



Hamilton

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 20, 2012

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Board Room – Housing Services Division
350 King Street East

Present: John Hawker (Chair), Laura Ryan, Larry Husack

**Absent with
Regrets:** Andy Cranbury and Connie Bellamy

Also Present: Jennie Vengris, City of Hamilton - Housing Division, Staff Liaison

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were done.

Jennie let the group know about Meaghan Ross's resignation (awaiting written resignation). The group agreed that since Meaghan had resigned, the membership at this time was five people and, therefore, the three members in attendance achieved quorum.

2. CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes noted. Agenda was approved.

(Ryan/Husack – Carried)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None noted.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2012

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

No changes. Minutes approved.

(Husack/Ryan – Carried)

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Tenants As Voters

Action	John to keep in touch with Tony Fallis re: ward boundary changes and voting patterns
Who	John Hawker
Timeline	Start working on the proposal in May

Discussion:

- John Hawker will continue with background work

5.2 Tenants access to City Hall

Action	Jennie to get in touch with Marilyn Pankhurst to talk about the website and how tenant's access information
Who	Jennie
Timeline	For upcoming meeting

Discussion:

- The group agreed that we needed a clearer 'ask' of staff around tenant access
- TAC thought it would be helpful to hear about how the website is set up and how tenants may access pertinent information
- At the next meeting, we will develop a series of 'case studies' that demonstrate how tenants may try to access information, what kind of information and we'll use those as a starting point to understand potential strengths and gaps in the information/communications system

5.3 Rooming Houses

Action	Joe Xamin and Sean De Jager attended and made a presentation
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Discussion:

Rooming House Pilot

- Was a joint project with the Housing Help Centre that ended in March 2011 seeking to advocate for tenants and work with unlicensed homes
- Looking at ways to encourage property standard expectations for unlicensed facilities to ensure they are safe

Licensing Residential Rental Housing

- In 2007, the Municipal Act changed to allow municipalities to license rental housing – Council directed staff to look at this in wards 1, 8, 10 and 12 and Community Liaison Committees were formed
- The program has been largely successful with a 76% landlord compliance rate
- The program has uncovered the need to look at a potential licensing by-law
- Could there be a link with the Neighbourhood Development Strategies work?

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Supporting the Living Wage Campaign

- Laura will draft a letter to the Mayor and Council from TAC congratulating their support for the Living Wage Campaign
- Jennie will get Laura the latest Council report for reference

6.2 Membership

- Meaghan Ross has resigned from the Tenant Advisory Committee (we are awaiting written confirmation)
- Jennie will liaise with clerks to have our membership gaps filled (2 spots)
- We discussed seeing if we could get a Residential Care Facility provider, someone from Housing Help Centre or the Legal Clinics and invite Renee to help us fill additional agency support spots

6.3 Municipal Tax Competitiveness

- Andy to provide info when he is back

7. STANDING REPORTS

7.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee

- Jennie to get in touch with Maria to talk about the Tenant Conference and get an update

8. NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next TAC meeting will be on Friday May 18, 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.

(Ryan/Husack – Carried)