

Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Burgoyne Woods Room at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Antonio Sergi (Co-Chair)
Curtis Gadula
Chris Henderson
Rick Anderson
John Kuchard

Sandy Bellows, City of St. Catharines Councillor , Grantham Ward
Nathan Melin, Fire Prevention, City of St. Catharines

Absent:

Bernice Dettore (Co-Chair)
Shane Malcolm
Sheryl Johns
Jonathan Belgrave Sookhoo

Staff Liaison:

Todd Rogers, MAATO, CBCO
Manager of Inspections, Planning and Building Services

Rosa Risi, Recording Secretary
Planning and Building Services

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1. **Call meeting to order (Chair)**
4:40 p.m.
 2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
There were no additions/deletions to the Agenda.
 3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Moved by AS, seconded by CG.
 4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Moved by JS, seconded by CG.
 5. **Presentations (invited guests)**

None

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

None

7. **Business**

7.1 New Committee Resource (Niagara College) - Rick reminded the committee Carolyn Beaulne is the temporary contact until further notice for Niagara College with regards to student issues.

7.2 BSU Initiatives - Antonio informed the committee of his meetings with the different municipalities, as well as Regional, Federal and Provincial representatives regarding student housing organizations. Greek Life Community located on Ontario Street is an example of these organizations which are choosing to obtain houses together. Anticipating that there will be an increase in these organizations, Antonio suggested finding some type of mechanism of registration in order to be aware of their location.

Curtis informed the committee that Brock does not formally recognize these student group houses. Antonio stated that although Brock does not recognize these student organizations, Brock Student Union would like to keep the communication lines open to ensure responsible behavior within the neighbourhoods.

7.3 Licensing of Rental Properties - Antonio is researching rental housing licensing in other municipalities with universities of comparable size to Brock University and is compiling a document with regards to costs and what they entail regarding responsibilities. He feels licensing would be in the best interest of the students as it would ensure life safety compliance. Antonio stated his organization would like to be included in these talks.

Nathan mentioned a self-declaration model which requires the landlord and tenant be responsible for filling out an inspection report. Random inspections could be done to ensure compliance. The difficulty with this model is the lack of resources with regards to number of rental houses and the number of staff required to complete the inspections.

Curtis offered to circulate draft form of a licensing document.

Antonio advised that his provincial group reported that the communities where this model has been applied includes all rental housing. Another concern is the residential tenancy act and rental increases. If licensing model is adopted Antonio would like to see the following two standards enforced.

1. Enforcement includes all rental housing and not just student demographic
2. There is protection on rent increases

Brief discussion regarding rental housing as it relates to students and past experiences of rentals not in compliance.

New Business

1. Antonio spoke of upcoming initiative:

“Ride with me day”, January 21, 2016, 12 p.m. Survey was organized requesting student feedback on Transit System and the satisfaction of U-Pass (University Pass). Data from survey will be presented to stakeholders with feedback from survey followed by a Q & A session. Three routes have been chosen, #16 Genridge, #23 West Brock commuter and #31 Winterberry. A motion was made by N. Falls Mayor Diodatti and seconded by Mayor Sendzik at the Transportation and Steering Committee for the Region to include the survey data into a report for the Transit Master Plan for the Region. Antonio asked the committee to notify any other stakeholder or community members who would like to be involved. Student safety component to be included. Event start location: Skybar Lounge, Brock University. Antonio to email invite to T & G Committee.

2. Landlord Representative on Committee:

Todd asked committee to consider adding landlord representative to Town & Gown Committee. There was consensus that a good Landlord representative would be a valuable resource.

8. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

4:30 p.m.

Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by AS, seconded by CH.