

October 21st, 2025



RAC members in attendance: Alison, Gary, Toni, Lee, Loretta, Mark, Sage, Vernesta, Roland, Jacque (V).

CRH staff members and guests: Sasha Sobers-Outlaw, Valencia Chambers Manora, Christian Krupp, Keady Hollingsworth, Andrew Oommen, Chris Persons, Colleen Echohawk

Public: Saunatina Sanchez, Verena Smykatz-Klotz, Elisha Burton, Promise Dawitt, Robin Rowedder, Doug Sturdivant

1. Allison calls the meeting to order at 6:00.

The icebreaker tonight is the dessert that you love the most. Allison led the icebreakers this week and thanked the members for voting for her. Jerome, our new communications officer, went over the meeting norms.

Loretta calls to accept the minutes; Mark motions to accept the minutes, and Jerome seconded. The minutes are accepted with a unanimous vote.

2. Resident Reflections are next. We have three members of the public who signed up.

Promise, a resident of Burke Gilman Gardens, came back to discuss the harassment at her building hasn't stopped. She says she has not gotten the follow up for her issues, and feels her life is in danger.

Elisha, a resident of Pride Place, also came back to discuss the safety issues at her building. The residents are calling for better security measures, and some residents are discussing legal action.

Verena, a resident of Pride Place, came to finish her comments from the last meeting. She lives above the entrance and observes a lot of the smoking and entry behavior of residents and non-residents. She cites the "troubles" on that corner of Pike & Broadway. She calls for staff or the CEO to stay in the empty units to see firsthand what issues are going on.

Saunatina asked to speak, since we are ahead of schedule. She says that communication from management and maintenance to the residents has been subpar at her building.

3. Next Valencia speaks about the new member onboarding process.

Robin Rowedder and Doug Sturdivant expressed interest in becoming a member of the RAC. Valencia passed them both an Interest form and since no one else requested a form, we moved on.

4. Chris Persons took the floor for the CEO Q&A.

Chris congratulated the RAC on their accomplishments, voting officers onto a executive committee, and introduced Colleen a little more formally. He got the whole Council a little gavel, and it is inscribed with the Co-Chairs names.

Colleen takes the front and says a few words about how excited she is to be a part of CRH. She is dedicated to reforming affordable housing. She says that she is excited to hear from all the members, and from all the residents who choose to join. She is very excited to get started. She has been CEO three times before this, most notably Chief Seattle Club. She opens the floor for questions from the members.

Loretta asks when the Chairs can start meeting with her to discuss. Colleen says sometime in November, but that she is going to be very booked up as she begins to be CEO in earnest.

Jerome asks if she reviewed the questions the RAC submitted. Colleen said she didn't think so.

Saunatina asked if she had seen the properties. Colleen has toured a few properties, and praised the community at the Haines, and hopes that she will be able to encourage that kind of community within the portfolio. Another building Colleen viewed is the Devonshire, which is an old building recently remodeled.

Sage says the Brewster has a community room, if Colleen could schedule a coffee meeting with the residents. Sage brings up that safety is the priority right now, because residents are bringing up safety violations frequently. Sage says that the residents want to be heard and understand that safety is a difficult issue to address.

Another thing Colleen brings up is that she ran for Mayor and came third, four years ago. She was involved in the police commission and local safety policies. She is encouraging the RAC to pioneer the safety commission to be implemented in the city as a whole!

Doug Styrdiman invites Colleen to the GenPride lunches on Tuesdays & Thursdays, and the other Pride Place members chime in with encouragement.

5. Loretta sends us to a 15 min break. She brings us back at 7:01.

Sasha brings us to the next activity, which is going to be breakout groups of four. This is a simple brainstorm for realistic options for safety that the residents can do. Sasha emphasizes that habits and ideas can impact policy.

6. At 7:16 Sasha brings us back from small groups to discuss the ideas.

Group 1- Saunatina reports that packages are being stolen from some buildings. She says that residents can group together to collect packages for people who are less mobile. There are also issues with car theft, and so residents started gathering near the cars to be social to keep strangers away. Community social groups also function as a communication platform that helps the residents understand what is going on in the building.

Group 2- Loretta reports that all infractions or incidents should be documented somehow. Doorbell cams can be implemented to video record what is happening near the exits, and to watch for any strangers coming in behind residents. Group texts are also brought up. They asked for better site manager training which includes mental health first aid and de-escalation. Neighborhood watches in the building with residents with more time. Loretta asked for a gate near the package area that only residents can access. Toni asked for package lockers that only a certain resident can access.

Group 3- Doug wants a resident safety liaison. Implement a “heat” map for each building for safety and where incidents happen the most. Some emergency numbers are not labeled or are specific and better understand what the emergency maintenance line is for.

Group 4- Mark reports that some residents are rude or violent and when they saw the security walking around, the rude residents got quiet. They want to bring in city council to do background checks. Valencia and Sasha bring up that fair housing in Seattle forbids any kind of background check for crimes or other possibilities. Sage also wants property managers to attend safety committee meetings with the city.

Verena asks if there is a person who could help refer people who have substance abuse issues to treatment or supportive housing because they seem dangerous.

Doug says that people who try to enter the building can be aggressive and ask if we could document when people are trying to get into the building and report.

Sage asks if we could bring the security people into the group to introduce their methods and ideas.

Sasha thanks the group and reminds them that we are trying to be part of the solution. Sasha also reminds the group that SPD will be sending a community officer next month to discuss further these ideas.

Robin asks if her building, Lincoln Court, has recording equipment. Sasha responds that property management is trying to work on issues, but we somehow must pay for those cameras.

7. Saunatina is next for the board updates: Excerpt taken from Board Minutes on the Community Roots Housing website.

Last week's meeting was a Joint Board Convening, from both the PDA and the Foundation Boards to foster a stronger sense of connection across the two boards.

Preservation Project – This funding category provides for rehab and capital needs of existing OH funded projects. Our proposal will include the Devonshire Apartments allowing us to fix the side sewer and stabilize and repair the exterior entry deck.

Stabilization Projects – This funding category provides for paying down hard debt on projects that meet certain criteria and improve financial performance. Our proposal includes paying down hard debt at Holiday Apartments which is nearing year fifteen and has a balloon payment on its permanent loan and paying down debt at the Jefferson.

Saunatina calls for residents to search for grants to send to the CRH Foundation team to pursue. There was a lot of talk of budgets, and Andrew offers to do a budget presentation at some point.

8. Loretta calls for ideas for ideas for next month's meeting.

November will be the last meeting of the year, and SPD is going to come by to discuss safety for the first hour. Valencia wants the RAC to discuss goals for 2026. Colleen wants the RAC to be prepared to ask questions, instead of venting, so that they can respond efficiently. Jerome wants to meet earlier to discuss questions, and Valencia seconds that RAC is welcome in the room at 5:30 or submit their questions before the meeting.

Sage wants someone from the security team to speak to the RAC. Valencia responds saying that security is not portfolio wide and mostly does sweeps of the building. Only a handful of buildings are covered by this.

Saunatina says that she wants more property management follow up to be on the agenda.

Loretta motions to adjourn. Mark seconds. The group votes to adjourn at 7:53 pm.