



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 19, 2015

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on November 19, 2015, at 5:50 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Nicola Hill, Acting Chair
David Isaac
Daniel Oleksiuk
Mira Oreck
Joshua Prowse
Karen Sawatzky
Meseret Taye

ABSENT: Amanda van Baarsen (Leave of Absence)
Miran Aziz (Leave of Absence)
Peter Harvie (Leave of Absence)
Alvin Singh, Chair

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
Councillor Tim Stevenson, Council Liaison
Celine Mauboules, Housing Policy
Edna Cho, Housing Policy

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Nicole Ludwig, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Mira Oreck
SECONDED by Karen Sawatzky

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Amanda Van Baarsen, Miran Aziz, and Peter Harvie, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mira Oreck
SECONDED by Joshua Prowse

THAT the minutes of the September 22, 2015, Renters Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Approval of 2016 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Joshua Prowse
SECONDED by Karen Sawatzky

THAT regular meetings of the Renters Advisory Committee be held on the following dates, at 5:45 pm:

- February 17, 2016
- April 13, 2016
- June 8, 2016
- September 14, 2016
- October 12, 2016
- November 9, 2016

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Tenant Relocation Policy

Edna Cho, Housing Policy, provided an update on the report that will be presented to Council in December, entitled "Increased Protection for Renters - Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy and associated Guidelines. She noted the report recommends approval of new policy and guidelines to expand staff comments on Renters Advisory Committee's report, as well as to identify potential actions for advocacy. Ms. Cho, along with Celine Mauboules, also from Housing Policy, responded to questions.

3. Pet Friendly Rental Units

Celine Mauboules, Housing Policy, provided an update on pets in rentals, including a review of the original motion, and an overview of stakeholder meetings along with resources available for renters. She noted that pets would continue to be allowed in City-operated non-market housing.

In discussion, it was noted that pets in rental housing is a controversial issue with many stakeholders who may have other reasons for objecting to a change in the Residential Tenancy Act to allow pets in rentals.

4. Liaison Reports

Councillor Reimer thanked Joshua Prowse for his presentation to Council on November 17, 2015, and clarified the actions being taken in the Downtown Eastside around the street market. She also noted there is a possibility now to get Federal money for housing and that there are ongoing negotiations regarding the allocation of the funding.

5. Subcommittee Reports

a. Residential Tenancy Act Review Subcommittee

Joshua Prowse noted there had been some minor reviews in the Residential Subcommittee's report between the time it was approved by the Renters Advisory Committee and being presented at Council. The Committee agreed that the changes were acceptable and in line with Committee discussion at the previous meeting.

b. Communications Subcommittee

The Committee noted there was preparation going on for talking to the media regarding the Renters Advisory Committee Report and the Acting Chair requested members use basecamp to look at the current workplan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Joshua Prowse
SECONDED by Daniel Oleksiuk

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. New Business

None.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2015
TIME: Committee Room 1
PLACE: Third Floor, City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:05 pm.

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