



## **RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**January 17, 2024**

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 5:33 pm via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Colleen Wickstrom, Chair  
Nicolas Poppell, Co-Chair  
Heather Barclay  
Eva Ciesielska  
Laurel Cowan  
Scott Robinson  
James Tod  
Spencer van Vloten

**ABSENT:** Kawa Ada (Leave of Absence)  
Margareta Dovgal (Leave of Absence)  
Kyle Simunovic

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison  
Councillor Brian Montague, Council Liaison  
Graham Anderson, Planner, Staff Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Ana Denissenko, Committee Clerk

### **WELCOME**

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by James Tod  
SECONDED by Nicolas Poppell

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Kawa Ada and Margareta Dovgal, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Approval of Minutes**

MOVED by Spencer van Vloten  
SECONDED by Scott Robinson

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, November 8, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **1. Liaison Updates**

The Council Liaison provided an update on the following and responded to questions:

- [Council agenda for January 23, 2024](#)
- [Mayor's Budget Task Force Report](#)
- [Jericho Lands Policy Statement](#)
- Climate Emergency Action Plan – Annual Update ([Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities, January 24, 2024](#))
- [B.C.'s short-term rental accommodations legislation](#)
- Healthcare and affordability of rental units in Vancouver

The Staff Liaison provided an update on the following:

- [CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund](#) and [Action Plan](#)
- Upcoming staff engagements

### **2. Work Plan Discussion**

Following discussion, it was

MOVED by Scott Robinson  
SECONDED by James Tod

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the 2023 – 2026 Work Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Subcommittee Updates**

Postponed to the February 14, 2024 working session.

### **4. New Business**

MOVED by Nicolas Poppell  
SECONDED by Eva Ciesielska

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee extend their thanks and gratitude to Travis Barker for his years of service and dedication to the Renters Advisory Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by James Tod  
SECONDED by Heather Barclay

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee extend a formal invite to representatives from the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre to present at the March 6, 2024 RAC meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by James Tod  
SECONDED by Laurel Cowan

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee appoint Colleen Wickstrom and Nicolas Poppell as Co-Chairs for the remainder of the term ending in 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Colleen Wickstrom and Nicolas Poppell abstained from the vote)

MOVED by Laurel Cowan  
SECONDED by Scott Robinson

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver *Housing Needs Report (2022)* identifies a significant need for more affordable housing including 77,000 existing households with unaffordable, unsuitable, or inadequate housing, in addition to roughly 2,000 people experiencing homelessness and 7,000 people living in Single-Room-Occupancy (SRO) hotels;
2. The City of Vancouver *Housing Vancouver Strategy (2017)* aims to deliver 12,000 new social, supportive, and non-profit co-operative homes over the next 10 years (2018-2027);
3. The City of Vancouver is committed to delivering on the Province's housing target of 28,900 new completed units of housing over the next five years (2023);
4. BC Housing is planning the rezoning and redevelopment of 2108 and 2408 Cassiar Street (Skeena Terrace) to replace aging buildings with better quality, more livable, and more sustainable homes and amenities such as childcare and commercial services, and replace the existing 230 units with 1,924 units;
5. BC Housing has a tenant first approach and commitment for the project, ensuring all current tenants will receive new housing under the same terms they have now and the project will be phased to support as many tenants as possible to stay in their current homes until their new homes are constructed;
6. Staff from the City of Vancouver and BC Housing consulted with the Renters Advisory Committee on November 8, 2023, presenting plans for the rezoning application for 2108 and 2408 Cassiar Street (Skeena Terrace), and receiving comments and feedback from Committee members;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee support the proposed rezoning application for 2108 and 2408 Cassiar Street (Skeena Terrace), in that it

will provide additional secured non-market rental housing to support the critical need for affordable rental housing in the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Scott Robinson  
SECONDED by Laurel Cowan

WHEREAS

1. The West End neighbourhood includes the City's largest concentration of rental housing, with over 80% of households renting, and the neighbourhood encompasses close to one-third of all renting households in the City;
2. 99.2% of residents in the West End live in multi-unit apartments, the majority of which were constructed before 1980. As a result, most West End residents have limited access to private outdoor spaces and amenities, and instead rely on outdoor public spaces;
3. The City of Vancouver's Engineering Department is exploring opportunities to enhance the commercial corridors on Davie Street and Robson Street, with improvements to the public realm, public space amenities and increased prioritization of pedestrians and cyclists;
4. Staff from the City of Vancouver's Engineering Department consulted with the Renters Advisory Committee twice, on September 6, 2023 and November 8, 2023, presenting plans for improvements to Davie Village, and receiving comments and feedback from committee members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee support the proposed improvements and investments in the West End Commercial Streets, specifically in prioritizing public realm improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and enhancing the public amenities along Davie Street and Robson Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by James Tod  
SECONDED by Scott Robinson

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 6:33 pm

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