



Tenant & Community Services Committee

931 Yonge Street
Toronto M4W 2H2

Page 1 of 5

The Tenant & Community Services Committee of Toronto Community Housing Corporation met on November 12, 2010, in the Main Floor Conference Room, 931 Yonge Street, commencing at 9:45 am.

Committee Directors present: Ms. Michelle Joseph, Chair
Ms. Zahra Dhanani
Mr. David Mitchell
Ms. Catherine Wilkinson

Regrets: Councillor Suzan Hall

Also present: Mr. Steve Floros, Director, Community Housing - Central (appearing on behalf of the COO)
Mr. Chuck Dowdall, Director of Seniors and Family Houses
Ms. Nadia Gouveia, Coordinator, Social Investment Fund
Mr. Hugh Lawson, Director, Strategic Planning & Research

Ms. Michelle Joseph, the Chair, called the meeting to order and Mr. Kamba Ankunda 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 Ms. Zahra Dhanani, seconded by Ms. Catherine Wilkinson, the Tenant & Community Services Committee unanimously approved the agenda.

MINUTES CONFIRMATION OF TENANT & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

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

ITEM 1 **THIRD QUARTER 2010 TENANT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT** TCSC:2010-15

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it the above-captioned report (TCSC:2010 -15) from the Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Steve Floros presented the above report and noted that it contains data on seven measures that are aligned with three of the six outcomes under the Committee's responsibility. The measures relate to Successful Tenancies, Enhanced Community Safety and Improved Customer Service Outcomes.

The Committee requested for the separation of Rent arrears from Parking arrears while computing the household arrears. Staff informed the Committee that this will be changed for the 2011 reporting cycle. The Committee also sought to know if there are programs being developed to discourage tenants from criminal behavior and interfering with security cameras. The Committee requested staff to capture data on how and when maintenance is done and the statistics on voicemails should be included in the next quarter performance report.

The Committee unanimously requested to receive an annual unit inspection report informing the Board and/or Committee the areas that the annual repairs will target to facilitate budget prioritization at Board level. This will be included with the capital plan.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms Catherine Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. David Mitchell, The Tenant & Community Services Committee received the report for information and the performance measures that are below target to be forwarded to the Board of Directors.

ITEM 2 **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND RESTRUCTURING REPORT** TCSC:2010-19

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it the above-captioned report (TCSC:2010-19) from the Chief Executive Officer.

The Committee emphasized the need to have a fair selection process of tenants for the Social Investment Fund retreats and that a justification should be made on why particular tenants have been selected to participate.

The Committee discussed how SIF Grant Committee Members can be facilitated to improve participation in order to improve meeting

attendances. The Committee was aware that reviewing documents before the SIF Grant Committee meetings require time and, in many cases, accessibility to internet which would boost information exchange between committee members and staff. The Committee recommended that honorarium be paid to tenant and community members.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Ms. Zahra Dhanani seconded by Ms, Catherine Wilkinson, the Tenant and Community Services Committee adopted recommendations with an amendment and unanimously recommended they be forward to the Board of Directors for approval;

- (1) authorize the allocation of annual Social Investment funding into two funding streams, effective January 2011;
 - a. Stream 1: Innovation Grants - \$400,000
 - b. Stream 2: Community Investment Grants - \$600,000
- (2) revise the Terms of Reference to expand the membership of the SIF Grant Review Committee from eight to twelve members in order to include two additional youth and two additional tenant leaders, as well as have tenant membership rotate annually to ensure increased tenant involvement in decision making;
- (3) authorize staff to develop an honoraria policy for tenant and community members of the Grant Review committee;
- (4) reduce the number of annual deadlines for agency supported grants from four deadlines to three;
- (5) authorize staff to realign Social Investment Fund priorities with the Strengthening People Focus area of the 2010 Community Management Plan;
- (6) receive for information the Social Investment Fund Six Year Review and Analysis; and
- (7) authorize the appropriate officials of the Corporation to take the necessary action to give effect to the above recommendations.

**ITEM 3 PRESENTATION BY SOCIAL INVESTMENT
FUND RECIPIENTS**

The Tenant & Community Services Committee had before it a copy of the above-captioned presentation that was presented by a group of SIF

recipient beneficiaries.

The Committee was informed by Ms. Angella Brackett, Coordinator Safe Walk, that SIF had facilitated the community in increasing the number of children going to day care at an early age, improved the rate of school attendances, reduced the number of accidents involving children and seniors on cross roads, improved communication and reporting (SIF funds provided for cell phones and two way radios) and enhanced community safety. Their concept of the community was *CHOSE* – Challenge, Help, Opportunity, Solutions and Empowerment realized through SIF funding.

Through SIF funding, the Community Matters Toronto (*neighbors helping neighbors in St. James Town*) informed the Committee that the funding had created employment opportunities, improved the health of seniors, facilitated computer training to the tenants, established a St. Jamestown aquatics club, empowered the youth with job search skills and had provided a learning ladder to the community in the St. Jamestown Neighbourhoods.

Ms. Huda Faranmandpour, Executive Director of Wordswell, informed the Committee that SIF funding had facilitated Wordswell to empower the junior youth towards making meaningful contribution to their communities, developed their power of expression, moral reasoning, community engagement as well as opened space for dialogue and exploration of reality. She noted that through these initiatives, several youth beneficiaries had started on similar programs in different neighbourhoods.

Mr. William Denison, Tenant Planning Group, informed the Committee that SIF funding assisted their organization to successfully reduce the rate of crime, idolism, prostitution and drug use. They were now focused on involving different groups of the community/tenants who were originally shunning the program.

The Committee was pleased to hear that the SIF funds had been utilized to promote general community development, as well as enhancing community safety and longevity of tenants. The Committee reiterated their commitment towards continued funding that will benefit different groups of people.

Motion carried **ON MOTION DULY MADE** by Mr. David Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Zahra Dhanani, the Tenant & Community Services Committee received the presentation for information.

IN CAMERA PROCEEDINGS

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

PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

Motion carried At 11:57 am, the Chair announced the resumption of the public proceedings and the public meeting reconvened at that time.

ON MOTION DULY MADE by Ms. Catherine Wilkinson, seconded by Mr. David Mitchell, 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 11:57 a.m.

Secretary

Chair, Tenant & Community Services Committee