

COAA Meeting – 3/3/14

Called to order:

February minutes approved with corrections

Present: Louisa Buadoo-Amoa, Loide Jorge, Kedist Geremaw, Akua G. Asare, Heran Sereke-Brhan, Nana Seshibe, Ify Nwabukwu, Jonathan Eigege, Efrem Ayalew, Tsedey Aragie, Chime Asonye, Lafayette Barnes, Ngozi Nmezi

Introductions:

Two new commissioners, Dr Akua G. Asare and Ms Kedist Geremaw were introduced along with the new OAA Deputy Director, Heran Sereke Brhan.

Announcements:

African Community Grant Launch – members of the community advocated on behalf of OAA for the office to be given Grant Authority. OAA was granted \$100,000 for competitive grants for CBOCs. A NOFA was to be sent out soon and request for Commissioners to help with awareness in the African community concerning these monies. Discussion was had about ways to connect community members to technical assistance in applying for these grants, i.e. MOSAICA. A question was posed about Commissioners recusing themselves from being application reviewers.

Committee Reports:

Jobs & Workforce Development – Loiusa discussed up and coming job fairs

Public Safety – Loide discussed upcoming Citizenship workshops for emigres and the need for promotion.

Discussion:

- Background concerning African Community Center (ACC) was given. Discussions were had about revising existing proposal (presented to Mayor Gray in November 2013) to add requested information from Mayor Gray' s Chief of

Staff and about possible rescheduling of the official follow-up meeting with him. A subcommittee was set up to address this issue.