



RENTAL, SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

Virtual Meeting – Thursday, May 27, 2021

7:00 – 9:00 pm – MS TEAMS

MINUTES

Members:	Kelly Bond Keith Collyer Bruce Crowe (Chair) (by phone) Ian Cullis Phil Dupasquier (Vice-Chair)	Katherine Fagerlund Heather Fowler Derek Holloway by 7:10 Ellison Mallin
Regrets:	Hesam Deihimi Michael Sadler	
Guest:	Councillor Lisa Muri	
Staff:	Jason Smith, Senior Planner Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk	

1. Welcome and time to address tech issues if needed

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Fagerlund moved and Mr. Dupasquier seconded
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of the May 13, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Dupasquier moved and Mr. Mallin seconded
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Review of Tech Writer Comments

(a) Main Body of Report

The Task Force resumed their review of the tech writer's comments on the report that was sent out May 19th.

Mr. Crowe suggested that the Task Force go through and review the tech writer's comments with a view to send the report back to the tech writer by May 31st. The comments should be used to guide on the biggest issues in order to continue with the work.

Mr. Crowe suggested that Ms. Fagerlund's matrix with duplications be addressed after the report is received back from the tech writer.

With regard to the review of the report, the following key items of discussion were noted and often agreed with the tech writer's comments:

- *Introduction:*

Members were requested to provide feedback on whether to keep all information currently included in the introduction within the body of the report or to move some to an appendix. The consensus was to keep the key information in the start, and relocate information from “Task Force members and the meeting schedule” through to “about this report” to an appendix, except for the two paragraphs at the end of the meeting date list.

- *Interim Report and Subsequent Staff Report:*

A comment was made that the Task Force developed five categories requiring immediate action with priority recommendations in each category and staff responded with a staff report. The Task Force may wish to expand on the priority actions as some may not have been addressed in the staff report or may still be outstanding. The priority actions were not necessarily tied to the recommendations under each goal and were standalone, and were part of the Interim Report of the Task Force. Ms. Fagerlund, Ms. Bond and Mr. Mallin volunteered to go through the staff report and determine items that may need to be included in the Final report, and bring these back to the Task Force for discussion.

- *Length of the Report:*

In terms of the length of the report, it was suggested that Council may be interested in the body of work in regard to the Task Force’s recommendations, challenges, issues that can be addressed by the Task Force and to concentrate on the work that is being completed and the critical issues. It may also be more beneficial for the Task Force to present at a Council workshop to allow for a more fulsome discussion. In this regard, Councillor Muri suggested that a recommendation be brought that the workshop is standalone for only the Task Force.

- *Synopsis of the Current Situation*

Work needs to be done to determine where the 2nd half of the 2nd bullet belongs. It is suggesting that publicity is needed to overcome perceptions related to the rate of growth and stigmas towards renters—this may need to be captured elsewhere in the report. A concern was raised about the statement “stigmatized view of renters” and it was suggested to change the wording to “any stigmatized views”.

- *Rental and Affordable Housing Strategy Review (Data Update):*

This section is waiting on the Pace of Development numbers, which to date have not been received. Staff confirmed that work is actively underway in getting the numbers and it is unlikely that the numbers will be available this month; and if not, perhaps a placeholder be put in knowing that the information will become available.

Mr. Cullis pointed out getting data from DNV was too difficult and not at all transparent. DNV should provide metrics on their website, as other municipalities do about social housing numbers for example.

Councillor Muri said data is important as part of the work of the Task Force, and consideration should be given to including the data even if the numbers are anecdotal in order to initiate a conversation with Council.

Two items were identified: first, that there may be insufficient data available and/or not being gathered, and there are several places in the report that the data is not available. Second, the report may be completed this summer but updated ahead of the Council date if new data becomes available in that timeframe.

In terms of the housing authority recommendations, members were reminded that there was some legislative issues with having a housing authority in the District and areas that have a housing authority are not the same as the District.

Members were requested to indicate that as the Task Force agreed with most of the tech writer's comments, whether they wished to direct the tech writer to go ahead and fix the report as needed, and send their work from the meeting to the tech writer. Although some members indicated that it may be beneficial to send the report back and to continue pushing forward, concerns were raised that the tech writer's comments are around content to be confirmed—questions such as “what do you mean” or “more information needed”—that the Task Force must first address. Staff provided information that the tech writer's role and scope is to review a finalized draft report once the Task Force has completed it. As a group, it will take a further meeting to continue to go through the report and the tech writer's comments and make some decisions before bringing a revised final document to the tech writer for another review.

(b) Edit Any Other Changes

This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

(c) Send to Tech Writer

A motion to send the current report back to the tech writer was defeated.

5. Discussion – Council Presentation

This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

6. DNV Update

Jason Smith reported that hopefully there would be an announcement about the successful candidate for the Housing Planning position soon.

Staff are working on a Report to Council, which will address all the work being undertaken relating to housing for the OCP including some of the actions identified in the Housing Task Force Interim Report. This report is scheduled to go forward to Council in July.

7. Any Other Business

As the Residential Tenant Relocation Assistance Policy (RTRAP) will be presented to Council on May 31st, members were requested to consider whether they wished to attend the Council meeting on behalf of the Task Force to speak for 3 minutes on the proposed changes to the Policy.

Ms. Fagerlund moved and Mr. Dupasquier seconded

That members present as a Task Force, with Ms. Bond and Ms. Fowler organizing the representation.

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

Members considered the next meeting date for either June 2 or June 10, or meet on both dates to continue to review the tech writer's comments on the final report. In this regard, timelines were discussed for completing the work. Members were reminded that should the report not be completed in early June and given the lead time for items reaching a Council agenda and the limited workshop spaces, it will not be until September, at the earliest, that the final report will be presented to Council. Members were encouraged to continue their momentum and, if possible, complete the report in June prior to the summer months and potentially scheduling issues for additional meetings.

Councillor Muri indicated staff should remain flexible with regard to timing especially given the continued promise of overdue but imminent data and the delays caused by the pandemic. Members were requested to indicate their availability and as most members were available, the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 10th.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.