MINUTES: Tenant Advisory Committee
Approved Friday, March 12, 2010 – 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Apr 9, 2010 Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

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

1. OPENING & AGENDA APPROVAL
   Item 1.1 – Welcome
   Welcome to David Horwood from Effort Trust and Chair of Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario’s (FRPO).

   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 February 12, 2010,
   The February 12, 2010 minutes of the Tenant Advisory Committee (TAC) were approved as presented.
   (Cranbury/Sinclair) CARRIED

   2.2 Business Arising from minutes
   None

   2.3 David Horwood, Certified Rental Building Program (CRB)
   David distributed a copy of the Objectives and Guiding Principles for the CRB Program and a copy of the January/February newsletter. David gave an
overview of the CRB Program for Multi-residential apartments. The CRB Program was developed by the Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO) and launched two years ago. Since this program started 100,000 households have been enrolled in the program across the province and of those 75% have been certified. Flyers are sent around to the tenants to let them know that the building is certified. FRPO has worked conscientiously to keep costs of the program affordable to all participants. With this program there are 38 standards and practices, with best practices in training for example; audits by J. D. Power are conducted per building every three years. Buildings entered into the program must be able to meet and comply with the program’s standards of practice. Two surveys to tenants were conducted in the past 6 months and 67% of the tenants were satisfied with the program. Ted Whitehead is the Director of Certification for the program; for more information use the link: www.crbprogram.org

2.4 Residential Tenancies Act
Andy mentioned that he read an article regarding the smart sub-metering in apartments, attached is the link to the web page on Cleonet: http://www.cleonet.ca/resources/1868

2.5 Representative from Legal Services
Andy mentioned that he was talking with Bob Wood from the Legal Clinic and Bob mention that he would be happy to attend a meeting if required.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
Mary Sinclair informed members of an Affordable Housing forum Wednesday April 7th, at McMaster Innovation Park, 175 Longwood Road at 8:30 am called Opportunities Hamilton.

3.2 Tenant Outreach Education Initiative (TOEI)
Andy asked a question regarding tenants and voting; asking if all political parties were allowed access to buildings during election time. Tammy will follow up with this question and bring back to the next meeting.

3.3 City Housing/City of Hamilton - Housing Division
John asked Dave from the City to give members an update regarding current housing units for next meeting.

3.4 Residential Tenancies Act
No updates

3.5 Report to E&CS Committee and Council
John will send out an email to members with the draft work plan and accomplishments for TAC in order to put the report together for council.
Members reviewed the recommendation to council on Housing Allowances and agreed that the recommendation be presented before council; city staff will send the recommendation to council.

(Cranbury/Hawker) CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS
4.1 Guests
John mentioned to members that he would like to send a thank you letter to all guests including Kelly Barnet and Joe Xamin from the City.

6. Future Meetings
The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th, 2010 – 1:00 – 3:00, at the Hamilton Convention Centre
To be discussed at a future meeting – the report to council scheduled for June.