

OPARB
Minutes of Tuesday, June 26, 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'Allegri, Member	A	Pat Sainsbury, Member	P
Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P		

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

Guests: Councilmember Nick Licata; Kathryn Olson, OPA Director; Carl Marquardt, Legal Counsel to the Mayor

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the May 17 and June 6 meetings were approved.

NACOLE Attendance - The NACOLE conference in San Diego is October 14 – 18. Joe plans to attend; Claudia may still plan to attend.

Retreat - The retreat was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 2 during the day. Nancy will find a venue in the downtown core.

OPA Director – Kathryn is preparing her January – May report and finds that the number of complaints filed is steady over the period, up slightly in the last month. They are making an effort to refer cases to supervisors for follow up. Kathryn will provide members with citizen complaint process sample correspondence.

Carl Marquardt briefly discussed OPARB's recommendations, DOJ's proposal from March, and the Mayor's counter proposal. No monitor has yet been identified in the DOJ process. He agreed that an essential element of any effective reform requires engaging the community. Dale pointed out that Seattle does not have one community, but a multitude of communities.

Councilmember Licata discussed OPARB's June 8 policy report. Dale explained that much of the impetus for this report is the board's belief, echoed in the community, that the board is not effective as currently legislated.

CM Licata agreed that he wants the oversight function to be unambiguous. While he wants the board to have meaningful input with regard to the director's performance, he has concerns about any major changes in the OPA reporting structure.

CM Licata felt that a review in lieu of appeal, post-closure, was a good idea, but with limitations. He was further concerned that case certification review would need to have internal controls within the board, and may put the board in conflict with the OPA director, to the detriment of the board.

Kathryn commented on compliance reporting and oversight. In the past year the Professional Standards Office was created. The PSO has been designated the overseer of all recommendations. Regular meetings are planned. Kathryn has created a spreadsheet to track

recommendations. She will share her spreadsheet with the board when it is finalized. There is still the opportunity for collaboration between OPA and the board.

CM Licata was concerned about increasing the size of the board, feeling it requires increased resources and can decrease functionality.

In closing, CM Licata asked about OPARB's next steps with regard to discussing this report with other councilmembers. He suggested that the board's approach to other councilmembers be unified, specific, and thoughtful. The Council appreciates help in communicating with citizens, and providing eyes and ears on the community's concerns. Speak up and be heard.

He suggested looking at other oversight systems to see what is working. Overall he felt that the recommendations are positive and strengthen the system. He reminded members to keep the door open to officers; it's important that they see the board as fair. He offered to meet with the board again to discuss strategy.

Nancy will set up a meeting with the OPA Director and Auditor and OPARB members prior to August 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts.

The next scheduled public meeting will be held on Thursday, July 19 at 5:30 pm in the Al Rochester room on the 2nd floor at City Hall