

**OPARB**  
**Minutes of Thursday, June 16, 2011 Meeting**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

The meeting began at 5:30 pm. There were no changes to the agenda.

**Minutes** - The minutes of the June 1 meeting were adopted.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**Auditor Report** – Anne completed her review of the Street Skills training and reported that the trainers did an excellent job of making changes based on best practices and recent incidents here and elsewhere.

**OPA Director Report** – The Department, and especially OPA, are continuing to respond to DOJ requests for documents and reports. They have provided about 65,000 pages to date. DOJ is continuing to interview community members who have complaints. DOJ recently ended a three-year investigation of the Austin Police Department with a finding of no pattern or practice of excessive force or discriminatory policing. Kathryn observed that Austin is similar to Seattle. SPD will be the first department to roll out their new website, adhering to the City's new "look". They will be live by June 30. Kathryn wants to talk about changing to make the accountability system more accessible. She informed Martha that she has a report relating to use of force cases that she's willing to share with Martha and the group. Kathryn will be out of the office for about 3 weeks in July.

**NACOLE** – Annual conference session summaries will be available soon. Kathryn attended the annual conference of the Canadian (CACOLE) analog to NACOLE and reported an excellent conference covering many of the same issues of concern that NACOLE deals with. Some CACOLE members attend the NACOLE conference; nine new registrations came in to NACOLE shortly after Kathryn's appearance at CACOLE. Kathryn would like to see a joint conference of the two organizations in the near future.

**Mediation** – Mediation referrals are up 2 – 3 times those in previous years. Mediation resolutions have doubled. The difference between referrals and resolutions is due mainly to complainants refusing to mediate. There was discussion of surveys, questionnaires, interviews or other methods of learning why complainants refuse mediation. Dave said that the Board can pick this up as part of the work plan when some current items are disposed of.

**Annual Report** – Drafts went out yesterday for comment.

**Language Policy** – it is planned to revise the current policy both as to content and as to presumptive punishment. That effort has not yet started and Kathryn does not know who will be responsible or how the process will work. She will alert OPARB when the process is decided.

**Community Engagement** – The proposal was approved with lots of praise for Melissa's work on it, including that it reflected Melissa's voice. Melissa graciously called it excellent collaboration among the entire Board and Michael. Next steps will be discussed via email and at our working meeting July 6, but we will try to have next steps in a form to be presented at the Public Safety committee meeting earlier the morning of July 6.

Pat suggested that the group keep in mind the DOJ outcome in Austin. To the extent that community members are pinning their hopes on DOJ, there may be disappointment over an outcome similar to Austin. If this occurs, it would be another point in favor of the Rothman approach in Seattle.

**Diverse Communities** – Nothing to report.

**Classification and Findings** – The work group met just before the OPARB meeting. Their proposal is in final form for OPARB approval, except for one finding that needs to be renamed, so the proposal will be ready for the Board's next meeting.

**Closed File Review** – Steve has reviewed another file. This work and the Community Engagement initiative will be the main subjects of the July 6 working meeting. David noted that we are prohibited from discussing specific cases publicly, but that we probably would want to discuss questions and issues privately with Anne and Kathryn.

**New Meeting Schedule** – The new meeting decided at the retreat was confirmed. The first Wednesday meeting will be a working session. The third Thursday meeting will be a business meeting. Kathryn mentioned that she had heard from community groups that they liked to see us having our meetings in the community and hoped we would do more of that. It was mentioned that having the third Thursday meeting be the business meeting was decided partly to facilitate evening meetings in the community. There were several suggestions, including the African-American Advisory Council, which also meets the third Thursday. Nancy and David will follow up.

**Notes regarding presentation at July 6 Public Safety committee meeting** – per Betsy, the report can be oral. David suggested that Community Engagement project be presented. He will begin to draft a semiannual report, which is not due until after June 30 and will not be presented at the July 6 meeting. He will have the various work groups draft their contributions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Notes taken by Pat Sainsbury and Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21 at 5:30 pm in the AI Rochester room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at City Hall.