



Tenant & Community Services Committee

931 Yonge Street
Toronto M4W 2H2

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The Tenant & Community Services Committee of Toronto Community Housing Corporation met on July 16, 2010, in the Main Floor Conference Room, 931 Yonge Street, commencing at 9:40 am.

Committee Directors present: Ms. Michelle Joseph, Chair
Councillor Suzan Hall, Vice Chair
Ms. Zahra Dhanani
Mr. David Mitchell

Regrets: Ms. Catherine Wilkinson

Also present: Mr. Steve Floros, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Marta Asturi, Legal Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary
Ms. Gilda Crawley, Manager, Community Animation
Ms. LoriAnn Girvan, Director, Community Health
Ms. Kemi Jacobs, Director, Community Housing (West)
Mr. Rajesh Kanhai, Manager, Community Engagement

Ms. Michelle Joseph, the Chair, called the meeting to order and Ms. Marta Asturi served as recording secretary.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair requested members of the Tenant & Community Services Committee to indicate any agenda item in which they had a conflict of interest, together with the nature of the interest. None were declared.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Councillor Suzan Hall, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee unanimously approved the agenda.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION OF TENANT & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2010

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Mr. David Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee adopted the above-captioned minutes and recommended they be forwarded to the Board of Directors for information.

**ITEM 1 2010 TENANT ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM -
UPDATE**

TCSC:2010-05

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it the above-captioned report (TCSC: 2010-05) from the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Steve Floros presented the update and reported that implementation of the new tenant participation system began in 2008. The report provides an update on 8 components incorporated in the tenant participation system: tenant building representatives, building meetings, neighborhood councils, seniors' area councils, youth councils, operating unit councils, issued based engagement, and city-wide tenant engagement forums.

Mr. Floros reported that building meetings/ cafés are taking place regularly in the operating units. As for participation by senior tenants, there are senior area councils as well as seniors are regular members of neighborhood councils and building meetings.

The Committee requested information on the demographics (age and gender) and diversity of youths that ran in the youth tenant elections.

Motion carried

ON MOTION DULY MADE by Councillor Suzan Hall, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee received the report for information.

**ITEM 2 2010 RECLAIMING OUTDOOR SPACE
INITIATIVES**

TCSC:2010-06

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it the above-captioned report (TCSC: 2010-06) from the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Steve Floros presented the report to the Committee and highlighted the following:

- all reclaiming outdoor space events are tenant led;
- funds have been allocated for this program of community events and initiatives;
- include cultural events, senior safety event, and reclaiming outdoor spaces perceived as unsafe; and

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- events take place on weekends to control any undesirables in the communities.

Staff reported that there are other events directed at reclaiming space that Toronto Community Housing reports separately, such as events led by outside/external bodies happening in surrounding community. Staff connects with the external bodies and supports the events taking place in or near Toronto Community Housing communities.

The Committee requested list of activities by external bodies, including the Toronto Police, to be provided to board members as an indication that Toronto Community Housing is interacting with police and external bodies. The Committee further requested calendar of events directed at reclaiming space so that board members can attend in the future.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Councillor Suzan Hall, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee received the report for information.

**ITEM 3 COMMUNITY GARDENING – PROGRESS
UPDATE AND PRESENTATION**

TCSC:2010-07

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it the above-captioned report (TCSC: 2010-07) from the Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Gilda Crawley gave a presentation and update on the progress of community gardening initiatives. Ms. Crawley provided an overview on developing a community garden approach, highlighting the following:

- focus is to increase outside common areas and community gardens;
- green works- tenant leadership program heavily involved in green space and initiatives; also involves staff agencies and contractors;
- community gardening manual- prepared in 2007; handed out to tenants in tenant forums; needs to be updated as it serves as a resource manual;
- community animation model created;
- result- over 100 community garden created in Toronto Community Housing communities;
- benefits- bringing people together; connecting neighbourhoods;

physical activity; improves mental health; creates community pride;

- Reflecting on the CMP, community gardening strategy is about strengthening places; also strengthens people by empowering tenants; as well as strengthening foundation by creating partnerships with tenants and agencies.

Next steps:

- communicate with tenants and staff
- identify pilots
- align community gardening strategy with other programs; such as Mayor Tower Renewal Program, curb appeal and revitalization projects
- leveraging funding
- monitoring and evaluation processes

Community Gardening:

- run by community members; and
- Toronto Community Housing's role - help build capacity; connect tenants with funding opportunities; and support tenants.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Councillor Suzan Hall, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee received the report for information.

IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, seconded by Councillor Suzan Hall, the Tenant & Community Services Committee resolved to meet *in camera* to consider items A and B.

PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

Motion carried At 10:32 a.m., the Chair announced the resumption of the public proceedings and the public meeting reconvened at that time.

ON MOTION DULY MADE by Councillor Suzan Hall, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee ratified the actions authorized during the *in camera* meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Tenant & Community Services Committee was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Secretary

Chair, Tenant & Community Services Committee