



RENTERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 27, 2021

A meeting of the Renters Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 5:35 pm, by electronic means.

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

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: Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

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

None.

Approval of Minutes – November 18, 2020

MOVED by Matt Damaro
SECONDED by Jacint Simon

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of November 18, 2020, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Roundtable Committee Catch-up

The Committee members provided brief personal updates via roundtable.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (2021)

MOVED by Megan Morrow

SECONDED by Louise Chivers

THAT the Renters Advisory Committee (RAC) appoint Matt Damario and Jacint Simon to serve as Co-Chairs until April 31, 2021;

FURTHER THAT the RAC appoint Taylor Fleming to serve as Vice-Chair until April 31, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Climate Emergency – Parking Initiatives Project

Lysa Morishita, Civil Engineer, Parking Management, and Paul Krueger, Planner, Transportation Planning Branch, provided a presentation on the Climate Emergency – Parking Initiatives Project, which highlighted the creation of a citywide residential parking program, the action plan, the six big moves as part of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, off-street and on-street recommendations, current conditions, and key considerations for the renters communities. Subsequently, staff responded to questions.

The project hub, including a survey, can be found here: www.shapeyourcity.ca/parking

4. Liaison Updates

Councillor Jean Swanson, Council Liaison, discussed the following items:

- Member Motion entitled “Ensuring That People With Health and Mobility Issues Have Protection and Support When Elevators Break Down”, scheduled to hear speakers, discussion and decision at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 10, 2021;
- Upcoming Member Motion entitled “Protecting Tenants from Real Estate Investment Trusts”; and
- Upcoming Referral Report entitled “Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan (ODP) Extension to C-2 Zoning Districts”.

Councillor Pete Fry, Council Liaison, discussed the following items:

- The importance of Councillor Swanson’s upcoming motion entitled “Protecting Tenants from Real Estate Investment Trusts”, as this particular investment model is growing in popularity and could potentially become a threat to affordable housing;
- Council approved at Public Hearing, reports entitled “Employment Lands and Economy Review Quick Start Actions: Zoning and Development By-law Amendments to Remove

Barriers to New Work-Only Artist Studios in Industrial Areas”, and “Employment Lands and Economy Review Quick Start Actions: Initial Zoning and Development By-law Amendments to Support Neighbourhood Grocery Stores”;

- Council approved approximately \$8 million in cultural grants; and
- Upcoming Member Motions entitled “Local Elections - Review and Reform”, and “UBCM Resolution: Updating BC’s Wrongful Death Law”.

Jennifer Hales, Staff Liaison, discussed the following items:

- Upcoming staff report entitled “2021 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update”; and
- Update on the Renters Office.

5. Co-Chair Updates

Taylor Fleming, Vice-Chair, highlighted the staff-led working group series on an Urgent Conversation & Working Group - Rise of Racist Incidents in Vancouver and Beyond, which is asking all City Advisory Committees to join the conversation and share their top two priorities in responding to the rise in racist incidents in order to reduce racist incidents in our city. Committee members noted the following:

- The great importance of language and having resources and tools for renters available in numerous languages to help educate everyone on their rights as a renter; and
- Concerns around equity and housing the unhoused.

Matt Damario and Jacint Simon, Co-Chairs, provided a brief update after having attended a virtual meeting on the Broadway Plan’s Phase 2: Emerging Directions, and suggested that the Committee would benefit from having a more focused presentation from staff in the future.

6. New Business

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Jacint Simon
SECONDED by Matt Damario

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: March 17, 2021
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: WebEx (electronic)

The Committee adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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