MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
(Approved) Friday, September 11, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

PRESENT: Andy Cranbury, Connie Bellamy, John Hawker;

REGRETS: Mary Sinclair, Susan Andrews, Sana Ahmad Minhas, and Daryn Deon;

Also Present: Heidi Billyard and Brenda Zsiras from Good Shepherd Non Profit Housing, Dave Brodati and Michele Attard

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL
   Item 1.1 – Welcome
   Andy welcomed Heidi and Brenda to the meeting and thanked them for presenting today.

   Item 1.2 – Additions to & Approval of Agenda
   No additions to the agenda.
   Agenda was accepted as presented. (Cranbury/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
   The July 10, 2009 minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were deferred to the meeting in October.

   2.2 The Bed Bug Issue: Best Practices
   Heidi gave an overview of the 8 month pilot project in collaboration with the City of Hamilton, Victoria Park and Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes which was completed in June. Funding for the project was received
from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) which included inspection and preparation of the units and to replace furniture when needed. The project was very successful, a total of 142 units were treated by Good Shepherd; the chemical treatment from Pest Control was the responsibility of the landlord. They key findings were:

• Public education is the key
• It is not anyone person’s fault, have to remove the stigma attached
• No chemicals will effectively kill bed bugs, usually need more than one treatment

Some of the issues were that there is a stigma attached to the problem of bed bugs and it is not always reported. The costs associated with treating the bed bugs is high especially for those of low-income and for landlords to treat every apartment it is very costly. (The average cost for Pest Control to treat units is $200 – $300, that does not include the cost for preparing the unit before treatment or to replace furniture.) The cost to Good Shepherd to inspect and prepare a 1 bedroom unit, and do a second inspection and preparation if needed is $575. Additional funding is needed in the community to alleviate this problem. If the bed bugs are not treated immediately they can migrate, also infested furniture has to be destroyed (so that they are not transported). The treatment to remove the bed bugs is very costly and an invasive process.

A report is being developed by Good Shepherd on the Best Practices which will be given to the Manager of the Homelessness Program with the City of Hamilton when completed.

2.3 Multi-Res Update
No updates

2.4 Annual Report
Andy has reviewed the Annual Report for presentation and will present to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on October 7th at 1:30.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
No updates

3.2 Tenant Outreach Education Initiative (TOEI)
Housing Help Centre are in the process of hiring staff for the Tenant Outreach Education Initiative and asked if that person could attend
monthly meetings in the same capacity as Madhavi has in the past; members agreed. Also Larry mentioned that a Rooming House Coordinator is being hired and they may like to attend a future meeting to give any updates.

3.3 Residential Tenancy Act/Legal Issues
No updates

3.4 City Housing/City of Hamilton - Housing Division
Dave informed members that there has been restructuring within the Housing Division of the City of Hamilton. Gillian Hendry whom is currently the Director of Employment & Income Support Branch will assume the position of Director of Social Housing and Homelessness affective October 1st and Keith Extance will assume position of Acting Director of City Housing Hamilton. Also Dave mentioned that Tammy Morasse it to be married this month and my be attending future meetings when she returns the end of September. Members would like to wish her all the best in her marriage and will send her a card.

3.5 City Voter List
No updates

3.6 Committee Maintenance
Andy informed members that he had a copy of the Procedural Handbook for Volunteer Committee Members and asked if copies could be printed for all members. City staff will contact Clerk’s office to obtain copies for all members. Andy has contacted Daryn and Sana regarding membership but did not receive any replies, city staff will contact Clerk’s office regarding the policies of absences. Regarding the work plan for 2010; members agreed that linkages and information sharing was important. Members thought that a discussion of items for the work plan could be on the agenda for the October meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS
4.1 Smart Meters Update
Dave distributed a copy of a notice from the Ontario Energy Board regarding Smart Sub-metering systems released August 13, 2009; where the Ontario Energy Board authorizes installation of Smart Sub-metering systems in residential complexes.

5. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
6. **Future Meetings**  
The next meeting is scheduled for October 9th, 2009 – 1:00 – 3:00, at the Hamilton Convention Centre