

COAA JULY 2016 MINUTES

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

7/6/2016	6:05PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6 th Floor
Meeting Called By	Chairwoman Akua Asare		
Secretary	Commissioner Kotheid Nicoue		
Attendees	<p><u>Commissioners:</u> Chibu Anyanwu, Akua Asare, Lafayette Barnes, Ify Nwabukwu, Willair St. Vil, Kotheid Nicoue, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Ikenna Udejiofor</p> <p><u>Deputy Dir:</u> Heran Sereke- Berhan</p> <p><u>Interns:</u> Donald Ndebeka, Semhal Hagos, Laju Eresanara</p> <p><u>Public:</u> John Jackson, Sombo Pujeh</p>		
OLD BUSINESS			
June Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were accepted 		
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 Issue 1: Director: Mamadou Samba</p> <p>Issue 2 Chair Asare</p> <p>Issue 3</p>	<p>MOAA Updates: Deputy Director Heran Sereke-Brhan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Community Grant FY 2017: This would be the fourth cycle. Requests for applications have been posted. Deadline for organizations to apply is July 27, 2016. MOAA is looking for grant reviewers. COAA is looking for 30 reviewers. Commissioners are welcome to apply. Each proposal is about 25 pages. Commissioner Willair volunteered to be a reviewer. In terms of programs, the office puts together 2 pages to summarize upcoming events: the 2nd Annual Young African ConneXions Summit and the Mandela Day of Service. More partners have joined MOAA and the both the summit and Mandela Day of Service programs have grown. COAA is looking for volunteers for both days. Commissioner Barnes volunteered for the Mandela Day of Service. Commissioner Udejiofor will be there for Friday's event. The office is looking for volunteers especially for Saturday's event. Volunteers will help at a specific stations and help with registration as well. Regarding Saturday's event there will be a free shuttle from Anacostia Metro; Director Samba will provide remarks with a few other DC agency directors and partners. There will be drummers. Alice Ferguson Foundation will also be involved. MOAA hopes this event becomes the trademark for the office. <p>Chairwoman Asare offered her congratulations on the "Know Your Rights" town hall event calling it a great initiative. She complemented Commissioner St. Vil's role as host and facilitator. There should be a follow-up town hall discussion on education.</p>		

<p>Issue 4</p>	<p>Chairwoman Asare: Commissioner Lydia Nylander and other new Commissioners will conduct their swearing-in ceremony at 441 4th Street at Judiciary Square at 5pm. Commissioner Afari-Dwamena mentioned getting a notice about participating though she was sworn-in last year. She will reach out to Director Samba about to discuss.</p>
<p>Issue 5</p>	<p>Issue 4: Peer-Collaborator Event, discussion took place around ways that the Commission can assist.</p> <p>Summer recess suggested. Commissioners will have recess in October.</p>
<p>COAA Sub-Committee/ Project Reports</p>	<p>Education, jobs and Economic development Subcommittee member Commissioner St. Vil is working on a plan. The idea is to have a forum for parents, about their advocacy and the role they play in supporting their children excel in the public and charter school system. Considerations to have the event in the first or second week of September. Commissioner St. Vil will send out a proposal by the end of the month.</p> <p>Public Safety & Housing: Commissioner Jorge, Stvil: Commissioner St. Vil is pushing to get something done with youth. One suggestion for a theme is how the public safety force to come together and collaborate with the community.</p> <p>Transportation and Environment: Commissioner Udejiofor: SafeTrack is the only issue, and making sure that people are mindful about the challenges that are happening. Rethinking our commute each of us individually. All agencies are sending out updates on SafeTrack.</p> <p>Health, Wellness & the Arts Commissioners Geremaw, Anyanwu, Afari-Dswamena: No updates at this time. Commissioner Barnes: maybe we can discussed other ways to collaborate, any way we can make other events that we are planning into a public health care issue, possibly to do something with the Museum.</p> <p>Civic and Community Engagement: no updates</p>
<p>Issue 4: Community input/ public Discussion</p>	<p>Regional Advisory Board (updates): Updates on AGOA, reauthorization of AGOA, Africa needs to move away from agriculture products, working ways we can support SMEs in the community</p> <p>Public: John Jackson: discussed YALI Fellowship and also the renewal of AGOA.</p> <p>Sombo Pujeh is working on mental health education in the African Diaspora and is distributing a survey on African attitudes and thoughts on mental health issues. There is very limited research about the topic.</p>