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| **COAA AUGUST 2015 MINUTES** | | | |
| **8/5/2015** | **6:05PM** | **MAYOR’S OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS** | **6th Floor** |
| **Meeting Called By** | **Chairwoman Akua Asare** | | |
| **Secretary** | **Commissioner Kedist Geremaw** | | |
| **Attendees** | **Commissioners: Akua Asare, Chime Asonye, Ify Nwabukwu, Lafayette Barnes, Kedist Geremaw, Loide Jorge, Louisa Buadoo-Amoa, Yinusa Yusuf**  **New Commissioners: Chibu Aryanum ,Nana Afari Dwamenh, Willair Stvil, Ikenna Udejiofar, Kotheid Nicoue (yet to be sworn in)**  **Director: Mamadou Samba**  **Deputy Director: Heran Sereke- Brhan**  **Community Outreach Specialist: Bezawit Mane**  **Interns: Busula Fajolu, Yusif Bandaogou**  **Public : J. Jackson, M. Ford, R. Maheteme, T. Ngalcho, C. Enekwe, J. Ugori** | | |
| **OLD BUSINESS** | | | |
| **July Minutes** | * Minutes were approved by Commissioner Louisa Buadoo-Amoa * Seconded by Commissioner Kedist Geremaw | | |
| **Introduction** | * Chairwoman Akua- Opened the meeting by welcoming the new Commissioners and community members in attendance * M. Ford- Mignon Innes Ford Foundation * R. Maheteme- Middle Passage Media * J. Jackson- UNIA -African Union Liaison Officer * J. Mbianda- ACCDF * C. Enekwe-public * J. Ugori- Vounteer * T.Ngalchou | | |
| **STANDING BUSINESS** | | | |
| **COAA/MOAA**    **Community input/ public Discussion** | * Commissioner Chime and Commissioner Louisa—submitted the proposed COAA draft bylaws, and pointed out that all comments made by Commissioners were incorporated. The chair will schedule a conference call for further discussion to take place. * Public participants, both Miniabiy and John stressed the need and importance of including every sector of the African Diaspora in the activities of MOAA. | | |
| **MOAA REPORT**  **Issue 1:**  **Director**  **Mamadou Samba**  **Issue 2:**  **Deputy Director Heran**  **ISSUE 3:**  **Unfinished business** | * Young African ConneXions Annual Summit was successfully completed. * Mandela Day of Service was commemorated on July 18, 2015by street clean up activity, the event was held at Alabama Avenue and Naylor Road. * Spoke at the ex- chair of COAA‘s (Dr. Seshibe) funeral service and read Mayor Muriel Bowser’s condolence letter addressed to the family members. * Meeting on Public Safety was held with a task force from several DC government agencies. Metropolitan police department will have 10 African officers serving as liaisons between the African Diaspora community and MPD. * African Community Grant is on hold as there is an ongoing review of the process designed to look at its effectiveness. In due time there are 16 applicants and 42 reviewers. Due to the lower number of applicants, Commissioner Kedist asked why there were fewer applicants this year and Commissioner Akua asked if a survey of the grant process was done. The reply given was that the process is standardized across District government agencies and that there is no ambiguity about it. Question on repeated grant receipts and the perception of the process not being fair was raised by several in the community. Chair suggested that MOAA has to work to mitigate that perception. The perception stems from not understanding the process and MOAA has taken steps to set a limit to repeated grant winners. * Screening of *Diaspora in Dialogue* trailer was presented, the film which was done in collaboration with Office of Cable Television and DC Commission on Arts and Humanities. Feedback was as stated for future projects of this kind it would be beneficial to add more regions of Africa and to look at different age groups as well. Limitations of time and resources were discussed. * Commissioner Chime suggested having a trailer to be able to share it on YouTube and other platforms so that it will be publicized before its debut. * Challenges and accomplishments of MOAA/COAA were discussed; which lead to a candid discussion regarding who is responsible to set the meeting agenda (COAA or MOAA). Several suggestions were made; in order to clarify the misunderstanding discussion took place on the abiding laws from DC Government and a decision was made to harmonize the bylaws with COAA’s founding legislation. * The need to constantly align MOAA’s programs with the Mayor’s priorities was discussed. * African Heritage Month scheduled for September 2015. * Participation for PanaFest, on September 26, 2015 was discussed. * DC Africa Festival and cancer/ health walk (in connection with FiT DC) being considered for September 2015. * Bylaws correction will be made and finalized. | | |
| **NEW BUSINESS** | | | |
| **Upcoming events** | * African Heritage Month September 2015 * Cancer/ health walk – work will continue to secure for the event to take place. | | |

**End of meeting 8:30PM**