

MINUTES OF THE
RENTERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 4, 2019

THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:11 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Alieda Blandford, Ashley McKay, Emily Rogers, Megan Billings Riga Godron, and Vanessa Hammond.

Committee Members Absent: Alfred Okot Ochen, Amy White, Jeff Dean, Leslie Robinson, Maureen Bourke, and Yuka Kurokawa.

Council Members Present: Jeremy Loveday, Sharmarke Dubow.

Staff Present: Hollie McKeil – Housing Planner
Devon Cownden – Secretary

1. DRAFT WORK PLAN

Hollie McKeil gave a brief overview of the draft RAC work plan and the actions proposed in the Housing Strategy Phase Two: 2019 to 2022, and identified the areas of alignment between the proposed actions in the two documents

Hollie McKeil outlined the key points of the Housing Strategy actions including:

- Council will be considering the draft strategy for approval in July and timelines for the actions will be established
- staff will bring relevant actions to the RAC for input as actions in the strategy are carried out over the next four years
- the RAC has informed the development of the draft strategy actions, through a specialized survey, participation and attendance at the two public Open Houses and the Housing Summit. Additionally, the draft RAC work plan actions proposed by Committee members at the previous meeting will inform the draft Housing Strategy actions.

The Committee asked:

- at what stage the Standards of Maintenance bylaw (SMB) and draft Housing Strategy are in the planning and development process, and how they relate to each other. Hollie McKeil explained that a Market Rental Revitalization Study was completed in 2018, which led to the creation of a rental housing inventory list, a Tenant Assistance Policy and a Residential Standards of Maintenance Bylaw (RPSOM). The Tenant Assistance Policy was implemented in September 2018 and a policy review is currently underway, which will be brought to Council in September 2019. The RPSOM Bylaw is currently in draft form and is considered a priority with work ongoing.

The Committee discussed:

- how work plan action items will be developed and prioritized by the Committee; a survey will be circulated to Committee members in advance of the next meeting to collect feedback
- how to provide input and expert advice on existing and new policy initiatives in Victoria
- how to advocate to all levels of government for legal or systematic change to improve the conditions and rights of renters
- how to improve the standard of living for renters and help to alleviate the impacts and/or prevent the common crisis situations that renters face.

2. ADJOURNMENT

- The Renters' Advisory Committee meeting of June 4, 2019 was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.