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

Absent with Regrets: Larry Husack, Andy Cranbury

Also Present: David Brodati, City of Hamilton – Housing Division (Guest), Jennie Vengris, City of Hamilton - Housing Division (Staff Liaison)

1. CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No changes. Agenda approved.

We did have Dave talk about the Investment in Affordable Housing Program which moved that agenda item up from ‘New Business’.

(Bellamy/Ryan - Carried)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Tenant Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated August 19, 2011 were approved without amendments.

(Ryan/Bellamy – Carried)

4. GUEST – DAVE BRODATI

Dave gave a brief overview of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and reminded the group that Meaghan is the liaison for this committee.
Dave explained that the Housing and Homelessness Project Team is consulting with a number of Citizen Advisory Committees (through Access and Equity and those focused on housing). He asked TAC to brainstorm the core issues currently facing tenants in Hamilton today. What follows are points from the discussion:

- Are we proposing how money will be spent? Looking at a range of strategies and actions.
- Will connections be made to other broader public benefits that come with supporting housing? Yes – looking at building both an economic argument and one that talks about the social determinants of health.
- If municipalities can leverage the real estate equity they can in turn reinvest it and become self-sufficient.
- Need to be looking at housing with supports – like HOMES.
- Need to demystify people with addictions and support wet shelters.
- Make use of decrepit buildings – small apartments.
- Youth who are transitioning from care are neglected.
- Need to focus on property standards, people are living in consistently bad stock.
- Need to have sustainable housing stock – empower the people who live there to support the maintenance.
- TAC will continued to be brought into the conversation as the Action Plan develops.

Investment in Affordable Housing in Hamilton

Dave reviewed the report that went to Emergency and Community Services Committee on September 8, 2011.

TAC talked about the fairness of the allocation. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has indicated that they used two criteria to determine the allocations, share of total households in Ontario and share of total households in core housing need in Ontario.

In the end, the reality is that the allocation is not enough to meet out housing needs in Hamilton. To that end, John made a motion that TAC develop a report that recommends that the Emergency and Community Services Committee communicate to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the Investment in Affordable Housing Program allocation for Hamilton is inadequate for the purpose of meeting the needs of Hamilton tenants.

(Ross/Ryan – Carried)

5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

4.1 Work Plan Follow Up – Tenants As Voters
John and Laura updated that the Hamilton Civic League meeting went well. There plans include putting up 200 posters through the HSR, 10 of which are on the exterior of buses. There are no plans from the League for a candidates debate.

Jennie will revise the current TAC tenant/voter pamphlet to be clearer and with the suggestions that TAC members provided.

Jennie suggested that we look at suggesting a pilot of new polls within residential settings (100+ unit buildings) after this election is over.

6. STANDING REPORTS

5.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee

No report. Next meeting is the third week of September.

5.2 Tenant Outreach and Education Advisory Committee

No report.

5.3 City of Hamilton

No report.

5.4 Bed Bug Collaborative

Nasir Sawar has been hired at the Housing Help Centre to coordinate information sharing and education about Bed Bugs.

7. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 TAC Presentation

Jennie let the group know that it is expected to make a presentation at the October 5 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting. The group asked Jennie to support the development of the presentation using the current work plan as a frame. Jennie will send it out for comments and feedback on Wednesday.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Tenant Advisory Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

(Ryan/Bellamy – Carried)