MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
Friday, February 12, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.
(approved) Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

PRESENT: Andy Cranbury, John Hawker; Mary Sinclair, Susan Andrews, Connie Bellamy,

REGRETS: None

Also Present: Meaghan Ross - Housing Help Centre, Kelly Barnett, Joe Xamin, Dave Brodati, and Michele Attard – City of Hamilton,

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL
   Item 1.1 – Welcome
   Welcome to Kelly Barnett, Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Planning and Economic Development and Joe Xamin - Senior Project Manager, Parking & By-law Services, Planning & Economic Development Department.

   Item 1.2 – Additions to & Approval of Agenda
   No additions to the agenda.
   Agenda was accepted as presented. (Sinclair/Hawker) CARRIED

   Item 1.3 - DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
   None.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

   Item 2.1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES for December 11, 2009,
   The December 11, 2009 minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were approved as presented.
   (Hawker/Bellamy) CARRIED

   2.2 Comments on Notes from January 8, 2010 meeting
   Members conducted an informal meeting for member only in preparation for the February 12th meeting.
2.3 By-law Enforcement – Kelly Barnett
Kelly explained the process of By-law Enforcement stating that snow removal was the number one priority for the safety of everyone. Kelly informed members that all residential sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours of a winter storm; non-compliance could result in a homeowner facing a fine. Also that not everyone knows that snow should not be thrown onto the road; this may block drainage.
Kelly informed members that there are programs in Hamilton such as “Snow Angels” or Helping Hands and it is encouraged to be a good neighbour to help those in need. Kelly mentioned that it was important to call the City immediately if there are any problems with snow removal.
Education and awareness is the key, city staff are implementing a new pamphlet for property owners. Snow off Sidewalks (SOS) posters have been distributed within the community.
Kelly mentioned that enforcement regarding property standards is more complex; but health and safety is the first concern. If a property owner is non-compliant the City can go onto the property and fix the problem, afterwards the property owner is charged. Kelly emphasized that it is important that tenants communicate with the landlords before putting in a complaint; and if this is not possible, Housing Help Centre can help tenants with any issues with their landlords. Kelly informed members that a new pamphlet for property owners will be available soon.
Members mentioned that parking for people with disabilities is a problem, especially on Ferguson; Kelly asked that the City be contacted as soon as possible when this occurs to help solve this problem. Joe Xamin will check further into this issue.

2.4 Licensing Landlords – Joe Xamin
Joe gave an overview of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC); a report went to council with 8 recommendations. In October 2008 City Council recommended that an investigation into the feasibility of regulating residential housing in Hamilton be undertaken involving wards 1, 8, 10 and 12.
An information report on the recommendation has to be presented to council in March, 2010.
In April 2009 City Council asked staff to undertake a City-wide consultation also; but this has been put on hold until the report from wards 1, 8, 10 and 12 has been completed
Members asked if Joe could attend the meeting in May or June after the report has gone to council for an update.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
No updates

3.2 Tenant Outreach Education Initiative (TOEI)
No updates

3.3 City Housing/City of Hamilton - Housing Division
No updates
3.4 Residential Tenancies Act
No updates

4. NEW BUSINESS
4.1 Chairperson 2010
Andy asked members if they would consider appointing John as the chair for 2010; John had expressed an interest in assuming the role of chair. Members thanked Andy for all the hard work and time spent in his role and would be pleased to have John as chair.
Motion
That John Hawker assume role as chair for the Tenant Advisor Committee
(Sinclair/Cranbury) CARRIED

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.
(Sinclair/Andrews) CARRIED

6. Future Meetings
The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th, 2010 – 1:00 – 3:00, at the Hamilton Convention Centre
To be discussed at a future meeting – the report to council scheduled for June.