

Town & Gown Committee

Meeting held April 1, 2021

A meeting of the Town and Gown Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fabio Costante, Chair
Councillor Fred Francis
Dr. Phebe Lam
John Fairley
Alan Richardson

Guests in attendance via Zoom:

Jim Porter
Dr. Kai Hildebrandt
Caroline Taylor

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Inspector David Deluca, Windsor Police Services
John Lee, Chief Fire Prevention Officer
John Revell, Chief Building Official
Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing
Bill Tetler, Manager of By-law Enforcement
Sandra Gebauer, Council Secretariat
Amanda Alchin, Council Resolutions Coordinator
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

Councillor Costante welcomes Dr. Phebe Lam, Acting Associate Vice-President, Student Experience as a new Member of the Town and Gown Committee.

The Chair refers to the document provided by A. Richardson entitled "Recommended action for Windsor Town and Gown TGAO symposium" that was previously discussed at the October 1, 2020 meeting of the Committee. He indicates that some of the items noted in the recommended actions have been debated by Council, i.e. proactive bylaw enforcement. There are recommendations that refer to off campus living and engagement with the University/College. He suggests this be captured in Item 4.1.

2. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

R. Vani provides a point of clarification in the October 1, 2020 Minutes regarding comments made by A. Richardson. He states that the Vital Services Bylaw only applies to buildings that are six units or greater. Buildings that are less than six units are addressed through the Property Standards Bylaw.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by A. Richardson,
That the minutes of the Town and Gown Committee of its meeting held October 1, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 University of Windsor and St. Clair College

J. Fairley states that things are going well with the International student residents. The houses are coming down at the entrance on Cabana Road and with the lack of students on campus at this time; there has not been push back from the neighbours. We are expanding classrooms downtown in the Tourism Windsor building so there will be more capacity for students. We have been doing some testing for the lighting of the soccer field, and due to comments received, we adjusted accordingly. He asks Councillor Francis as the Ward One Councillor to provide any further comments.

Councillor Francis advises that he has a good working relationship with St. Clair College, and if there is an issue, they contact him. He refers to the enhancement at Transit Windsor relating to the new east-west direct route to St. Clair College that will reduce the travel time for the students coming from the east end to the College. He commends the leadership of the President of St. Clair College in making this happen and her direct involvement in stepping up with resources, and the City's engagement.

A. Richardson asks if Mr. Fairley if he would be agreeable to consider the items on the recommended action list (previously provided by A. Richardson) and for a future report back to the Town and Gown Committee.

J. Fairley responds that he would like to review them individually.

Moved by Councillor Francis, seconded by J. Fairley,
That the update relating to student issues at St. Clair College **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.
A. Richardson voting nay.

4.2 Residential Rental Licence

The Chair advises that Council debated this matter recently and gave direction to Administration to draft a bylaw for the Residential Rental Licence to be piloted in Wards 1 and 2.

C. Robertson states that preliminary internal meetings have been held and a working group will be created.

R. Vani advises that this is a licensing initiative and the Building Department will have a function within that licensing review and approval process. Our Building report to Council was essentially an enforcement of the Property Standards Bylaw. The report by Mr. Robertson was the licensing component that Council gave direction to move forward and to draft a bylaw. There will be processes within that Licensing review for Fire and Rescue Services as well. As these applications come in, they will have to be vetted for zoning reviews. It touches on many service areas thus the need to bring these groups together and to determine who will be responsible for these processes within this licensing regime.

A. Richardson refers to the report by R. Vani and the goals for the residential housing initiative, and he asks if those goals were originated by him or were directed by Council. He asks if they are still in effect.

R. Vani advises that the goals were put together by the Office of the Chief Building Official and are still in effect.

The Chair states that the Building Inspectors will continue the inspections at their current pace, and the Residential Rental Licence bylaw pilot project will be over and above what is existing in our complement of services.

R. Vani states Council's appropriation of funding made those positions permanent in 2020, so the level of service will not decline. Any other legislation coming forward, as far as the licensing, will be in addition to the enforced activities of Building.

J. Fairley asks if feedback has been received.

Councillor Francis states that the residents have provided positive feedback and they remarked this should have been done a few years ago. The majority of owners that are landlords follow the rules with very little issues.

The Chair states he received overwhelming support; however there are some landlords that are upset by it.

The Chair indicates in the past, that the University and College have taken the position that if the residential licence were to be passed; they would be in support and would work with the city in developing the bylaw and executing it. He asks J. Fairley

and Dr. Lam if the College and the University are going to be willing partners to move forward on this.

J. Fairley responds that this has been demonstrated through communications that we are in support of what the city is doing. If we return to some normality, there are back to school information packages that we will provide so if there is any marketing strategy with this, we are willing to help in this capacity.

Dr. Lam indicates that in speaking to Jane Boyd, the University is also endorsing and supporting this so I echo Mr. Fairley's statement about communication and we would be happy to put out information to the students as we head into the fall.

The Chair adds that a big part of the development of the bylaw and the implementation of it is developing a registry list. Some landlords will self-identify and get on the list, others it will be more challenging. There is value in communication and coordination between the College and the University to determine through your students, many of which are tenants, who their landlords are and if they are registered.

Moved by J. Fairley, seconded by Councillor Francis,
That the update relating to the Residential Rental Licence **BE RECEIVED.**
Carried.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR