

Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Ante Room at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Bernice DEttorre, Chair

John Kuchard

Jonathan Belgrave-Sookhoo

Joanne Bakker, Interim Director Student Services

Bradley Clarke, Director, Student Life and Community Experience

Steve Kosh, Executive Director

Bryan Keenan, Brockview Student Rentals

Absent:

Sandy Bellows, City of St Catharines Councillor, Grantham Ward

Nathan Melin, Fire Prevention, City of St. Catharines

Julia Woods, Brock University, Student Representative

Alice Mary, Niagara College Student Representative

Staff Liaison:

Waldy Heyder

Acting Manager of Building Inspections

Rosa Risi, Recording Secretary

Planning and Building Services

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1. **Call meeting to order (Chair)**
4:37 p.m.
 2. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**
None
 3. **Motion to approve the agenda**
Moved by: John Kuchard
Seconded by: Jonathan Belgrave-Sookhoo
Motion carried.

4. **Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of September 28, 2016 approved.

Minutes of June 2, 2016 amended to reflect Curtis Henderson in attendance.

Moved by: John Kuchard

Seconded by: Jonathan Belgrave-Sookhoo

Motion carried.

5. **Presentations (invited guests)**

None

6. **Business arising from the minutes**

None

7. **Business**

Introductions of new Committee Members, Joanne Bakker, Bradley Clarke, Steve Kosh, who sit on Town and Gown Committees (T&G) for Thorold and Welland, and new staff liaison Waldy Heyder, Manager of Inspections.

It was brought to the Committee's attention that Thorold's Residential Licensing by-law will be proposed to Thorold City Council in the Summer of 2017. It may be beneficial to have members of other T&G Committees attend our meeting to speak on their strategies and successes.

Bryan Keenan noted that other T & G Committee meetings have had discussions with NRP in attendance and have noted special event dates which would require more policing such as St Patrick's Day and bar openings at Brock and Niagara College. This allows NRP to plan their operations and respond proactively. Bradley Clarke noted that Brock hires 4 off duty officers to police to be on standby for calls during special occasion.

London has implemented no drinking on roof top. Great starting point for us to implement this no drinking on rooftop by-law also. It is with the by-laws that the city is able to enforce. Bernice DETorre feels the City has grown and by-laws have not grown with the city. Should contact other cities to see what by-law they have that support rental issues.

Problem with weekend littering and no enforcement. No by-law enforcement officers working on weekend. Garbage sits on lawns to be reported on Mondays.

Best practice is to have a councillor, NRP representative, Fire, By-law Officer and landlord rep at meetings, coordinate and prioritize action items and then work together to accomplish. Bernice DETorre made note that there has never been an NRP or councillor representative present at a meeting since she has sat on committee. Discussion surrounding lack of support and importance of attendance by NRP, Fire, By-Law Landlord rep and city councillor. Their expertise and input is important to the structure of the Committee and getting things done. Important to have representatives that can give input on Action items that can be presented to the Social Sustainability Committee.

Another resource that would be available to the committee is the Provincial organization of Town and Gowns. Resources available on their website which may be helpful to our organization.

Town & Gown Association of Ontario has a symposium in May in Ottawa. Excellent symposium which includes citizens, landlords, CBO who discuss and share different strategies and accomplishments. Bradley Clarke suggested attendance at this symposium would be beneficial.

It was brought to attention that Councillors usually don't show to this level of committee and action items must be brought to Social Sustainability committee and then to Council to be passed.

With cost of housing rising, there are less funds for repairs, absentee landlords, out of town buyers buying rental properties and running them from out of town. Rental issues will become worse in upcoming years because landlords are not around to ensure properties are kept up and address issues as they arise. Issues need to be addressed and require taking steps to correct the specific issues with the resources we have e.g. building, by-law, fire and working with college and universities to help students understand their choices.

Need to have NRP and Fire at the table to address issues of drinking and overcrowding of houses. City needs to ask them to attend to support T & G.

Motion: Waldy Heyder to approach Fire and NRP to confirm consistent attendance for future Town and Gown meetings.

Moved by: Joanne Bakker

Seconded: John Kuchard

Motion Carried.

Motion: Bernice DETorre to approach Councillor Kushner to attend next Town and Gown Committee Meeting.

Moved by: Joanne Bakker

Seconded: John Kuchard

Motion Carried.

Bernice DETorre to speak with Councillor Kushner to see if he would be willing to address Council regarding the proposal of a by-law for rooftop drinking. Bernice to call and research City of London By-law.

Bradley Clarke spoke on layout and enforcement of Student Code of Conduct which reports to him for the university. He explained when the code of conduct applies to off campus activities. When the activity has direct connection to the university or its activities e.g. sanctioned event off campus or athletic team travelling off campus to compete. Most commonly off campus activities cannot be enforced by university. Student Code of Conduct does not apply off campus.

Brock University enforces and oversees their on campus activities associated with St Patrick's Day but by-law and provincial laws would enforce problematic issues which have been discussed. Brock does hire NRP on special duties to work special events which allows the university to know what happened in the cases. They look for mechanisms where they can support the enforcement. Code only works in certain cases.

Special duty officers have been hired for St Patrick's Day 10 am to 2 am. Three officers in St. Catharines and 3 in Thorold responding on a top priority basis. If concern in neighbourhood and a call is made to NRP, those will be the officers who will be dispatched.

Bradley Clarke conversation with Nathan Melin to see what can be done on Jacobson and other street working on strategies for 2017 and build on strategies from 2016.

Waldy Heyder – we are to bring our ideas to Sustainability Committee to bring these ideas to Council.

Waldy Heyder to bring information forward to Sandy Burrows to find out about by-law for roof top drinking.

Should be Councilor on this committee who is in student housing sector.

Bernice DETorre to check with Councillor Matt Harris or Joe Kushner to attend.

8. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday, April 06, 2017

4:30 p.m.

Ante Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall

9. **Motion to Adjourn**

5:40 p.m.

Moved by: Waldy Heyder, seconded by John Kuchard.

Motion Carried