



## Resident Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**RAC members in attendance:** Alison, Gary David, Toni, Lee, Loretta, Mark, Sage, Roland, Vernesta, Jerome, Becca, Robin, Doug.

**CRH staff members:** Keady Hollingsworth, Amy Forsaith, Valencia Chambers Manora, Christian Krupp, Kayla Gillispie, Colleen Echohawk

### **Seven guests observed as part of the public.**

1. Valencia called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Vice Chair Becca lead the icebreaker and the introductions.
2. Communications chair reviewed the meeting norms for the group.
3. Co-Chair Allison called for the approval of November's minutes. Doug motioned to approve, Toni seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were accepted from November.
4. Co-Chair Loretta opened Resident Reflections.

Saunatina took the floor to bring up the presence of federal agents in the buildings. She introduced another resident of Centennial, who said that this is an opportunity to build a network of communication between buildings, to protect vulnerable residents. No other residents signed up, so Valencia opens the floor to anyone who would like to speak. A resident of 18<sup>th</sup> Ave says wild animals are being fed by a resident, which means that animals are less scared of residents, and issues in the laundry room. A resident from Lincoln Court brings up that the dumpster is overflowing for a month to two, and they don't know who is responsible. Toni says the same thing happens at her building, 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. A resident from station house says that there is one family per floor, but there are complaints that there are kids in the hallway being disruptive. They said that there are not a whole lot of options for young, single parent families. Staff person Kayla encourages everyone who spoke to follow up with staff and provide contact information to aid solutions.

5. Loretta introduces Colleen and the discussion on Affordable Housing.

Colleen gives her background to the RAC to introduce why she cares so much about the work. Colleen has been supporting the new Mayor, Katie Wilson, to further the affordable housing movement in Seattle. She invites the Council to share what they think the future of affordable

housing should look like. A primary concern that came out of the RAC in 2025 is public safety. She is going to ask clarifying questions but encourages discussion. City Councilmember Dionne Foster wants to come in person to a future meeting to hear from the community.

The first question is “where is geographic areas that need more affordable housing?” Mark says downtown Seattle, because of the unaffordable prices of “prime” location. This way, needy citizens can access services and businesses.

Resident from Lincoln Court wanted to advocate for residents involved in becoming property managers and managing buildings. They say that there is difference from when resident managers were in place, and they need someone at the buildings regularly to oversee cleaning and sanitation. Their building doesn’t have a fire escape, and there are fire hazards. Colleen points out that, for example, there isn’t funding to put washers / dryers in every unit, but affordable housing requires a bike room, which can go unused in certain buildings.

Resident of 18<sup>th</sup> Ave noticed that amenities in units are taken better care of than amenities being in common spaces. She cites the washing machines that need regular maintenance. Jerome chimes in saying that having close access to public transit is also a necessity. Toni says that because she is in subsidized housing, she feels like she can’t have expensive things.

Resident of station house says that the Greystar building next to station house (Broadway Connection) has expanded into Station House elevators and parking lots, but they don’t get access to their amenities; she says that they feel teased because their space is connected, but they can’t use it. Colleen asks her to focus on actionable steps that they can enact. Saunatina says that there are specific City policies that guide how affordable housing buildings are constructed, but there are better ways to design communal areas to breed familiarity and positive connection. Becca says there shouldn’t be a difference between the MFTE units and non MFTE units.

Resident of 12AA says there is stigma against affordable housing- the words evoke “lower class.” She wants the city council to take tours of the units and make efforts to remove the negative connotation of the residents.

Resident of Brewster says she is glad the mayor is focused on affordable housing. She says that affordable housing is often a tax incentive by developers. She would see more affordable housing in all buildings. The encampments of people without homes should be moved into “tiny homes” in the city.

Resident of 12AA says that affordable housing doesn’t need to be ugly. They want to think about what is useful to the residents; showers that are flat, unnecessary dishwashers, and more secure spaces for storage.

