



Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 344
 Thorold ON L2V 3Z3

Phone: 905-682-9201
 Toll Free: 1-800-232-3292
 (from Grimsby and beyond Niagara region only)

Street Address:
 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
 Thorold ON

Main Fax: 905-687-4844
 Fax – Applications: 905-935-0476
 Fax – Contractors: 905-682-8301
 Web site: www.nrh.ca

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, March 20th 2024

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: 6868 Ailanthus Ave, Niagara Falls

“Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land has a rich history of First Nations such as the Hattiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today.”

In Attendance: Wendy Thompson, Michelle Mellen, Dina DelGrande, Kim Bourne, Sandra Wilson, Alisha Campbell, Leah Pantich, Gina Colavecchia Peter, Annie Du Toit, Norman Hill, Karen Littlewood, Brenda Ritchie, Scott Thomas

Regrets: Patricia Scott

REGULAR MEETING

1. Welcome, Introductions & Land Acknowledgment (Recurring) Michelle

2. Review Minutes of Last Meeting (Recurring) Michelle

Approved

3. NRH Update & Staff Update (Recurring) – New TAC members Michelle

- Welcome new TAC members, Brenda Ritchie and Scott Thomas

- New Tenant Support Representative (TSR), Jessica Seburn at ext 3911 – extensions always remain the same
- New Manager Housing Operations, Jim Dimanis
- New CEO of NRH, Cameron Banach
- Returning Community Resource Program Assistant, Alisha Campbell

4. Solar Eclipse Info for Tenants

Wendy

On April 8, 2024, the Moon will move between the Earth and the Sun causing a solar eclipse.

Niagara will be one of the best places in Canada to view it. Although the Moon will be covering most of the Sun, it's still dangerous to look directly at the Sun during this time. *Here's how to stay safe:*

- Do not use scratched, damaged or homemade eclipse glasses
 - Buy eclipse glasses as soon as possible, use only real eclipse glasses and read the instructions to use them properly
- Do not look directly at the sun without eclipse glasses or you could burn your eyes. This could happen before you know it
- Find eclipse glasses and learn more at [Solar Eclipse Safety - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

Other tips for the day of the eclipse:

Thousands of people are expected to visit, so it is possible that there will be huge crowds and traffic, so:

- o Try to stay off the roads (*don't book appointments, fill up your gas tank and get groceries before April 8*)
- o Check travel conditions by calling 511
- o Plan for childcare as most schools and daycares will be closed
- o Have an emergency kit in case emergency services are stopped in traffic
 - Call 211 for community information
- PM and CPC will be distributing solar glasses to protect your eyes
- NRH staff will be working from home, if there is an emergency you can still call the same numbers
- Contractors will only be working if there is an emergency

5. New Development

Michelle

- Riordon Street is a temporary shelter in St. Catharines that Housing Services has partnered with Homelessness on
- Geneva Street is currently a housing project, for more information on this you can go to the Niagara Region website

6. Program Review (Recurring)

Wendy

- Currently in the community there is coffee chat, bingo, and produce bag (tenants really enjoy bingo)
- Suggestions from tenants are chair yoga/chair tai chi, and adding more coffee dates instead of bi-weekly
- Suggestion for coffee chat to be at a later time in the day, and if tenants are able to bake goods together and add in a donation jar
- Pop machine in common room should be removed
- Tenants are able to go to MacBain centre for group fitness classes without paying a membership fee through Donna
- Group cooking classes, specifically for different cultures of food

7. Communications (Recurring)

Wendy

- Currently have the Tenant Newsletter, and the Housing Herald which will be in calendar form in 2025 like past years
- If you would like anything added or included, you can reach out to NRH by calling or adding a note in the dropbox
- NRH website is currently being transferred over to the Niagara Region website, where NRH will have its own section

8. TAC Composition and Recruitment (Recurring)

Wendy

- Currently looking at recruiting members from Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Grimsby/Lincoln

Up to Eleven (11) Members

| Municipality | Per Terms of Reference | Actual |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| St. Catharines | Three (3) | Four (4) |
| Niagara Falls | Two (2) | Two (2) |
| Welland | Two (2) | 0 |
| Fort Erie | One (1) | One (1) |
| Lincoln/Grimsby | One (1) | One (1) |
| Niagara-on-the-Lake | One (1) | 0 |
| Port Colborne | One (1) | One (1) |

9. Diversity (Recurring)

Wendy

- Niagara Region is currently going into communities and doing a presentation for inclusion and equity strategies, where we celebrate every race and religion
- Tenants are very interested in having a diversity presentation done in Ailanthus

10. New Business (Recurring)

All

- Regarding Ailanthus community:
 - In the works for kitchens being replaced in both buildings, there will be a meeting before it starts for tenants to ask questions
 - Air makeup unit will be replaced which will help with air flow in the building
 - Balcony planning is almost completed, just waiting on delivery for some supplies, hoping to begin in a few weeks
 - Foundation in family unit basements are being looked at
 - The playground is 90% completed and will be ready for the spring
 - Suggestion for lines to be repainted in parking lot with a few spots allocated for visitors
 - Still having issues with the garbage – it seemed to help in the past when the lids have been removed
 - There is currently a pilot at some other communities to eliminate cars that shouldn't be in the parking lot, which is being monitored by an outside agency – this will help with the parking issues
 - If you see a car parked in the fire lane, call Dina with the license plate number so she can call the tow truck company
 - If you need to report a maintenance issue and it is a non-emergency issue, you can place a note in the dropbox, or call your TSR
 - Let Dina know when recycling has been contaminated, it will not be picked up
 - Suggestion to look into the Safe Street program for adding a sharps container
 - Internet is still in the process of being fixed, and will be added to all common rooms soon
 - FOB's are also delayed because of the internet

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 29th, 10am – noon at Niagara Region Headquarters