



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 16, 2026

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:36 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Colleen Wickstrom, Chair
Heather Barclay
Tatjana Gjesdal
Georgia Henshaw
Nicolas Poppell, Co-Chair
Scott Robinson
James Tod

ABSENT: Kawa Ada (Extended Leave of Absence)
Margareta Dovgal (Leave of Absence)
Wen He (Leave of Absence)
Sam Ibrahim (Leave of Absence)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Alyse Stewart, Meeting Coordinator

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 Nicolas Poppell
SECONDED by James Tod

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Margareta Dovgal, Wen He, and Sam Ibrahim, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Scott Robinson
SECONDED by Tatjana Gjesdal

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Working Session Updates

None.

2. Advisory Committee Annual Report – 2026

MOVED by Colleen Wickstrom
SECONDED by Nicolas Poppell

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the 2026 Annual Report as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Liaison Updates

None.

4. New Business

MOVED by Scott Robson
SECONDED by James Tod

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee extends its gratitude to Nick Poppell and Colleen Wickstrom for their continued work and support as Co-Chairs for the duration of the committee's term.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Colleen Wickstrom
SECONDED by Nicolas Poppell

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 5:47 pm.

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MEMORANDUM

September 18, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Andrew Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk; Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies
Council Liaison(s): Councillor Fry & Councillor Montague
Staff Liaison: Graham Anderson, Planner, Housing Policy
External Liaisons: Trustee Jennifer Reddy (VSB) & Trustee Alfred Chien (VSB alternate)

FROM: Renters Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Renters Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2026

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a summary of the activities of the Renters Advisory Committee for the period of January 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Mandate and Scope:

- Advises Council and staff on strategic City priorities relating to renters including initiatives aimed at protecting renters and existing rental housing, creating new rental housing, and providing renter-focused services
- Advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for renters to fully participate in City services and civic life
- Considers the impacts of provincial and federal legislation affecting renters and provides information to Council and staff
- Works collaboratively with counterparts from other civic agencies to identify opportunities for joint action on issues of mutual interest
- Works co-operatively with external agencies and groups whose activities affect constituent communities

- Engages in outreach to disseminate information and encourage participation from constituent communities

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

For the period of January 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026 we passed the following:

- Motion supporting (and providing an official endorsement on behalf of the Renters Advisory Committee) of the Member's motion entitled *"Tools for Tenancies: Closing the Gap by Enforcing Accountability and Adding Conditions to Licensing Landlords in the City of Vancouver"* submitted by Councillor Fry.
- Motion recommending:
 - that the Renters Advisory Committee formally expresses support for the final adoption of the Villages Planning Program, Villages Plan and the associated City-Initiated Rezonings, with particular commendation for the inclusive land-use shifts and foundational tenant protections;
 - that the Renters Advisory Committee encourages Vancouver City Council to pass the Villages Plan and implement its corresponding City-initiated rezonings, to unlock vibrant, inclusive, and deeply needed secure rental housing across all 17 identified village neighbourhoods; and
 - that the Renters Advisory Committee supports the inclusion of below-market rental housing in every neighbourhood of the city, recognizes the need to deliver more below-market rental housing in the near future, and encourages the City to ensure the delivery of more below-market rental housing in all parts of the City through the inclusion of an enhanced affordability requirement.

During this time, we also actively engaged with City staff during our regular committee meetings on such things as:

- Villages Planning Program
- Vancouver Official Development Plan
- Vancouver Housing Development Office Update
- Tenant protections at 75 East 8th Avenue and the Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy review, including potential implications for future application of the TRPP

2. Future Directions

Future committees may wish to build on the work undertaken by the Renters Advisory Committee during the 2023–2026 term, while identifying priorities that reflect the evolving needs of Vancouver renters. Potential areas for continued consideration include:

Continue to support strong and equitable tenant protections as Vancouver grows and redevelops, including ongoing review and implementation of the Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy (TRPP):

- supporting enhanced protections for renters affected by redevelopment;

- considering how tenant protections can be applied consistently across the city and within emerging planning areas;
- monitoring the TRPP review and implementation as it progresses; and
- continuing to consider potential gaps or loopholes in existing protections, including circumstances where redevelopment may leave existing tenants without equivalent protections or an opportunity to return.

Continue to support the creation and preservation of secure, affordable rental housing across all Vancouver neighbourhoods, including market, non-market and below-market rental housing:

- supporting opportunities to increase the overall supply of secure rental housing;
- continuing to advocate for more below-market rental housing across all parts of Vancouver, including neighbourhoods where availability has historically been limited;
- considering opportunities to strengthen affordability requirements within major planning and rezoning initiatives; and
- supporting the preservation of existing rental housing alongside the creation of new supply.

Continue to advocate for accessible renter-focused information, services, supports and accountability measures:

- exploring opportunities for dedicated renter advocacy, navigation and education services, building on previous Committee support for a Tenant Advocacy Office and renewed Renters' Office;
- supporting measures that make it easier for renters to understand and exercise their rights and access appropriate support;
- monitoring progress arising from the *Tools for Tenancies* motion endorsed by the Committee and approved by Council in 2026; and
- supporting stronger enforcement, property standards, licensing requirements and landlord accountability where opportunities arise.

Continue to advance initiatives that respond to gaps and barriers in the rental market, including factors that can disproportionately limit housing options for renters:

- continuing to advocate for more pet-friendly rental housing and stronger protections for renters with pets, including advocacy for changes to the provincial *Residential Tenancy Act*;
- identifying other factors that may unnecessarily restrict access to rental housing;
- exploring measures available to the City to reduce barriers, improve renter choice, and advance unresolved renter issues where further City action or advocacy may be appropriate.

Continue to bring renter perspectives into City planning and decision-making, particularly where policies may affect housing affordability, displacement, neighbourhood access and renters who are at greater risk of housing insecurity:

- seeking opportunities for early engagement with City staff as significant housing, land-use and planning policies are developed;
- ensuring renter experiences and priorities are reflected in major City initiatives; and
- considering potential impacts on existing and future renters as policies and plans evolve.

3. Self-Assessment

During the 2026 term, the Renters Advisory Committee continued to work in alignment with its Terms of Reference, Council priorities, and City work related to housing affordability, tenant protections and equity. The Committee remained engaged on significant housing and tenant-related initiatives, advanced renter-focused recommendations, and continued to provide an important forum for bringing renter perspectives and lived experience into City decision-making.

As the term comes to a close, the Committee would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the members, liaisons and supporting City staff who have contributed their time, expertise and commitment to this work. Over the past several years, members have brought thoughtful perspectives, lived experience and a strong commitment to improving conditions for Vancouver renters. Their contributions have helped advance important conversations and ensure that renter voices are represented in decisions affecting housing and the future of the city.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.