

**Minutes of Thursday, September 16, 2010 Meeting**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 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
		Michael Pendleton, Consultant:	P

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

Guests: Kathryn Olson, citizens Sandy Restrepo (a law student), Frederico Martinez, Natalie, Alex, Rori, Michael Fuller, Miss Richard, and other unidentified visitors many of whom came from the demonstration regarding the death of John T. Williams that was held earlier in the lobby of City Hall.

**Public Comment** – There was an open discussion with about 15 visitors. They asked how OPARB members are chosen, noting that the current make-up is not very diverse with regard to class or homelessness. Ms. Richard stated that the board still does not understand the issues of racism. Another: Is cultural training available to officers? Kathryn stated that it is, and they are looking for more, relevant training. Another stated that the “brown man” is very fearful, and wanted to know who has sway over the prosecuting attorney (generally only the voters).

A homeless advocate/member of Women in Black stated that it seems like the city is anti-homeless. The homeless are often victims of hate crimes. Why does the board not overturn police decisions? “Who is listening to us?” She says the homeless feel especially targeted in the aftermath of so many police officers being killed. She requested that police who shoot (in the line of duty) should be taken off the street for at least a year to cool down. People in general do not know their rights when it comes to reporting, being interviewed, or asking questions of officers.

Pat asked what the system should do to educate citizens. The visitors agreed that enhancement of the “community policing” role is needed. They feel that people who have a relationship with their police officers in their own neighborhoods feel safer, and they want those closer relationships.

One visitor asked what the Board is doing to educate the public. Pat asked for their suggestions, and noted previous ideas of establishing a Facebook presence, and some of Anne Levinson’s ideas.

How about the use of lapel cameras? Other police departments use them. Seattle is looking into piloting the lapel cameras.

Miss Richard stated that they don’t feel safe, and still feel enslaved. Attorneys run this country, most are not their friends. Something is wrong with the system and the way it treats their citizens.

Michael Fuller made some comments. Both Michael Fuller and Miss Richard objected that only their names and none of their remarks were in the previous meeting’s minutes even though a full paragraph had been devoted to remarks made by Anwar Peace.

A Native American visitor stated that their culture IS their religion, and John T. Williams was killed for practicing his religion. They want an end to the trail of tears.

Kathryn stated that several separate investigations and inquests occur after any shooting, including review by the Firearms Review Board. She agrees that the process is frustrating; answers are not quick, justice is not swift. A visitor complained that the process is so slow – why can’t it be sped up in the aftermath of a murder?

The visitors suggested that the Board go to tent cities to ask them what they can do to improve the system. They noted that our meetings are not accessible, and that many people do not know how to access services or the board’s process.

There was not a quorum of Board members until about 6 p.m. There was general conversation with the visitors until about 5:45, and then the discussion reported above began and continued until about 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes** - The September 1 meeting minutes were adopted.

**NACOLE Conference** – They're taking care of final details. Kathryn shared a draft of a welcome letter to the attendees, and asked for input. She is very pleased with the response; they'd hoped for/needed 100 – 150 registrations and are currently at more than 225. She invited the Board to stop by the hotel lobby bar Sunday at 7:00 p.m. for an informal reception.

OPA's budget funded some scholarships to the conference and reached out to diverse communities such as the African-American, Native American and Youth communities, to ask them to attend. It was mentioned that Anwar Peace is attending using Sharon's Dear's reservation.

**NACOLE Proxy Vote** – Kathryn is running for President of NACOLE. David was instructed how to vote on this and other issues.

**Lake Union Case** – This is still in the Law Department for consideration of criminal prosecution. An agreement has been reached with the Guild regarding the OPA timeline (180-day rule).

**Franklin High Case** -- The Franklin High School case is still under investigation

**City Attorney's Advice** – Pat has contacted Jeff Slayton, and he will meet with the Board at one of our upcoming meetings.

**El Centro Tour** – Pat will distribute materials prior to the September 29 meeting.

**Outreach** - Michael suggested that the El Centro meeting be considered the start of a second round of outreach efforts. Groups tend to be more galvanized after a controversial incident than they were during the Board's last outreach efforts, and may be more interested in engaging with the Board. Perhaps informal relationships are a better approach than the procedural OPA route when it comes to educating citizens how to report incidents and communicate with SPD/OPA.

We all need to look at how to build bridges and systems on a long, and often tedious, basis. Everyone reacts to incidents, but we need to focus on the long-term systems as well.

OPARB's role may be to determine why citizens are not accessing the system and how to build trust in the system, in addition to educating them about the system.

Michael suggested that the Board can take stock of community concerns. The Board can go to the auditor to ask for review of ongoing cases with an eye to those issues.

It was noted that there will be a panel at the NACOLE conference on use of deadly force which includes Jennifer Shaw of ACLU as a panelist. Jennifer's topic will include how to work with communities in the aftermath of shootings.

**Work Plan** – Steve feels that outreach is the Board's highest priority, rather than doing studies right now. His view on his previous research on how SPD handles homeless citizen is that it is too hard to follow – there is no designation as "homeless" on SPD reports, and the issue gets lost in other categorizations. Michael stated that the Board is council's only window to look in on these issues. He suggests touching base with relevant council members following an incident to find out what their concerns are. With regard to the strategic plan, Tina is reworking the goal language for the 1-c item she agreed to lead. She will participate on the use of force project, but will not take the lead.

The meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held October 6, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in the Boards & Commissions Room L280, City Hall.