

Rooming House Working Group Meeting Notes
May 9, 2011, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Metro Hall Room 309

Present:

Rosemary Foulds	Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Chair
Paul Denison	Toronto Christian Resource Centre, Community Co-Chair
Dharmvishal Barot	John Howard Society
Brian Forth	Circle of Life Homes
Michael Boyle	Tenant
Kenn Hale	Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
Ken Kennedy	Kennedy Residence
Paulene Kennedy	Kennedy Residence
Phil Nazar	Toronto Christian Resource Centre
Chris Persaud	Habitat Services
Stella Pinnock	Landlord
Bart Poesiat	Parkdale Community Legal Services
Glenn Sheridan	Landlord's Self-Help Centre
Tracey Smith	Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Kamla Sudama	Toronto North Support Services
Thania Valle	East York East Toronto Family Resources

Regrets:

Janet Fairfield	East York East Toronto Family Resources
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1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Members were welcomed to the meeting and there was a round of introductions.

2. Minutes of Meeting of March 14, 2011

The minutes the meeting were approved as circulated.

3. Rooming House Support Project

The project activities and project description continue to be refined:

- A one person and two person scenario is being considered.
- Two components: direct support and policy support
- Direct support includes connecting landlords with agencies, completing forms, navigating the licensing process and promoting good practices in rooming house management.
- Policy support includes communicating with Councillors, preparing economic arguments and identifying regulatory barriers and steps to resolve them.
- The budget and program description will be completed by the next Rooming House Working Group meeting

4. Rooming House Zoning By-law

Council is considering a motion to repeal the comprehensive zoning by-law. If approved, the former 42 zoning by-laws would be in effect.

A revised comprehensive zoning by-law is to be tabled in January 2012. The scope of the revisions is limited to the content of the comprehensive zoning by-law that is being repealed. Rooming house zoning is not included in the review.

City Planning staff have also advised that they will not be able to complete a review of the rooming house zoning regulations while they are revising the comprehensive zoning by-law.

Discussion Points:

- The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario is making a deputation at the Planning and Growth Management Committee.
- The Rupert Coalition is continuing to prepare an appeal to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. It is seeking a ruling that the City's zoning by-law is discriminatory.

5. Summer Heat Season: Heat Registry Proposal for 2011

Rosemary advised that the Heat Registry will not be going ahead in 2011 because there was not enough time to prepare a competitive process to select an agenda to manage the project.

During Extreme heat alerts, cooling centres will be open and drop-in centres will issue TTC tokens to assist people to reach cooling centres.

6. Changing the Rooming House Licensing By-law

Rooming House Working Group members have proposed changes to the Rooming House Licensing By-law. Rosemary provided an overview of the City's review of services. The review is seeking input from citizens about what the City's core business should be and what would be nice to do. She encouraged members to participate in the upcoming community forums or to complete the on line survey about access to City services.

7. Good Practices in Rooming Houses

Limited sections of the report were circulated. The Rooming House Working Group, East York East Toronto Family Resources and Landlord Connect are cited as sources for the document. The full report is available on line at <http://www.homelesshub.ca/ResourceFiles/Good%20Practices%20in%20Rooming%20Houses%20Calhoun%20R&D%20mar2011.pdf>

8. Announcements

The Landlords' Self Help Centre is holding its annual meeting and learning forum on May 31 at the Metro Central YMCA from 5 until 8 p.m. Members are invited to attend.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

10. Next Meeting: July 11, 2011, 2 p.m., room 309, Metro Hall