MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
Approved Friday, June 11, 2010 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Room CH433, City Hall

PRESENT: Andy Cranbury, John Hawker (Chair); Mary Sinclair, Connie Bellamy

REGRETS: Susan Andrews

Also Present: Dave Brodati, Suzanne Swanton, Molly Elliott – City of Hamilton, Meaghan Ross – Housing Help Centre

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL
   1.1 – Welcome
   John welcomed everyone to the meeting

   1.2 – Additions to & Approval of Agenda
   Announcements of upcoming community events was added as 5.1
   Agenda was accepted as amended. (Sinclair/Cranbury) CARRIED

1.3 - DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
   None.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

   2.1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 9, 2010
   The April 9, 2010 minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were
   approved as presented.
   (Cranbury/Sinclair) CARRIED

   2.2 Business Arising from minutes
   No Follow up items from previous minutes were discussed.
2.3 Emergency Shelter Blueprint
Suzanne Swanton, Social Policy Advisor, Housing & Homelessness Division, presented the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services in Hamilton. Discussion ensued. TAC was particularly interested in the transition of shelter users to housing with supports. Successful transition to longer term rental tenancy brings former shelter users into the broader tenant population that TAC is representing.

2.4 Annual Report to Council
The Annual Report from TAC was presented to Emergency & Community Services Committee by John Hawker, Chair, on May 19, 2010; The presentation was well received and Councillor McHattie asked John about his thoughts on the value and functioning of TAC. John expressed his view that while there is an important role for TAC, the committee continues to be challenged by problems recruiting and retaining members and participation by agencies representing tenants has declined.

2.5 Recommendation to Council on Rent Supplements/Housing Allowances
The Citizen Committee Report regarding the continuation of Rent Supplement/Housing Allowances was presented to Emergency and Community Services Committee (EC&S) on May 5, 2010. EC&S and City Council endorsed TAC’s recommendation and the Mayor forwarded a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing requesting that the Rent Supplement/Housing Allowances program continue. Dave Brodati distributed a copy of the Mayor’s letter sent to the Minister.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
No report was provided for this item.

3.2 Tenant Education and Outreach Initiative (TEOI)
No report was provided for this item.

3.3 City Housing Hamilton
John asked about the status of the CHH Comprehensive operational review. Dave Brodati responded that the work has moved to the implementation phase with an implementation committee being formed. A report is going to the CHH Board meeting of June 24, 2010.

3.4 Housing
Dave Brodati reported that as of May 2010, the social housing waiting list had grown to 5,212 applicants, an increase of approximately 25% over last year.

Molly Elliott facilitated a discussion on the value, importance and future directions of the Tenant Advisory Committee. This discussion is timely given that TAC is approaching the need to consider its workplan for 2011, subject to direction of the new Council after the 2010 election. TAC members re-iterated the mandate
of TAC and focussed on administrative and recruitment challenges experienced over the last few years. TAC would like to raise its profile with EC&S Committee, Council and tenants at large. TAC will continue to have this conversation as it moves forward.

3.5 Residential Tenancies Act
No report on this item.

3.6 Waste Cute Survey
No report on this item. This item was originally raised by Meagan Ross for information purposes only. It is to be removed from the agenda as a standing report.

4. Work Plan
Work plan items were not discussed other than recognizing the need to deal with communications as the only item on the 2010 workplan not already addressed.

5. New Business

5.1 Announcements of Community Events
Dave Brodati distributed information on the following events in June 2010: Tenant Forum sponsored by the Coalition of Residential Care Facilities’ Tenants on June 29, 2010; Home Safe Hamilton – a documentary on Homelessness in Hamilton on June 24, 2010; and a community forum on "Planning as a System" hosted by the City of Hamilton Housing & Homelessness Division and the Homelessness Partnership Strategy on June 29, 2010. Meagan Ross distributed information on the following events: “There’s No Place Like Home” – Delivering Consumer Driven Services in Supported & Supportive Housing on June 17, 2010; and the 2010 joint AGM of the Social Planning & Research Council, Volunteer Hamilton, and Community Information Hamilton on June 23, 2010.

6. Future Meeting & Location
Next meeting will be held on Friday August 13, 2010 in room CH433 at City Hall.

7. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.