



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 19, 2015

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 5:45 pm, in Committee Room No. 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT:

- Miran Aziz
- Peter Harvie
- Nicola Hill
- David Isaac
- Parveen Khtaria
- Angela Liu
- Daniel Oleksiuk
- Mira Oreck
- Joshua Prowse*
- Karen Sawatzky
- Alvin Singh, Acting Chair
- Meseret Taye

ABSENT:

- Amanda van Baarsen (Leave of Absence)
- John Dub (Sick Leave)
- Mark Regalado (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT:

- Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
- Councillor Tim Stevenson, Council Liaison
- Commissioner Erin Shum, Park Board Liaison
- Celine Mauboules, Housing Policy, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee agreed to postpone the elections for Chair and Vice-Chair to the next regular meeting on September 22, 2015, and to extend the appointment of Alvin Singh as Interim Chair of the Committee.

2. Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Karen Sawatsky
SECONDED by Nicola Hill

THAT Amanda van Baarsen and Mark Regalado be granted leaves of absence for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Joshua Prowse absent for the vote)

2. Presentation from the Burnaby Residential Tenancy Branch

Nithya Mascarenhas, Senior Information Officer, Public Education, Residential Tenancy Branch, provided a presentation on the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA), and responded to questions regarding a number of matters including the dispute process and issues around evictions.

3. Report from the Residential Tenancy Act Review Subcommittee

Parveen Khtaria provided an update on the recommendations being prepared by the Residential Tenancy Act Review Subcommittee for the report requested by Council regarding rental tenant protection and, along with Joshua Prowse, responded to questions.

Following discussion regarding next steps and timing of the final recommendations, it was

MOVED by Parveen Khtaria
SECONDED by Nicola Hill

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee hold a working session meeting to finalize the recommendations for the report requested by Council regarding rental tenant protection, followed by a special meeting to approve the recommendations, prior to the end of June 2015, (dates to be determined).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Rental Properties Database & Enforcement of Health and Safety By-laws

The Staff Liaison provided a presentation regarding the City's Rental Properties Database and enforcement of health and safety by-laws, and responded to questions

6. Reports from Elected and Staff Liaisons

The Park Board Liaison, advised the Park Board is interested in receiving feedback on how to improve parks and community centres, and to contact her directly with any Park Board-related matters.

Council Liaison Reimer provided updates on several Council-related matters including the Vancouver Rent Bank, efforts to strengthen rate of change by-laws to protect rental stock, and loss of rental stock as a national problem.

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the homelessness count and agreed to continue providing links to upcoming Council agenda items that relate to the Committee's work.

7. New Business

(a) Submission of Agenda Items

Following discussion, it was agreed that agenda item suggestions be submitted to the Staff Liaison and Committee Chair, since they typically coordinate the agendas.

(b) Rental Buildings being operated as Hotels

A Committee member expressed concern about rental buildings being operated as hotels and referenced a recent news report on the matter. The Council Liaison suggested that Planning and Development Services staff be contacted for more information.

(c) Meeting Schedule

Following discussion the Committee agreed to book working session meetings the months there is no regular meeting, except for August. The Meeting Coordinator agreed to follow up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Angela Liu
SECONDED by Karen Hills

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, September 22, 2015
TIME: 5:45 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room
Second Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 8:05 pm.

* * * * *