

COAA JULY 2015 MINUTES

10/2/2015	6:10PM	OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS	6 th Floor
Meeting Called By	Vice Chairwoman/ Commissioner Loide George		
Secretary	Commissioner Kedist Geremaw		
Attendees	<u>Commissioners:</u> Lafayette Barnes, Louisa Buadoo-Amoa , Nana Ama Afari Dwamena, Chibu Anyanum, Kedist Geremaw , Loide Jorge, Kotheid Nicoue, Ify Nwabukwu, Willar St. Vil, Ikenna Udejiofor, Yinusa A. Yusuff. <u>OAA Dir:</u> Mamadou Samba <u>Outreach Specialist</u> Bezawit Mane <u>Interns:</u> Fatoumata Conde, Isabella Oronye <u>Public :</u> Chinedu Enekue- Constituent , John Jackson, <u>UNIA</u> -African Union Liaison Officer.		
OLD BUSINESS			
September Minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commissioner/ Vice Chair Loide- opened the meeting by welcoming the commissioners and public attendees.		
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minutes were moved for approval with minor corrections by Commissioner Ify Nwabukwu and seconded by Commissioner Kedist Geremaw.		
STANDING BUSINESS			
OAA REPORT Issue 1: Director Mamadou Samba	<p>The Director discussed:</p> <p>6th Annual DC Africa Festival and asked for feedback.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There was an overwhelming positive response about the event with some remarks for future events.Commissioners suggested that MOAA to include COAA in the planning processCommissioner Nicoue, suggested a separate concession area for COAA away from the stage and other activities.Commissioner Louisa commented on having an outdoor event when weather permits <p>COAA member renewals and new appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Slated for October 14/17 for approval, with swearing day yet to be DeterminedFour new members will be sworn in and three renewals of Commissioner terms will take place.The need to increase diversity of Commissioners to (include all corners of Africa). <p>FY 15 Annual report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Plan to report to Mayor's office in December, and COAA chair will submit FY15 Annual Report to the Director <p>FY 16 Planned events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">An outline of FY16 programs and events was presentedCommissioner Kedist asked why September has a packed schedule, and Director Mamadou clarified by pointing out the diversity of the eventCommissioner Ify suggested reducing the number of events to be more effective. <p>Introduction of MOAA's new intern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Isabella Ononye is MOAA's Outreach Intern. <p>Policy update- Encouraged all involved to testify, write letters or appear on planned</p>		

COAA/MOAA

**Community input/
public Discussion**

**Issue 2:
COAA Sub Committee
update**

hearings about :

- UDC Dream Amendment Act of 2015
- Local resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2015

Vice-chair Loide opened the forum for discussion on several topics:

- Upcoming open forum with the African Diaspora. Deputy Director Heran and commissioner Ikenna will co- chair the event.
- COAA/ MOAA retreat will take place to further a great working relationship between the two groups. To create a better communication, and to focus on the overall vision of the Office.
- Holiday Party is planned to welcome new commissioners and to say farewell to Commissioners whose time has expired.
- The need to stay connected with outgoing commissioners.
- Updating by-laws on open meeting Act assessment

Commissioners Afari-Dwamena and Nicoue reported on their joint project of community outreach and initiatives. They submitted a brief synopsis on a project they jointly worked within the last month, addressing the objective, community partner activities, and expected outcomes of the initiative.

- Feedback from commissioners was to collaborate with other organizations, not to duplicate the work OAA is doing but to integrate these initiatives.
- MOAA's Outreach Specialist Bezawit stressed the need for COAA and MOAA to work in coordination.

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Commissioner Barnes reported on the Regional Advisory Board and gave a summary of the focus on group's strategy. Questions they have discussed include: Who are we as a group? How can we organize and mobilize communities? How do we plan to work on policy and budgetary issue? And how do we support the African Heritage bill in Congress?

- Commissioner Ikeanna suggested focusing on the goal of registering Africans to vote and to check with the board of election how to go about doing it.
- Concluded by discussing issues for the second planned meeting which will focus on how to structure the Regional Advisory Board without reinventing the wheel and establishing a permanent place for an African cultural center.

Commissioner St. Vil reported on the Public Forum Task Force. The main focus of the forum has to be to listen to the needs and concerns of the community and not for Commissioners to lead the conversation.

Commissioners Yusuf and Louisa gave heartfelt farewell speeches as they are the two outgoing Commissioners. They promised to support the work of COAA.

Public attendees J. Johnson and C. Enekwe thanked COAA/ MOAA, on their respective roles as Diaspora members and the chance to be heard as they offer remarks and suggestions.

By-laws will be completed with amendments.

<p>ISSUE 3: Public comment</p> <p>ISSUE 4: Unfinished business</p>	
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Upcoming events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 4 2015- A public forum will be conducted by COAA/ MOAA at 5:30pm. • December 5th COAA/ OAA Retreat. • December 13, Holiday Party @3pm.

End of meeting 8:20PM