

COAA Meeting – February 12th, 2014

Called to order at 6:25pm

Present

Lafayette Barnes, Sherif El Hassan, Ify Nwabukwu, George Banks, Louisa Buadoo-Amoa, Tereguebode Goungou, Loide Jorge, Nana Seshibe, Mamadou Samba, Yinusa Yusuff and Chime Asonye (Skype).

Joined by Ngozi Nmezi, Samia Ahmed, Tsedey Aragie, Jonathan Eigege, Anthony Chuukwu & Steve Kalifa Yumay

Committee Reports

Health and Human Services - Ify & Sherif discussed efforts to create a database for African medical personnel for volunteering services and donations. Outreach efforts to raise awareness on specific diseases during selected months were also discussed – for example, outreach for cancer awareness during specific Breast Cancer or Diabetes months.

Language Access – Goungou discussed the poster issued by the Office of Human Rights and suggested that more African languages need to be added to the Language Access list, including adding Tigrinya, for example.

The remaining of the committee reports were tabled due to severe weather conditions.

Announcements

- Arrival of new Commissioners and new OAA Deputy Director.

Anthony Chuukwu, Executive Director of Citiwide Computer Training Center presented the history and operations of his community center and accentuated on the need for an African Community Center for:

- Computer and education training center
- Provide a health navigation outlet to promote enrollment in new healthcare program for those who qualify.

Steve Kalifa Yumay, President/ CEO of Capital View joined via conference call and discussed collaboration in promoting diaspora economic development.

- Loide and George Banks debriefed on their meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff to discussed having an African Community Center in the District, including the creation of an intra-district task force to help identify location. Additional subjects discussed were:
 - How to pay for the space
 - Consider other options to house the African Community Center, such as looking at schools that are closed and schools that are partially available or that might have a floor to share
 - The need to better define the needs for having center and provide documentation of African Community Center in other jurisdictions and how they collaborate with local and state governments

Actions – Mamadou Samba intends to conduct research on the subject matter

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm