage Campaign

- Laura will talk to Deirdre Pike, she could come and speak with TAC if that would be helpful
- TAC will develop a letter to Emergency and Community Services supporting the Living Wage – use Meaghan's email

### 6.4 By Law 101

- Do tenants know their by-law rights? This should link with the 'Tenant Access to City Hall' piece

### 6.5 Municipal Tax Competitiveness

- Not moving forward at this time

## **7. STANDING REPORTS**

### **7.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee**

- Meaghan presented the idea of a ‘tenant confernece’ at the last meeting in partnership with SHAC. The goal would be to convene a forum where tenants can talk about the issues facing them and maybe draw some work plan items out for SHAC and TAC.
- Maria from the Legal Clinic is supporting the work
- TAC agreed it was a good place to dedicate attention and resources

### **7.2 Tenant Outreach and Education Project**

- Meaghan reported that the Tenant Outreach and Education Project is no longer receiving Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding and that component of Housing Help Centre’s work will finish at the end of March
- Meaghan is working with Housing Help Centre to see if someone else will be supporting the work of TAC
- TAC asked Jennie to talk to Amanda about this decision and to express their concern

### **7.3 City of Hamilton**

- The Housing Services Division continues to work on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- Please come out to the Check In Event on March 7<sup>th</sup> to see how the advice from the community is being framed
- Council approved the Investment in Affordable Housing in Ontario program which will include a small new rental component, rent supplements, down payment assistance and Ontario Renovates

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Membership**

- Need to put this on the agenda for next meeting – Jennie to contact Clerks to find out how we go about replacing members
- Meaghan suggested that we get in touch with her since they had just started recruiting interested tenants for an advisory
- A motion was put forth to develop a reference letter for Meaghan on behalf of TAC – Jennie to complete for the next meeting

(Bellamy/Ryan – Carried)

**9. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next TAC meeting will be on Friday March 16, 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 3:00 p.m.

(Husack/Bellamy – Carried)