

**Minutes of Wednesday, January 5, 2011 Meeting**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

David Wilma, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	A
Melissa Bartholomew, Member	P	Martha Norberg, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Vice Chair:	P*	Pat Sainsbury, Member:	P
George Davenport, Member:	P*		
Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P		

*(Absent = A, Present = P, Excused = E, \* = by phone)*

Guests: Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director

**Minutes** - The minutes of the December 16 meeting were adopted.

**Constituent Letters** – Receipt of constituent letters was acknowledged. Dorry Elias-Garcia of MEDC invited board members to their March meeting. David will acknowledge her invitation; the location has not yet been determined.

**El Centro de la Raza Meeting** – Members present were impressed by the strength and stimulation of the El Centro meeting. There is great appeal in conducting business in a public forum, with the attendant interaction. It was observed that it was good for the public to see the Board as an organized and business-like group. The group collectively seemed to feel an increased energy and vibrancy resulting from the public interaction. While members clearly enjoyed the opportunity to meet in public, the question was raised about how to handle confrontations that may occur in such a forum. Michael agreed to investigate available training for such situations. Kathryn Olson received praise for her handling of questions from the public.

David will pursue the possibility of future meetings at El Centro, with MEDC, and others. Nancy will contact Dept. of Neighborhoods to identify possible meeting locations in the various quadrants of the city. Kathryn suggested that a possible host may be SPD's African-American Advisory Committee, which meets third Thursdays at the same time as OPARB's evening meetings. The contact is Paul Bascomb. Melissa will connect with the minority bar associations as possible hosts.

Also acknowledged was SPD's sincere effort to reach out in new ways to increase their effectiveness and connectivity in the community.

**Report from OPA Director** – Kathryn noted that the John T. Williams inquest started Monday, January 10. There was discussion about the inquest process, and that no decision would be expected about whether or not charges would be filed. The City has no role in this process. There will be jury selection (6-member jury), and written interrogatories to the jury with questions that are available ahead of time, and then the King County Prosecuting Attorney will consider other information as well prior to making his decision.

Kathryn will be absent for the next OPARB evening meeting – she will be in New Orleans for the NACOLE mid-winter board meeting. They have received 30 proposals for presentations at the New Orleans conference.

**Report from OPA Auditor** – Anne summarized that she would be working with Kathryn and SPD to address how the recommendations in her report will be implemented. She also

mentioned the Stranger's interest in the City's next steps with regard to police accountability. The Stranger is hosting a forum on the topic on February 3.

See: <http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2011/01/06/the-stranger-will-sponsor-a-police-accountability-forum-on-feb-3>

**File Review Program** – Everyone has reviewed the available case reports at SPD with the exception of Martha, who's not yet been able to go there. David wants to establish a process for reviewing, 3 members to a file review team that will work together regularly. George, Pat and Melissa agreed to form the "A" Team, and together they will craft a request to OPA for a class of files, starting with use of force.

They will look for fairness, completeness, trends, patterns. What is the goal – is it a public report or simply information to be used within the board? Do they intend to use established criteria? Kathryn felt it would be helpful to know what criteria OPARB is using. Two areas were identified – OPA's work and trends in internal policies and procedures. Michael felt the group was still in an orientation phase with regard to case files, and reminded them that they are able to ask or look for specifics in specially identified areas.

Kathryn felt that OPARB's review is time-consuming and may be redundant, since she and the auditor also review files. Both the auditor's and director's recent reports commented on this issue. David felt that the board still needs to go through the process to determine for itself if the process is flawed. The board provides oversight, so for that reason alone, it's important to conduct this type review to inform themselves, in addition to gaining public credibility. The cumbersome work all goes to being better informed and better serving the public. The suggestion was made to continue to review cases with the goal of a report, just to gain a common understanding and knowledge base. It was mentioned that use of force cases filed are more than 100/year, and most are not sustained. This led to a discussion of the importance of educating the public about "normal tactics" and why they're used, which would increase understanding in the public arena.

**Work Group Reports - Diverse Communities** – Martha has been working with the Women's Commission, which is partnering with the GSBA (Greater Seattle Business Association) on a luncheon to be held January 19. SPD's Dick Reed will be there at a "Meet the Chief" opportunity (although it's unclear at this time whether Chief Diaz will be able to attend).

**George and Tina** met December 29 with SPD officers at a Guild meeting. It was a packed room and there was a good tone to the conversation. Their basic concerns are establishing what serious offenses are, and they're desirous of more activation and engagement by the sergeant in lieu of investigations (e.g., rudeness complaints). They would like increased support from command; they currently feel unsupported. They say the effect of feeling unsupported is a tendency to depolice, which further concerns them. They strongly support the need for accountability and understand that an accountability system is necessary, although they disagreed on what that accountability looks like. The officers want a better definition of "serious misconduct".

Tina and George are still processing all the input received from that meeting. They recommend that other members experience similar exposure to officers as a group – they found it very informative, and an important step to beginning an ongoing conversation. Tina reiterated her recommendation to read the book she mentioned in a recent email – *"I Love a Cop"* by Elaine Kirschman, and both strongly encouraged members to go on ride-alongs (Tina or Kathryn will help arrange). David asked George and Tina to summarize their experience in bullet points.

The idea was floated of having a joint meeting in the community with the Guild or SPD. Tina will inquire about it, but is not terribly hopeful. She countered with the idea of an evening meeting held at a precinct.

**Classifications and Findings** – Nothing to report. This may be on hold pending the outcome of the Guild contract.

**Outreach** – Melissa volunteered to reach out to various bar associations to get to know them/become known and to inquire about their interest in hosting OPARB meetings in the community. She will start looking at a comprehensive outreach plan. Nancy will update and share the stakeholder list with the board (by next meeting date). Martha and Melissa will reach out to Estela Ortega and Dorry Elias-Garcia. They will ask them specifically, and Nancy will ask the stakeholders collectively, if they want agendas emailed to them.

**Next Board Report** – David is starting to draft the June – December report. Please submit information to him for inclusion.

**Strategic Plan Template** – Martha would like each group member to circulate this form, with any updates, to the rest of the group on a monthly basis.

Pat recommends that everyone read Tab 9 of Kathryn's recent report (Tag Gleason's memo re UOF) and Tab 7 of the same report – SPD's UOF Report.

The regular meeting adjourned at 1:15 and the members went into closed session.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20 at 5:30 in the AI Rochester room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at City Hall. Reception will be closed, so come to the east door on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and knock to be let in.