



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 26, 2018

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at 5:45 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Karen Sawatzky, Chair
Karen Ameyaw, Vice-chair
Farhan Beg
Natasha Edgar
Noah Quastel
Andrew Sakamoto
Maddison Spennath
Meseret Taye

ABSENT: Randy Keats, Leave of Absence
Emmett Keyserlingk
Jaraad Marani
Annie Martin, Leave of Absence
Daniel Oleksiuk
Andrea Winkler, Leave of Absence

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Anderson, Housing Policy, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Swanston, Meeting Coordinator

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Maddison Spennath
SECONDED by Karen Sawatzky

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve a leaves of absence for Randy Keats, Annie Martin, and Andrea Winkler, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Karen Sawatzky
SECONDED by Natasha Edgar

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting held July 18, 2018, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Response to Motion

Karen Sawatzky, Chair, summarized the Committee's August working session in which the Committee discussed Councillor Carr's motion regarding a moratorium on the demolition of purpose built rentals. The Committee discussed the possibility of a special meeting at the beginning of the next working session.

3. Municipal Elections Questionnaire

The Committee reviewed and updated the list of questions [the Committee] provided to the 2017 by-election candidates. The Vice-Chair, agreed to compile the updated questions and send to this year's municipal election candidates, assisted by Farhan Beg.

4. Chair's Update

The Chair summarized the "Delivering Rental Housing in your Community" candidate education forum held in August, noting it was well attended. Ms. Sawatzky felt it may be worthwhile to repeat the event in the future, perhaps with a non-profit lens, and potentially include City staff to round out the information.

Ms. Sawatzky noted she was invited by fellow RAC member Andrea Winkler (not present), to speak to the Regional Planning Advisory Committee about RAC and the value to municipalities of having a renters advisory committee as a resource to Council and staff.

Ms. Sawatzky shared that she has been speaking to various media outlets recently in relation to the BC Rental Task Force's recommendations and to the BC Government's announcement today about adopting the Task Force's recommendation on the annual rental rate increase.

5. New Business

MOVED by Karen Ameyaw
SECONDED by Maddision Spenrath

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee's October Working Session be moved from October 10, 2018, to October 24, 2018.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Andrew Sakamoto summarized his role in relation to the BC Government's announcement to reduce the allowable annual rent increase, noting that this was the first of the recommendations from the Task Force, and additional recommendations still need to be considered.

Maddision Spenrath reminded the Committee of a coalition seeking the Federal Government to enact the right to housing as Law, noting the coalition has even drafted the bill. A motion of support for the coalition's goals was suggested to be brought forth at the potential special meeting in October.

Graham Anderson, Staff Liaison, noted the Duplex rezoning changes were passed by Council following two days of Public Hearing on September 18 and 19; noting that the amendments to the Zoning and Development By-laws for Kitsilano and Kensington-Cedar Cottage were postponed to after November 5, 2018.

The chair, vice-chair and Committee members expressed their appreciation to the Committee's elected liaisons and support staff (Council, Park Board, School Board, staff, and meeting coordinators), for all the information they've provided to the committee and all the work they've done to support the committee since its inception.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Natasha Edgar
SECONDED by Andrew Sakamoto

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting: *As Committee members are appointed up until November 4, 2018, this will be the Committee's final Regular meeting of term.*

The Committee adjourned at 6:34 pm.

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