MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee  
Friday, April 9, 2010 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

PRESENT: Andy Cranbury, John Hawker (Chair); Mary Sinclair,
REGRETS: Susan Andrews, Connie Bellamy, Larry Huibers, Meaghan Ross
Also Present: Dave Brodati, Tammy Morasse and Michele Attard – City of Hamilton,

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

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

   Item 1.3 - DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
   None.

2. BUSINESS ARISING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

   Item 2.1 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 12, 2010
   The March 12, 2010 minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were approved as presented.
   (Cranbury/Sinclair) CARRIED

   2.2 Business Arising from minutes
   John would like to draft a letter to thank David Horwood for his presentation last meeting and bring a copy to the next meeting for approval.
   An updated contact list of TAC members was distributed to members at the meeting.
   City staff will include the following items on the agenda as standing items: Property Standards, Rent Supplements, Bed Bugs and Communications
2.3 **Certified Rental Building Program (CRB)**
John asked if city staff could send any information received at the last meeting to members not present. A copy of the minutes will be sent to all members which has the link to the CRB web site.
Andy mentioned that he had learned of one more building on the Hamilton Mountain that has been certified.

2.4 **Recommendation to Council on Rental Supplements**
The Citizen Committee Report regarding the continuation of Rent Supplement/Housing Allowances has been signed by John and the report was sent to Clerk’s who will forward to Emergency and Community Services Committee. City staff will inform members of any updates.

2.5 **Annual Report to Council**
The Annual Report from TAC is due to council May 18th; City staff will send the draft report via email to all members to review before the next meeting.

3. **REPORTS**

3.1 **Emergency and Community Services Reports**
John informed members of the Comprehensive Operational Review of CityHousing Hamilton which was presented April 7th to council. John asked members to review to report and send any comments or questions to city staff or him before the next meeting for discussion. The report can be found on the City web site.

3.2 **Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)**
Mary informed members that she attended the Opportunities Hamilton forum and hopes that all the recommendations to council will be taken seriously.

3.3 **Tenant Education and Outreach Initiative (TEOI)**
Andy mentioned that SHAC and TEOI are working together to learn more about the policies regarding politicians running for office in relation to voting of tenants. Tammy mentioned that she spoke to the Director of CityHousing Hamilton regarding access to City Housing Properties and was informed that any politicians have to ask permission from the Property Manager of the building before entering to give them access during election time.

3.4 **City Housing Hamilton**
Dave distributed a copy of the Access to Housing wait list as of March 31, 2010 to all members. The trend shows that there has been increase from 4,000 applications in previous years to 5,171 in 2010 which is a 25% increase. Andy asked what would be the impact of this. Also Andy questioned the closing of Emergency Shelter beds in Hamilton and what the impact on homelessness is.
Dave mentioned that there is a new initiative called the Emergency Shelter Blueprint which is addressing the shelter usage; the reason why emergency beds have been closed is that pilot projects such as Hostels to Homes has helped chronic shelter users find housing. Members were interested in learning more about the Blueprint.
City staff will invite a person to present an overview of the Emergency Shelter Blueprint to a future meeting.

3.5 Residential Tenancies Act
No updates

3.6 Waste Cute Survey
City staff had not heard any feedback from the survey which closed March 26th, but noting that it is an important issue. City staff will bring back any updates to the committee.

4. NEW BUSINESS
4.1 Work Plan
It was suggested that communications in the 2010 work plan include the following items:
Bed bug issues and language barriers

6. Future Meetings
The next meeting is scheduled for May 14th, 2010 – 1:00 – 3:00, at the Hamilton Convention Centre