

## COAA MARCH 2016 MINUTES

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

3/2/2016	6:10PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
<b>Meeting Called By</b>	Chairwoman Akua Asare		
<b>Secretary</b>	Commissioner Kedist Geremaw		
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><u>Commissioners:</u> Chibu Anyanwu, Nana Afari-Dwamena, Akua Asare, Lafayette Barnes, Kedist Geremaw, Loide Jorge, Kotheid Nicoue, Ify Nwabukwu, Willair St. Vil, Ikenna Udejiofar</p> <p><u>Deputy Dir:</u> Heran Sereke- Brhan; <u>Outreach Specialist</u> Bezawit Mane</p> <p><u>Intern:</u> Endrias Amanuel, Aly Kaba</p> <p><u>Public:</u> John Jackson, Nana Malya</p>		
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>			
<b>February Minute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were accepted with minor corrections</li> </ul>		
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission's Chair Asare opened the meeting by welcoming the Commissioners and public attendees.</li> </ul>		
<b>STANDING BUSINESS</b>			
<p><b>COAA/MOAA Community input/ public Discussion Issue 1:Chair: Deputy Director: Sereke- Berhan</b></p> <p><b>Issue 2: OAA REPORT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debriefing on Black History Month event was conducted and Deputy director Sereke-Brhan thanked all Commissioners for their participation in making it a success.</li> </ul> <p>Chairwoman Asare commented on the need to follow proper protocol at the event, and for refreshment to be set aside for dignitaries who may arrive late.</p> <p>Commissioner Geremaw suggested that MOAA reach out to the Commissioners if there is a need for refreshment, since there is not ample budget allocated for that purpose.</p> <p>Commissioner Nicoue suggested informing Commissioners about the constraints and limitations in the implementation of events would enable everyone to help as the need arises.</p> <p>Ms. Nana Malia who attended the event suggested that in the future a larger room would be beneficial.</p> <p>Deputy Sereke-Brhan and Ms. Mane explained the difficulties in following certain protocols such as name tags for dignitaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rescheduling of " Know Your Rights" event Commissioner St. Vil apologized for canceling the event due to inclement weather</li> </ul> <p>A suggestion was made to work on a partnership with Carlos Rosario international Career Center, which serves about 400 Africans who are adult learners to keep them abreast of ongoing events/ issues that would affect them.</p>		

**Issue 3**

**COAA Sub-Committee/  
Project Reports**

- Coders for Africa will plan to hire 3-4 of their top performing students from their mobile and web classes.
- The budget hearing date is to be determined. There is a chance that the oversight hearing will be in the month of May.

Chair suggested inviting individuals who can speak and write –one minute to testify to come to the hearing, and testimony should focus on the need for funding.

- For the budget hearing, it was suggested that MOAA provide Key Performance Indicator (KPI) AS FY '17, so that COAA can provide better testimony. COAA also asked MOAA about their specific importance.
- Commissioner Barnes suggested asking for more staffing because of a growing and increasing demand of service from the community.

On Demographic need- it was suggested that a draft of the joint study by MOAA/ George Mason University on the summative communities can be utilized. An info-graphic is a good tool to have for submission.

Commissioners St. Vil and Barnes will attend the hearing.  
Commissioners St. Vil and Nicoue will write testimony.  
Commissioners Anyanwu will testify

- Sub- Committee: Health, Wellness and the Arts  
Commissioners, Nwabukwu, Geremaw, and Afari-Dawameni met and shared their idea for organizing a community-based health fair that would include topics such as domestic violence and mental health. The fair could be in partnership with various community groups, agencies and companies.

The DC Department of Health will be contacted to discuss policies and procedures that would need to be followed for the fair.

- Sub- Committee: Civic and Community Engagement  
Commissioners, George and Udejiofor will work on a theme “Africa has Talent” by involving the communities as well as the grantees.

MOAA/COAA will team up with the White House for citizenship project.  
Public attendee Ms. Malia volunteered to help.

- Regional Advisory Board  
Commissioners St. Vil and Barnes met with Congressman Payne, Jr and Clark on HR371. Resolution was introduced with 50 sponsors. The congressional staff will meet with COAA.

- Public attendee Johnson informed the public that the street car will be free of charge for the public in the coming six months.
- Internship for graduate students.
- Funding training opportunity.

**Issue 4: Community  
input/ public Discussion**

<b>ISSUE 5: Unfinished business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rescheduled “ Know Your Rights” event</li></ul>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Upcoming events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EKO Graduation will take place on May 26</li></ul>

**Meeting Ended at 8:10PM**