



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 23, 2020

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 5:35 pm, by electronic means.

PRESENT: Taylor Fleming, Co-Chair
Jacint Simon, Co-Chair
Louise Chivers
Matt Damaro
Melissa Penner
Anne Vavrik

ABSENT: Emily Bailey
Megan Morrow (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison*
Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison*
Jennifer Hales, Social Planner, Homelessness Services
and Affordable Housing Programs, Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rowena Choi, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

Welcome and Roll Call

The Co-Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and 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 Melissa Penner
SECONDED by Jacint Simon

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approves a leave of absence for Megan Morrow, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2020

MOVED by Jacint Simon
SECONDED by Melissa Penner

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approves the Minutes from the special meeting of July 15, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Sharing is Caring

The Committee members shared, via roundtable discussion, something positive that has happened in the last week.

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After sharing members' updates, it was,

MOVED by Jacint Simon
SEONDED by Melissa Penner

THAT item 3, Liaison Updates, be dealt with prior to item 2, Update on COVID-19 Housing Recovery Plan & Fall Council Agenda, to accommodate the Council Liaisons' availability.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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3. Liaison Updates

Councillor Swanson discussed the following items:

- Updates on the four motions that were suggested and submitted by the Committee;
- Responded to members' questions regarding the motion processes;
- Advised that the motion relating to pets proposed by the Committee went to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Conference;
- Collaboration with other Councillors regarding renters' protection; and
- Commented about the Mayor's motion, Emergency COVID-19 Relief for Unsheltered Vancouver Residents, from the Special Council meeting of September 11 and 14, 2020.

Councillor Fry discussed the following items:

- Elaborated on the updates of the four motions as suggested and submitted by the Committee;

- Shift of the City's role in housing strategies where traditionally it would be done through the Province; and
- Further commented about the various amendments to the Mayor's motion, Emergency COVID-19 Relief for Unsheltered Vancouver Residents, from the Special council meeting of September 11 and 14, 2020.

2. Update on COVID-19 Housing Recovery Plan & Fall Council Agenda

Edna Cho and Sarah Ellis, Planners in the Housing Policy department, provided an update on the City's COVID-19 Housing Recovery Plan including the impacts and delays as a result of COVID-19. Staff also highlighted upcoming Council agenda items for Committee members to get involved with including brief online surveys.

Staff acknowledged the interest of Advisory Members in receiving updates on the Broadway Plan.

4. Co-Chair Updates

The Co-Chairs discussed the advisory committee and reminded members that the appointment term for advisory members is scheduled to end at the end of this year; however, with the impacts of COVID-19, there have been informal discussions about extending the term into next year. More information will be provided to advisory members when available.

5. New Business

(a) Press Release

Taylor Fleming, Co-Chair, led a roundtable discussion on the Committee's proposed press release.

MOVED by Melissa Penner
SECONDED by Jacint Simon

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve issuing a press release to publicize the following four motions, as approved at the Committee's special meeting on July 15, 2020, and request that they be considered at an upcoming Council meeting:

- a) Motion to Support Hogan's Alley Society;
- b) COVID-19 Response for Low income Housing;
- c) Rent Forgiveness Program; and
- d) Prohibition of "No Pets" Clauses in Rental Contracts.

FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee designate Taylor Fleming as the designated spokesperson for the Committee, to respond to media inquiries surrounding the release of this statement;

FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee request that the Communications Media Manager discharge the press release by October 2, 2020;

AND FURTHER THAT the Renters Advisory Committee send a letter to the Mayor and Council in regards to this subject matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee engaged in further discussions regarding future motion proposals.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jacint Simon
SECONDED by Louise Chivers

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: November 18, 2020
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx (electronic)

The Committee adjourned at 7:41 pm.

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