MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
(Approved) Friday, October 09, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

PRESENT: Andy Cranbury, John Hawker; Mary Sinclair

REGRETS: Susan Andrews, Sana Ahmad Minhas, and Daryn Deon; Connie Bellamy,

Also Present: Larry Huibers and Anna Ochnik - Housing Help Centre, Dave Brodati, Tammy Morasse and Michele Attard

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL
   Item 1.1 – Welcome
   Andy welcomed Tammy and Anna to the meeting.

   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 July 10, 2009 and September 11th.
   The July 10, 2009 and September 11th minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were deferred to the meeting in November.

   2.2 The Bed Bug Issue: Best Practices
   There was some discussion if awareness is part of the problem? Members asked if Public Health can follow up with more education in the community. City staff will check into this.
2.3 Multi-Res Update
No updates

2.4 Annual Report
Andy presented the report to council on October 7th, and it was well received.

2.5 Budget Items
Members agreed to submit the same budget as for 2009.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
No updates

3.2 Tenant Outreach Education Initiative (TOEI)
Larry introduced Anna Ochnik who has been hired as the Rooming House Coordinator for the new program with HPS. Anna will be working at Housing Help Centre and Community Services with Betty Lou Purdon, Manager Residential Care Facilities and Hostels.

3.3 Residential Tenancy Act/Legal Issues
No updates

3.4 City Housing/City of Hamilton - Housing Division
Dave informed members that the Access to Housing proposal was awarded to Fengate.

3.5 City Voter List
No updates

3.6 Committee Maintenance
Andy informed members that he was not able to contact Sana or Daryn; City staff will contact Clerk’s office in regards to attendance.

4. NEW BUSINESS
4.1 Work Plan for 2009 - 2010
Members thought that the following topics could be part of the work plan:
- Property standards and quality of rental housing - regulating rental housing - compliance and tenant recourse
- Professional security when emergency situations arise in rental buildings, e.g. evacuations
- Renter voter turnout for the upcoming Fall 2010 municipal election
• Better communication to tenants from City officials
• Licensing rooming houses
• Bed bugs
• Multi-residential tax rate remains higher than single family residential rate
• Official Plan housing targets - monitoring and making sure new rental housing targets are achieved
• Termination of Rent Supplements under various programs
• Utility awareness, particularly in social housing
• Environmental scan of community resources
• Encouragement of staff education/training for Property Managers

It was agreed that 3 or 4 items will be identified at the next meeting; these will be included in the work plan for 2010.

5. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.
   (Sinclair/Cranbury) CARRIED

6. Future Meetings
The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th, 2009 – 1:00 – 3:00, at the Hamilton Convention Centre