

Minutes of Wednesday, August 4, 2010 Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Patrick Sainsbury, Chair:	P	Steve Freng, Member:	P
Tina Bueche, Member:	P*	Martha Norberg, Member:	E
George Davenport, Member:	P	David Wilma, Member:	P
Sharon Dear, Member:	P	Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P

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

Guests: Kathryn Olsen, OPA Director; Anne Levinson, OPA Auditor Appointee; Five graduate students from the Leadership Institute of Seattle

Minutes - The minutes of the July 15 meeting were adopted.

NACOLE Conference Update – The conference is six weeks away. The minimum number of registrations to break even has been met and exceeded – about 160 registrations to date. There will be an update on the conference in NACOLE’s August newsletter. Kathryn is now focusing her energy on the Wednesday evening reception in the Bertha Knight Landes room in City Hall. The group agreed that David should retain the group’s proxy voting rights for NACOLE. Pat will be a presenter on a panel discussing outreach efforts. He will share his presentation for members’ critical review.

Semiannual OPARB Report – Each work group should draft a paragraph on what they’ve done in their group; what they’ve accomplished and what their plans and goals are. Please submit this information to Pat. Be aware that the Public Safety committee will be looking for these updates on progress. The relevant groups are Use of Force, Diverse Communities, and Outreach.

Lake Union Use of Force and the Franklin High Case - No new information. The criminal investigation is underway. Michael mentioned that the Chief said at his confirmation hearing that he has ordered increased training in the wake of the referenced incidents. To what type training did he refer? Kathryn stated that officers have attended de-escalation training in the past and SPD now is trying to determine what other training is needed. Kathryn asked NACOLE for suggestions for de-escalation training and received very little response. There is a successful program in Massachusetts that brings together juveniles and officers, so Kathryn is pursuing that lead. The DOJ has a new community dialogue program that Seattle has offered to try out. The SPD training unit is doing roll call training on civility, customer service, use of profanity, and common courtesies. The officers participate in a “doughnut dialogue” that brings together officers and youth. The chief is involved in a series of meetings with his critics to get a sense of what’s at the heart of their concerns. Sergeant school will recommence after a hiatus.

El Centro de la Raza – Most board members can attend a Wednesday, 9/29 meeting at 5:30 at El Centro’s office on Beacon Hill, so Pat will confirm that date and time with Estela Ortega. There was discussion about facilitating complaints from the Latino community and of the value of El Centro having volunteers who could help complainants file complaints with OPA. Kathryn mentioned that sometimes complainants are upset that they have to spend time and retell their complaint to the OPA investigator after having an advocate help them file the complaint. She said OPA has capability to take complaints in Spanish.

Outreach - The community is asking for more outreach efforts on OPARB’s behalf. There was discussion about how best to make meaningful connections. One suggestion was to divide our

current contact list into seven groups, with each member responsible for establishing relationships with their group. [For Information – there are 246 organizations on the current contact list, or about 35 organizations per Board member.] Perhaps the various groups could link OPA and OPARB's sites to their websites. Try to tap into existing groups such as Neighborhood Service Centers and Seattle Youth Violence Initiative. Should the Board try to hold their evening meetings out in the community each month? Anne suggested the main issues are helping people understand the OPA process and how to access it, and gaining their trust of the process.

Re-Evaluation – Michael again suggested that the timing is good to reflect on past outreach activities and their effectiveness, reprioritize work plans and goals, to re-evaluate and then step back and discuss next steps. Pat agreed to devote the August evening meeting to that effort.

Meeting Dates and Times – This issue was put on hold until we determine if we'll be holding meetings in the community. The general sentiment was that we should retain the evening meeting rather than convert it to a noon meeting.

Sharon Leaving – Sharon's term is up at the end of August and she does not plan to seek re-appointment. Since she will not be attending the NACOLE Conference, someone else can use her registration. (We will miss you, Sharon!)

Work Groups – George and Tina met with Rich O'Neill of SPOG to learn how to get more feedback from officers. They will attend SPOG's October membership meeting to talk with the attendees. Anne reminded them that SPOG will be in the middle of contract negotiations then.

OPA Disposition System – Kathryn handed out examples of cases that were "Not Sustained", "Administratively Inactivated" and "Administratively Unfounded". David wants to develop a new set of findings for the OPA system and draft a proposal. He plans to gather input, draft a plan, and recheck with SPOG. He will check with Los Angeles Sheriff's and Police Departments and other NACOLE contacts to see what finding categories they use.

Miscellaneous – George, Steve and Anne will not be able to attend the August 19 meeting.

The Mayor sent Pat a thank-you letter for the Board's input on the OPA Auditor, saying the input was helpful.

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. and adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Building Conference Room 370, City Hall.