



Hamilton

MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
Friday, December 10, 2010 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Room CH433, City Hall

PRESENT: John Hawker (Chair), Andy Cranbury

GUESTS: Kate Bradd – Housing Help Centre (Placement Student)

ALSO PRESENT: Jennie Vengris – City of Hamilton, Meaghan Ross – Housing Help Centre

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL

1.1 Welcome

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that we do not have quorum with the current attendance. Therefore, if any decisions need to be made, we will make motions and approve them at the January meeting.

1.2 Additions to & Approval of Agenda

The group was okay with the agenda as presented.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2.1 Approval of Minutes for June 11, 2010

No one had any concerns about the minutes – we will approve them at our January meeting if there is quorum.

2.2 Business Arising from minutes

None

2.3 Bed Bugs

- Meaghan talked about the Bed Bug Collaborative in Hamilton – it is a city-wide initiative with representation from City Housing Hamilton, the Housing Help Centre, Public Health and a number of other stakeholders.

- Right now they are developing different sub-committees to tackle different issues – Meaghan doesn't have a lot of information about it but knows that one will be around Education to Tenants
- The group agreed that Meaghan should be the Tenant Advisory Committee representative there, given her work and connection to a variety of tenants. It was suggested that a report back be added as a standing item on the agenda to Section 3
- The group asked Jennie to put together a recommendation or motion for Emergency and Community Services based on Steve's presentation last month and Larry's suggestions. Jennie will do this for the next meeting.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)

Dave Brodati is coming to speak to SHAC about his work on Condominium Conversions – TAC members are invited to participate – Monday, December 13 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

3.2 Tenant Education and Outreach Initiative (TEOI)

Meaghan reminded TAC about the December 14th Council meeting. They are hoping to have lots of support for Common Campaign Coalition.

The 2011 budget has been put forward, there is no proposal for fare increases, they are looking to shift gas tax for capital to operating. Regardless of this progress, support is still needed regarding formulas for HSR costs, sustainability for the affordable bus pass and 50% of the gas tax used for public transit.

3.3 City of Hamilton

Two things are happening in the Housing and Homelessness Division that may be of interest to TAC:

Review of Access to Housing: Dave Brodati and Jennie are working on a review of the processes over which we have local control to ensure that the needs of tenants waiting for social housing in Hamilton are best met.

Housing and Homelessness Action Plan: Dave, Molly Elliott and Jennie are working on a strategy that links the homelessness and housing sectors with recommendations that can help us respond to funding opportunities and plan in the community. Meaghan is part of the Planning Group and there is a consultant who has been hired who will be asking questions to SHAC, TAC and Roomers and Boarders.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy

Jennie provided copies of the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy. John suggested that Jennie ensure everyone has a copy and ask people to read and make comments for the next meeting.

4.2 Bed Bugs Workshop

Jennie followed up with the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association to see if a second workshop on Bed Bugs was going to be developed for Hamilton – it's not on their radar yet but will consider it in the New Year.

4.3 TAC Recruitment and Applications

Jennie reported that there was some interest expressed at the Volunteer Committees Open House.

Mary Sinclair and Susan Andrew have identified that they will not be reapplying. Mary sent a letter explaining her reasons (which was shared with the members) and Susan has decided to apply for another board. The group agreed that Mary's suggestions should be incorporated into our planning session once the new TAC is formed.

The group identified who among them was reapplying. Reminder that the deadline is on Monday.

The group wondered about sending out letters for thanks to Susan, Mary and David for their excellent contributions. Jennie will look into this.

4.2 Brantford Housing Day Event

Long past event – no updates

4.3 Other Information Items

A few additional information items emerged (Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program, Input on Ontario's Inclusive Housing Statement). We were reminded that we need to make sure that items fit within the purview of TAC's mandate and that there are actionable items that are identified and documented.

4.4 CityHousing Hamilton – Tenant Complaints

There was an article in the Hamilton Spectator about how CityHousing Hamilton tracks tenant complaints. Should TAC provide any input? One option is to make a recommendation to Council in a concrete way that tasks them to sort out the issue. It has merit since the Residential Tenancies Act indicates that a complaints process must be clear to tenants. John agreed to draft this for TAC. Meaghan agreed to identify the section of the Act that this would under.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.