



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 25, 2022

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 5:36 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Kit Sauder (Co-Chair)
Tanya Webking (Co-Chair)
Travis Barker
Eva Ciesielska*
Steve Kim*
Robert Penkala
Mitchell Prost
Victor Rizov
Jacint Simon
Aidan Shirley, Acting Chair

ABSENT: Adam Huizinga

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison
Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator
Alyse Stewart, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absent for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

Kit Sauder, Co-Chair, acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Mitchell Prost
SECONDED by Aidan Shirley

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, March 09, 2022, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Prior to the start of the meeting, the Committee agreed to vary the order of the agenda and firstly deal with Item 6, Liaison Updates, and then the remainder of the agenda.

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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6. Liaison Updates

Councillor Swanson, Council Liaison, provided information on the following:

- draft potential amendments for the Report dated April 27, 2022, entitled “Broadway Plan”, being presented to Council at the Standing Committee meeting on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on May 18, 2022, and reconvening on May 25, 26 and 31, 2022, and asked the Committee for their input;
- Council Member’s Motion entitled “[Asking for a Change to the Vancouver Charter to Allow the City to Levy a Progressive Property Tax](#)”, that was dealt with at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on April 13, 2022; and
- Council Member’s Motion entitled “Emergency Actions to Protect SRO Tenants from Displacement to Save Lives”, that will be on the agenda at the Council meeting on June 7, 2022, and asked the Committee for their input.

Councillor Swanson also responded to questions.

Councillor Fry, Council Liaison, provided information on the following:

- current discussions happening at UBCM in regards to the rental housing crisis;
- the Referral Report dated March 28, 2022, entitled “CD-1 Rezoning: 4949-5255 Heather Street and 657-707 West 37th Avenue (Heather Lands)”, that was discussed and approved by Council at the Public Hearing on May 24, 2022; and
- potential amendments being considered for the Report dated April 27, 2022, entitled “Broadway Plan”, being presented to Council at the Standing Committee meeting on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on May 18, 2022, and reconvening on May 25, 26 and 31, 2022.

Councillor Fry also responded to questions.

1. A Motion to Acknowledge, Thank & Congratulate Irina Dragnea for her Service & Support of the Renters Advisory Committee

MOVED by Aidan Shirley
SECONDED by Robert Penkala

WHEREAS

1. Irina Dragnea has fastidiously and diligently supported the business of the Renters Advisory Committee of the City of Vancouver;

2. Irina Dragnea has effectively stewarded the business of the Renters Advisory Committee; and
3. Irina Dragnea is soon to depart from her work supporting the Renters Advisory Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee congratulate and thank Irina Dragnea for her service to the City of Vancouver and our Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. A Motion to Affirm Confidence in the Co-Chairs of the Renters Advisory Committee

MOVED by Kit Sauder
SECONDED by Victor Rizov

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee appoint Aidan Shirley as Acting Chair for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At this point in the meeting, Aidan Shirley assumed the role of Acting Chair.

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Committee members discussed the roles of Co-Chairs, in specific when addressing Council and the media.

MOVED by Victor Rizov
SECONDED by Robert Penkala

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver's Renters Advisory Committee has only 220 days remaining in its mandate;
2. The City of Vancouver will hold its next Municipal Election on October 15, 2022;
3. The Mayor and Council have before them substantial policy matters relating to the mandate of the Renters Advisory Committee; and
4. It serves the interest of Council and the Renters Advisory Committee to review and provide advice on these matters expediently.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee maintain confidence in its Co-Chairs;

FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee will return to its business, providing its “insights and priorities to The Vancouver Plan process, in order to champion additional space, supports, protections, and affordability for renters.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Travis Barker, Eva Ciesielska, Kit Sauder, Tanya Webking abstained from the vote)

3. A Discussion of the Broadway Plan Debate

The Committee discussed the Report dated April 27, 2022, entitled “Broadway Plan”, being presented to Council at the Standing Committee meeting on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on May 18, 2022, and reconvening on May 25, 26 and 31, 2022.

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At 7:20 pm, during discussion on Item 3, it was

MOVED by Kit Sauder

SECONDED by Jacint Simon

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee extend the meeting until 8:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Eva Ciesielska abstained from the vote)

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Prior to the start of Item 4, Kit Sauder and Tanya Webking resumed as Co-Chairs.

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4. A Motion to Advise Council to Amend, Improve, and Pass the Broadway Plan Proposal

MOVED by Jacint Simon

SECONDED by Travis Barker

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has a deficit of 86,000 units of housing;
2. The City of Vancouver is required to pass a Local Area Plan in order to meet its obligations under its Support Agreement with TransLink for The Broadway Subway Line; and
3. The Renters Advisory Committee finds the supports and protections for renters in the Broadway Plan sufficient.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee endorse the Broadway Plan as currently presented to Council;

FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee encourage Mayor and Council to adopt expanded renter protections and vacancy controls in order to encourage 20% rental affordability over-and-above those provided Right of First Refusal under the Broadway Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee encourage Mayor and Council to add much needed density away from the Broadway Corridor in order to mitigate impacts of displacement to current renters, including non-market housing solutions like co-ops, Council Housing, and supported housing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Steve Kim and Eva Ciesielska absent for the vote)

5. A Discussion of Capital Plan & Vancouver Plan Advocacy

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

7. New Business

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Kit Sauder
SECONDED by Tanya Webking

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Steve Kim and Eva Ciesielska absent for vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Wednesday, July 13, 2022
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: TBA

The Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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