



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 13, 2017

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 5:32 pm, in Committee Room 1, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall.

PRESENT: Karen Sawatzky, Chair
Karen Ameyaw, Vice-Chair*
Natasha Edgar
Jaraad Marani
Samrah Mian*
Daniel Oleksiuk
Noah Quastel
Andrew Sakamoto
Maddison Spenrath
Meseret Taye*
Andrea Winkler

ABSENT: Annie Martin (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Abi Bond, Director, Housing Projects
Graham Anderson, Housing Policy, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Swanston, Committee Clerk

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Maddison Spenrath
SECONDED by Daniel Oleksiuk

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve a Leave of Absence for Annie Martin for today's meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Karen Ameyaw, Samrah Mian and Meseret Taye absent for vote.)

1. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Natasha Edgar
SECONDED by Andrew Sakamoto

THAT the Minutes of the Renters Advisory Committee meeting held July 19, 2017, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Karen Ameyaw, Samrah Mian and Meseret Taye absent for vote.)

2. Housing Vancouver Update

Graham Anderson, Housing Policy, staff liaison, provided an update on the fall engagement plans for Housing Vancouver, noting there will be an invitation to Chairs for feedback on sections of the Housing Vancouver Strategy. The Strategy is to go to Council later this year, along with a three-year action plan companion document.

Mr. Anderson also responded to questions and commented on engagement plans related to the following:

- Family Housing Design Guidelines (definitions, amenity space, community “concierge”, current policy and how it can be applied more broadly)
- Cambie Corridor Phase 3
- Below Market Rental Policy
- Short Term Rentals - going to Council later this year

3. Modular Housing Initiative

Abi Bond, Director, Housing Projects, provided an update on the temporary modular housing initiative, noting that a fair amount of public engagement related to *Housing Vancouver* has taken place and confirmed that a majority of Vancouverites (70% of respondents) see homelessness as a priority issue.

Ms. Bond noted important lessons learned from the temporary modular housing pilot project at 220 Terminal Avenue. The City is seeking support and partnership from the Provincial Government and is currently looking at vacant or underutilized land to host new modular housing. Considering the rapid approach of the winter season, staff are also planning a winter shelter strategy, in line with the approach taken in recent years.

In effort to educate the public about temporary modular housing, a demonstration unit will likely be placed on Robson Street later this month, and will potentially be moved for display near the Trout Lake Community Centre at a later date.

Committee members noted their support for this initiative and asked to be kept apprised of its progress and any opportunities for them to support it.

4. Council Liaison Updates

None.

5. Updates from August Working Session

The Chair reviewed the following:

- Outstanding action items;
- Presentations for the next working session;
- Upcoming motions to pass at the next Regular meeting;
- Short Term Rentals going to Public Hearing
- Items of Interest from other advisory committees

The Committee unanimously supported the Chair to speak on behalf of the Committee in support of the Short-term rental item that will be going to Public Hearing in October.

6. By-Election Questionnaire

The Chair, informed the Committee that the questionnaire for by-election candidates has been distributed (copy on file). A consideration for next year's election is to host a debate-style event.

7. New Business

The Chair noted various upcoming meetings that members might want to participate in, including the council of council meeting, for which a poster and short presentation will be needed. The Chair also noted that advisory committee applications for vacant positions will be posted online in October.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Karen Ameyaw
SECONDED by Samrah Mian

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: November 8, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Committee Room 1
Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

The Committee adjourned at 6:53 pm.

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