Resident of Pride Place says that the Capitol Hill Community Safety Social at Stoup Brewing made him feel safer. Colleen asks how would you like to see the city respond to people complaining about public safety? Lee says that they should have more events like the Safety Committee and involve the police, so they are more familiar when incidents happen.

Resident of Pride Place asks what CRH policy is on applicant background checks. There is a resident selection criterion that lists what we can and cannot screen for. Seattle City landlords cannot screen applicants for criminal criteria, due to discrimination. Always report anything to the property management, and the police. Julie also says that a case worker would be helpful to the residents and the building. Currently, CRH is looking for grants and funding; we don't have the budget for resident services at every building.

Resident of Pride Place said we need affordable housing everywhere- they would like the Northgate golf course to be affordable housing. Housing advocacy days on Monday, the reason we have homelessness is because of the lack of affordable housing.

Resident of Pride Place says that she doesn't want a washer in her unit because it's cost effective. There is also no need for a dishwasher because of the space and water cost; use the savings for a new HVAC to fix the heating on higher floors.

Saunatina says it sounds like residents want to be more involved in things. They need more options to serve different communities, because the cookie cutter studios are not one size fit all. Some voucher holders might need different things from other voucher holders. Make a place a home within the policy.

Colleen said that portions of the national housing crisis are solved by having resident led procedures.

Resident of 18<sup>th</sup> says she is affected by noise pollution since her carpet was taken out; units could have portable appliances instead of the installed appliances. Including a pet play area, and/or a child play area, which can improve quality of life for older residents. She also wants air conditioning in units because her linoleum is unsticking.

Later, via email, a resident of pride Place offers operation Mini Me, a resident 'assistant manager.' "Building managers are the major support system for CRH community members, besides the outstanding administration. They must be on-site, work with renters, their needs, unfortunately their problems and be the representative of the needs of the city inspections and such. I'm sure many times they wish they had a clone during high demand times. I offer an alternative: what if there was an On-Call CRH property person, they may call on for support. Since there are almost 50 buildings in the CRH community, when not needed they could rotate weekly and serve for the week to the various CRH buildings, or support a high/need demand property. This could be like a pre-training program for future building managers. They would get

exposed/learn about the CRH procedures, rules, community, and such; making the transition to a building manager; better with less of a learning curve. I present the Mini Me Building Manager to support our outstanding CRH building managers.”

6. We go on a break around 7:20pm. Loretta calls us back from break at 7:31

Valencia passes out copies of the finalized Charter. She does this to remind the council of the mission and goals that was created in 2024. Our Chairs are going to take us through motions that might need to be adjusted. Loretta takes over to introduce the charter.

Valencia reads the first page, ppg 3, and asks the group to read and review the membership clause.

Sage says the membership is only a year-long and wants to put that up for discussion.

After some discussion, Doug moves to table the Charter reviews until the amendments are written out and presented to the group. Allison and Becca second. No nays. The motion to table the Charter amendments passed.

Becca says that the Charter exists so that new people can fully understand the rules and regulations of the RAC.

7. Saunatina updates us on the Board.

Saunatina is the resident representative on the PDA Board. The January meeting is mostly about the budget and was extended from December. The board was concerned about a possible deficit, and so they redrafted the budget. We don't have number details, but it is available online: <https://communityrootshousing.org/community-roots-housing-boarddocuments/>. Andrew Oommen is hoping to give a budget presentation to the RAC to understand what finances are going on between PDA and Foundation boards.

Considering the political climate, there is upheaval in what is going to be funded. Foundation wants to hear more from residents and encourages RAC to join different committees that advise the board. We need more resident representatives on the different committees. The Othello PPCD needs environmental work before development and to obtain funding to do so.

Loretta encourages us to sign up for resident reflections next time for the official follow up with staff. Jerome will send out an email with the recommended updates. Jerome calls to adjourn, and Roland seconds.

8. The meeting adjourns at 7:57pm.