



SCIT HOUSING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 12/08/2021

Members Present:

Dayna Johansen, Chairperson
Fanella Poola
Dani Sineway, Vice Chair
Zach Gauger
Michael Wells

Staff Present:

Rosalie Maloney, Housing Manager
Andrew Wagner, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order: Meeting called to order 5:24pm by Dayna Johansen

Roll Call: Dani, Zach, Michael, Fanella, and Dayna present

Moment of silence:

Introductions: Michael Wells

Michael is a newly appointed member. He graduated from CMU. He likes to fish and play music. He is excited about the opportunity to make a difference for the Housing department.

Approval of Agenda: July, August, September, October, November, and December

On a motion duly made by Dayna Johansen, seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to table agenda approval until next month. 5 for, motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: June, July, August, September, October, and November

On a motion duly made by Dayna Johansen, seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to table minute approval until next month. 5 for, motion carried.

Old Business:

Tenant Grievances- Discussion

RM: Often when evictions happen the tenant(s) will complain to the Tribal Council. People are not satisfied unless they can go to the top, the final authority. The previous Tribal Council requested Housing develop a grievance process. This included the Housing Advisory Committee conducting these hearings. Such a process would provide the aggrieved tenant(s) the opportunity to be heard by someone other than Housing staff. However, the risks to be considered are:

- Tenants' privacy rights,
- HAC member's liability for violating confidentiality,
- Training in confidentiality and hearing procedures is required, and
- Disgruntled tenants retaliating.

Does the committee members believe this role is appropriate and do you feel comfortable being a part of this process? If so, the By-Laws must be changed.

ZG: Yes – I am fully on board to help out the Housing department.

It is important for tenants to have this “buffer”. Sometimes tenants need a person to hear them out. If we don’t do this; people will “jump” straight to Council. It is better to have five minds working together in these situations than one.

DJ: I know by the time an eviction request makes it to the Legal Department Housing has reached out and tried to resolve the issue with the tenant. If grievance hearings is something Council wants we should consider it.

MW: The goal is to try and help.

RM: The cost for training should be minimal and the time would be approximately two hours one day and maybe one more hour on a different day. Housing would find a consultant to do the privacy and confidentially rights and responsibilities training. SCIT -HR may be able to help us with training on how to conduct a formal hearing.

ZG: The buffer would cover all lines of grievance. If they go straight to Council we can always point out how they skipped all these lines of the grievance process.

FP: I had some concerning situations in the past with neighbors. They try to intimidate you and cause fear of reprisals. It’s even more alarming when you have children.

DS: I also had some concerning messages from neighbors about a Housing decision that I didn’t even make. I know how upset neighbors can make you feel.

MW: We need to analysis the balance of safety versus how can we help.

ZG: Personal security – Let’s say they don’t agree with us and are upset. Is that a realm of liability we have to accept?

MW: We need to weight the positive and negative.

DJ: I am not in Mount Pleasant all the time - however – most of you are. You see neighbors everywhere like in a movie theater, grocery store, or gas station.

DJ: Do we feel comfortable voting on it today?

On a motion duly made by Dayna Johansen, seconded by Zach it was moved to move forward and develop a tenant grievance policy⁵ for, motion carried.

New Business:

1. Elect officers

Due to time constraints, it was recommended to do elections next month

On a motion duly made by Dayna Johansen, seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to table elections until next month. 5 for, motion carried.

2. Board preferences
 - a) Days and Time for Meetings
Due to unknown winter schedules, it was recommended to discuss next month.
 - b) Contact info for tenants
Committee Members updated their contact information. Updates will be distributed at the next meeting and posted online for tenants.
 - c) New Photos
Andrew will make arrangements for Dec 27th or 28th based on availability.
3. College Rental Assistance- New Program
This rent assistance will apply to dorms, and campus apartment buildings (non SCIT Housing rentals). It's been published in the Tribal Observer. Please review the application and materials provided.
4. Playground Survey
Housing's request for funds to improve OttoPark was approved by HUD. Please review the survey and come back next meeting with ideas.
5. Department Christmas
Next Thursday at 12 noon Housing will have a Christmas gathering. Lunch will be a taco bar from Nbakade, location will be in the conference room, and a gift exchange is planned. The event will last about an hour and Rosalie is providing the meal (no grant funds are used for this). The HAC is graciously invited to attend.

Announcements:

1. Holiday Closure – We will be closed Dec 23 and re-open Monday January 3rd.

Adjournment:

On a motion duly made by Dani Sineway, seconded by Fanella Poola it was moved to adjourn. 4 for, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 12, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.