

COAA Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2012

Attendees:

Loide Jorge, Jean Francis Varre, Lafayette Barnes, Yinusa Yusuff, Ify Nwabukwu, Tereguebode Goungou
OAA Staff: Ngozi Nmezi
Public: Sylvie Bello, Bothilde Diouf, Awa Sall, Jeffery Allen

I. **Commission Chair Discussion:**

- a. Review of the month of July's minutes
- b. COAA Retreat details – affirmed retreat date to be 10-27-2012
- c. Discussion on rescheduling public forum on recent immigration laws (deferred action for DREAMers and secure communities) : Explained to COAA that despite affirmation from USCIS and DC officials attendance, there was low community response. In an effort to reach as many people as possible, OAA/COAA decided to take meeting “to the community” rather than them coming to us at Reeves. Discussed scheduling a new date in the future.

II. **Updates and Announcements from OAA:**

- a. 3rd Annual DC Africa Festival new date/details: Asking for all hands on deck from commissioners and last minute push for getting the word out to community. Including rain or shine venue(s).

III. **Old Business and Discussion:**

COAA Committee Assignment email presentation schedules – asked commissioners to provide their presentations via email no later than September 28, 2012.

IV. **Public Comment:**

COAA introduced themselves and members of Public introduced themselves.

Comments by Sylvie Bello (community member):

Requested that a health fair specifically for the African constituents be provided within the District ASAP. Requested that the DACA workshop be rescheduled ASAP. Ms. Bello also asked that COAA meeting info be posted on line.

Director of OAA responded: That there was a health fair scheduled, that was postponed for reasons outside of OAA's control, but that it would be rescheduled. Also stated that DACA too would be rescheduled.

Chair of COAA responded: Agreed that a DACA forum (specifically directed towards stakeholders and videotaped for YouTube) could and should be rescheduled for a date between Sept. 23-30. COAA agreed to research venues for a later/larger public forum in various community venues where we could easily draw the African constituent community out. Suggested venues included, St. Augustine's, All Souls and Omega churches and/or UDC and HU campus.

- V. **COAA Announcements:** Chair reminded commissioners to mark calendars for retreat on October 27 and to submit subcommittee presentations via email no later than September 28.

VI. **Adjournment**