

OPARB
Minutes of Thursday, February 16, 2012 Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dale Tiffany, Chair	P	Joe Hawe, Member	P
Melissa Bartholomew, Member	P	Liz Holohan, Member	P
Claudia D'Allegrì, Member	E	Pat Sainsbury, Member	P
George Davenport, Member	A		
Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P		

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

Guests: Chris Stearns, Chair, Seattle Human Rights Commission; Pamela Masterman-Stearns, MEDC Member; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director*

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

Minutes – Minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting were approved.

Chris Stearns, Chair of Seattle Human Rights Commission briefly discussed the SHRC's role, which is to advise council on a broad variety of human rights issues. They receive input from the community. During 2009 and 2010 in particular they received a lot of input regarding police misconduct, including a request to look into the John T. Williams shooting. That case called into question basic human rights, including due process. They observed various demographic advisory councils. They looked at human rights implications in Seattle, and decided to research best practices for police oversight. He attended the NACOLE conference in Seattle and saw what other cities do. He discussed the Los Angeles oversight model in particular, in part because they have the power to do investigations on active cases.

Seattle does not have the level of independence and neutrality in their oversight system, including imposing discipline. Chris provided copies of his testimony to the council's Public Safety, Civil Rights & Technology Committee meeting on February 15, 2012, where he outlined three recommendations from the SHRC regarding enhancement of OPARB's powers to include appeals; creation of a collaborative process between police and citizens; and creation of baseline standards to measure various aspects of policing. While some council members are supportive of SHRC's recommendations, he does not know if there is enough support from the entire council for them to move the recommendations forward.

All agreed that renaming the OPA and the review board would go a long way toward reducing confusion about their roles.

There was general discussion about past SPD efforts to communicate with diverse communities. They are interested in the board's collaborative process idea, but want to wait to hear from DOJ first.

SHRC's most recent report on Police Accountability, dated January 8, 2012, is on their [website](#). Their meetings are held first Thursdays from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room (L280) in City Hall.

OPA Director's Report –

Kathryn discussed the MEDC retreat this Saturday, February 18. SPD has been meeting with the MEDC police accountability task force over the past 12 – 18 months. MEDC is learning

more about SPD, and wants more information about RSJI training efforts. She referred to an MEDC letter to CM Burgess and others from March 2011. Kathryn will send a copy of the letter to Nancy for distribution to the board. On Saturday various SPD representatives will provide information and answer questions. Kathryn plans to provide information on body cameras.

Collaborative Process –

Dale talked to Jay and told him there has been no decision yet about next steps, but will let him know by February 22. He will give him feedback after today's meeting.

There was discussion about the need to develop a communication plan and a strategy for having public meetings.

The board went into closed session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next public meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15 at 5:30 pm in the AI Rochester room on the 2nd floor at City Hall.