

Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Meeting was held on June 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Addison Public Library.
Present: Mayor Larry Hartwig, Commander Karen Miller of the Addison Police Department, and 18 landlords.

I. Welcome and Introductions.

- Mayor Hartwig welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their participation.
- All landlords introduced themselves and their property address.

II. Crime Update / Purpose of Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group.

- Mayor Hartwig mentioned the high volume of calls for service / high crime in multi-family buildings and the two key reasons for the Crime Free Multi-Housing initiative:
 - A. Increase in gang activities in multi-family rental areas. The Village is looking for better ways to reduce / stop crime before it actually occurs.
 - B. Aesthetics. Neighbors do not want the house or building next to them to look bad or not be taken care of.
- Mayor Hartwig commented on the importance of good renters and how improving the quality of renters will improve the rental stock. The Village of Addison wants all of its businesses and rental properties to be successful.
- In the past, the Landlord / Tenant Commission brought the need to reduce crime and improve living conditions to the Board. The Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group can make suggestions to the Board, and the Board can act as a liaison to the group.
- The Mayor explained the following: the purpose of the Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group, the need for volunteers, the application process, and the need to inform every one of the group.

III. Questions / Discussion.

The landlords brought forth the following discussion points:

- The objective of the committee and questions on the ordinances and codes. The Mayor responded by saying that the landlords want to get involved in the planning decisions, making rules and decisions, and coming up with recommendations. The group can make suggestions to the Board, and the Board will make the decisions. The Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group are meant to serve in an advisory capacity.
- Discussion with Commander Miller. The landlords want notification every time the police respond to their property. This is a working mechanism that needs to be developed and initiated, and the group will work on this issue.
- Nuisance abatement was discussed.

- Discussion regarding the Housing manual. The Housing manual needs to be reviewed and any changes need to be brought up. The landlords commented that this committee should have been in place before the manual instead of after the manual. They commented that this is key to improving neighborhoods versus simply improving buildings. The Mayor responded by stating that there was a committee in the past, but people did not show up or had their own agenda, which did not work.
- The landlords also brought up the issues with the satellite dishes and air conditioners. They want the outside of the buildings checked by inspectors more than once or twice a year.
- The landlords stated that they would like 40 to 50 people on this committee for good representation. Everyone deserves quality living, and the town needs to accept and live with the diversity within Addison. This committee can also discuss issues with inspectors to have them be more consistent.

IV. Conclusion.

The Mayor said he appreciated every one's attendance and their input. Applications will be sent to any one interested in serving on the Landlord / Tenant Advisory Group, and everyone will be notified of the next meeting date.