

Town & Gown Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday, June 02, 2016

Burgoyne Woods Room at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Bernice Dettore (Co-Chair)
Julia Wood (VP of External Affairs)
John Kuchard
Brian Keenan, Brock Rentals (Committee Resource)
Curtis Gadula

Absent:

Shane Malcolm
Sheryl Johns
Chris Henderson
Rick Anderson
Jonathan Belgrave Sookhoo
Nathan Melin, Fire Prevention, City of St. Catharines (Committee Resource)

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)**
4:45 p.m.
 2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
Todd reported difficulty in getting a response from the other municipalities Town and Gown Committees. He is waiting for a response from Welland and when he receives it he will report on it at the next Town and Gown.
 3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Moved by J. Kuchard, seconded by B. Dettore
 4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**
Moved by John Kuchard, seconded by B. Dettore

5. **Presentations (invited guests)**

None

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

J. Belgrave Sookhoo absent - Clean City Initiative deferred to next meeting.

7. **New Business**

7.10 New Committee Member - Introduction of New Vice President of External Affairs for Brock University, Julia Wood.

Student Rental housing - Discussion surrounding difficulties in enforcing compliant Boarding, Lodging and Rooming Houses. Todd commented that the Building Code has a vague definition for such use.

Also, safety issues of student rental properties was raised. Bernice had visited several open houses and noted safety concerns along with these non-compliant properties charging a lower rate. She was advised to call in concerns to Property Standards for follow up. Brian explained some of these concerns are due to the provisions of the building code. He also mentioned landlords need to be profitable and homes that are non-compliant and charging lower rates force the compliant landlords to make cutbacks in maintaining their rental properties.

Brian suggested charging the tenant of the homes for waste and grass infractions. Todd explained the City's enforcement model does not involve fines as it is prohibitively difficult to write a ticket without a name and proof of identity which would cause difficulty when it goes to court. Tickets do not bring compliance for property standards issues.

Bernice also questioned confidentiality of complaint and how homeowners may feel intimidated and not call in complaint. Committee was informed by Todd that all complaints are confidential.

8. **Date of next meeting**

September 28, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by J. Kuchard, seconded by B. Dettore