

COAA FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES

The following minutes are taken as the COAA/ MOAA and the public input was reported.

2/3/2016	6:08PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6 th Floor
Meeting Called By	Chairwoman Akua Asare		
Secretary	Commissioner Kedist Geremaw		
Attendees	<p>Commissioners: Akua Asare, Lafayette Barnes, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Chibu Anyanwu, Kedist Geremaw, Loide Jorge, Ify Nwabukwu, Willair St. Vil, Ikenna Udejiofar</p> <p>OAA Dir: Mamadou Samba Deputy Dir: Heran Sereke- Berhan</p> <p>Outreach Specialist Bezawit Mane Intern: N/A</p> <p>Public: John Jackson, Akehenaten Tank</p>		
OLD BUSINESS			
February Minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were accepted with minor corrections 		
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission's Chair Asare opened the meeting by welcoming the commissioners and public attendees. 		
STANDING BUSINESS			
<p>COAA/MOAA Community input/ public Discussion</p> <p>OAA REPORT Issue 1: Director Samba</p> <p>Issue 2: Deputy Director: Sereke- Berhan</p> <p>Issue 3: Chair: Commissioner Asare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Cable will have 6 showings of individual interviews on TALK DCN which will feature members of the African community, including MOAA Director Samba and COAA Commissioner Jorge. The half-hour compilation of these interviews, <i>Diaspora in Dialogue: A Profile of Africans in DC</i> will be featured at MOAA's Black History Month event. MOAA/COAA Performance Oversight Hearing with the Committee on Housing and Community Development will be held on February 10th, 2016@10am EKO African Diaspora Coding Academy's 2nd session with 42 participants has started. FY 16 Grant Awardees were selected, a total of 9 community-based organizations were awarded grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Geremaw initiated a discussion in regard to inclusiveness about Commissioners being involved in the process. Both the idea of transparency and checks and balances was entertained. Suggestions were made for smaller agencies to collaborate with larger agencies to take maximum advantage of funding opportunities. Reconfirmation on pending Commissioners seats will take place within 45 days. Shared that community-based organizations need support to build capacity and write competitive grant proposals. In the future, we should look for ways that they can be connected to resources that build their capacity, such as mentoring between grantees and future applicants, workshops and training opportunities for community-based organization leaders. Emphasized the importance of focusing on the upcoming Performance Hearing. Four Commissioners will appear at the Hearing. Those who are 		

<p>Issue 4: Community input/ public Discussion</p>	<p>unable to attend will send written testimony via e-mail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The written testimony will be sent to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to be archived. • Commissioner Afari-Dwamena will send out an email through her network. • Commissioner Anyanwu will create a template that informs prospective participants about the Hearing. • Each Commissioner will submit names of community members who will attend the hearing or who will send in testimony. • “Know Your Rights” town hall meeting will be held and information will be disseminated via the public access, radio, Facebook, Twitter and other media. Commissioner St Vil will take the lead on promotions and publicity. • Chair also talked about the different sub- committees and their respective projects, Commissioner Nwabukwu expressed a desire to join the Health, Wellness and the Arts committee. Commissioner Udejiofor will join the Civic and Community Engagement Subcommittee (previously Transportation and Environment). • Commissioner Lafayette gave an update on the Regional Advisory Board and the plan to visit Congress on Feb 11 to join the African Immigrant Caucuses to speak to Congressman Smith (R - NJ) and Congresswoman Bass (D- CA) with the support of Congressman Payne Jr. (D). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Jackson informed the group about an African Diaspora event sponsored by the Embassies of Benin and Niger. • Akehenaten Tank expressed his willingness to participate in the work of both COOA and MOAA.
<p>ISSUE 5: Unfinished business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Samba will send an article on the State of Africans in DC. • Template will be created for prospective Performance Hearing participants to sign. • Commissioner Afari-Dwamena will create a template for the planned Hearing. • Commissioner Anyanwu will e-mail participants and prospective participants about the Hearing.
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Upcoming events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 5 - African Community Grant post award meeting (10am-1pm) • February 10 - Performance hearing (10am) • February 13 - EKO African Diaspora Coding Academy visit (12pm) • February 17 - Black History Month Film “Diversity of African Diaspora” (5-8pm) • February 24 - “Know your Rights” Town Hall (5:30-8pm)