Resident Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

June 17th, 2025



RAC members present: Alison, Gary, Jerome, Kiara, Lee, Loretta, Mark, Michael, Randall, Roland, and Sage.

CRH staff members and guests: Sasha Sobers-Outlaw, Christian Krupp, Keady Hollingsworth, Andrew Oommen, Chris Persons (virtual).

Public: Saunatina Sanchez, Verena Smykatz-Kloss, Ella McCallie

Sasha calls the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

1. Resident Reflections / Public Comment

Ella from Seneca wanted to see what the meeting was about, on behalf of their apartment building. The Seneca apartments have been dealing with a series of robberies; cars have been broken into, and a key-fob into the garage is stolen. Apartments are also being broken into, and with the garage key-fob being stolen, the person has access to the building. Seneca is also dealing with an aggressive tenant as well.

Saunatina asked to make a comment. They left a chair under a tree for a neighbor with mobility issues. The chair was taken or moved by someone; the chain was cut.

2. Discussing Recruitment

Sasha passed out the Interest form to all present. Members expressed positive feelings. Randall expressed that one staff and one council members should put in writing that the rest of the council can review the Interview, and to put in writing what the next steps are after the Interest Form.

The Interest form draft was approved by majority thumbs-up.

Saunatina brings up here that the agenda should be more relevant to the RAC.

Tony [Kiara] asked how many people are allowed to be members. Allison said up to twenty to represent as many buildings as possible. Sasha emphasized that we do not have a budget, and we must be creative.

The questions for discussion are:

- "What can you do as an individual to help spread the word about the RAC?"
- <u>"What ideas & suggestions do you have to help recruit new members?"</u>

Verena asked what we are looking for in a member. Sasha said there's only one qualification – to be a resident with CRH.

Tony [Kiara] says she wants to do a game night at her apt or socialize outside and invite people, then bring up the RAC. She wants to get to know people as they move in, let them know about the RAC, and to show people that CRH and the RAC are about community.

Randall wants a board for each building, dedicated to the RAC; the achievements of the RAC to be posted; contact information of current council members. Before his building leaves CRH, he wants to bring back the monthly building dinners and social events.

Allison notices that if we cap membership at 20 people, not every building will be represented. She mentions Station House doesn't have a community room to sit together and bring up the information. She brings up the need for budget and financial considerations. She wants the next members to be passionate and willing to contribute to the community, who are going to do the work. She is willing to step down so others can step up.

Jerome brings up his community BBQ idea.

Sage likes the idea of a social gathering with an information table with staff to answer questions. She also wants a brochure at each building, to be kept available to any new residents, with notices about public comment to get people interested.

Saunatina emphasizes that the council members can take it on themselves to spread the word about the RAC without having to do social events or spending money. The people who are interested in joining will show up and do what they can. The important part is getting the word out. She talks to her neighbors about the council and wants to meet with RAC members on how her strengths as a board-member can support the RAC.

Loretta asked how RS is getting the word out about the RAC. Sasha said RS is in the process of updating our bulletin boards at all buildings, but the documents aren't finished yet. At least two will be about the RAC & we will be posting flyers by next month.

Saunatina emphasizes that this group can be utilized to get the word out instead of relying on RS or PM staff.

Verena mentioned that PM should know who the RAC are, and to point new or interested residents towards council members for questions.

Randall offered that RAC put their WHY out to the residents for inspiration.

Tony [Kiara] asked if the newsletter could have RAC contact info and building available to people who want to ask questions.

- 3. Sasha sends to break at 7:07 until 7:15. Christian calls the group to order at 7:17.
- 4. Continue last month's advocacy topic.

Christian passed out a template for an advocacy letter, with a list of city and state legislators. Christian said that they can contact their representative on behalf of their building or their community to see what actionable steps can be taken. Sasha added that last month we introduced self-advocacy, and this activity is helpful to RAC so that residents can advocate for themselves at higher levels outside of the RAC; and how we can move these issues forward.

Sage mentioned that there might not be consensus on what issues should be addressed, such as eviction-prevention. Christian brought up that the Charter has voted to include certain things. Sasha adds that there are certain things that we have brought up in meetings that can be talked about.

Chris Persons joins and mentions the security problems that have been increasing, and there are things that the RAC can do on behalf of all residents in Seattle that benefit all of us.

Saunatina mentions that communication with neighbors is crucial to safety, recruitment, and community.

Sage the two prongs: what legislation is in front of the gov't that we can be aware of; and demanding more public safety measures.

Christian offers that RAC could go through certain city council's agendas to see what is worth supporting. Chris Persons adds, there doesn't need to be specific legislation for the RAC to act on; as long as there are issues within the community, there are things to work towards (safety, behavioral intervention, non-emergency responders, landlord/tenant relations and tenant rights).

Christian closes out the activity with actionable items, like talking to your neighbors about their concerns and bring it back to the council.

Jerome says that the notices he needs are posted to his door, and if the RAC could do that with interest forms and feedback requests. Saunatina asks RS if we can create a form so that people can help or show interest in their own way at their own pace.

Sage brings up the <u>https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-safety</u>, that meets <u>2nd</u> and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

5. Saunatina is the Resident-Board Liaison

Noticing that newer buildings have higher occupancy than the older buildings. Urgent service repairs are less urgent and Saunatina feels like staff are focusing on leasing new buildings instead of repairing the older buildings. Saunatina wants the RAC to be more involved with the executive committee, and more of the committee structure.

Chris also wants the RAC to be integrated with the PDA board to see real progress and that priorities are being met.

The RAC invites the executive committee to come to RAC to integrate the conversations. Jerome is the communicator to formally invite them to upcoming meetings.

The meeting is adjourned at 8pm.