

**OPARB**  
**Minutes of Wednesday, February 2, 2011 Meeting**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

**Minutes** - The minutes of the January 20 meeting were adopted.

**Public Comment** – Nancy has received, via the OPA email account, 14 of the same form letters about the Ian Birk/John T. Williams shooting case.

**McKay-Chadwell Letter** – Discussion around the recent letter from former U.S. Attorney Mike McKay to Mayor McGinn alleging a cover up. Alleged abuses are linked to public disclosure and non-sustained findings from OPA.

**Auditor Report** – Nothing at this time.

**OPA Director Report** – Kathryn just returned from a NACOLE midwinter meeting. Conference planning is progressing, and it already looks like an interesting line-up. NACOLE is expected to send out additional information in the next month or so.

**File Review Program** – To access case files outside business hours, contact Kathryn and she'll make arrangements on a case-by-case basis. Members of the file review subcommittee can have an informal discussion with Kathryn and Anne with any questions, concerns or observations that arise in regard to file review. They'll be happy to provide clarifying information. Martha raised the concern about the notes she's made when reviewing cases – are they subject to public disclosure, etc.? The group felt that if they are her working notes that they probably would not be, but if she shared them, they probably would be. Nancy gave Martha the phone number of the Legislative Department's Public Records Act Officer for further information.

**Work Group Reports** –

Diverse Communities – Martha shared an article from Santa Barbara about recent measures taken in that city to place obstructions in certain areas to discourage the homeless from loitering. Martha wondered if asking for OPA files relating to criminal trespass would be a way to look at cases involving homeless people, since it is a common charge. OPA files are not filed or classified by type of charge. David suggested that Martha look into the SMC and review policies around trespass, or ask how many trespass cases are filed each year. Kathryn informed them that the trespass ordinance is currently going through changes.

Data Mining – Kathryn reported that updates to their current program make it easier to run additional reports with information that was not previously easy to capture. The department is looking at a web-based system which will be more user-friendly. In the meantime, this recent patch allows them to mine additional information out of the existing database. Their intake system is being changed to capture much more information. She expects little progress in the next couple weeks, since they have a

change of personnel at OPA and many other things going on. She said there have been no issues or problems recently related to the 180 day requirement.

File Review – Pat drafted a letter to request a class of files; the letter was approved with a minor change and will be transmitted to Kathryn. There was a discussion of how to field questions from the public if they realize that OPARB has reviewed these specific files.

Findings & Classification – Kathryn raised the issue of OPARB looking into the findings & classification system with Rich O’Neill, telling him she wanted to work with him. He seemed open. Again, Kathryn is too busy to readdress this in February – perhaps in March she’ll be able to take this up again. The work group agreed to set a meeting in March.

Community Meetings – Melissa is trying to identify somewhere each month to have a meeting in the community. She reported that the African American Bar Association/Loren Miller group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in March and is interested in hosting and meeting with us.

Reminder about the “Where do we go from here” panel discussion organized by The Stranger, which will be held in the Bertha Knight Landes room Thursday, February 3 from 7 – 9 p.m. “...the panel will focus primarily on future steps for the Seattle Police Department and local residents. Discussion will touch on questions about whether change is needed in police training, equipment, culture, review, policy and procedure, discipline, etc. Also the forum will discuss what the public may need to learn about Seattle police. Most everyone knows about the high-profile, controversial incidents of the last year; we’re not there to rehash them (and many details are off the table completely because several cases remain under investigation). (Quoted from email from Dominic Holden, news editor of The Stranger).

**Semi-Annual Report** – The report was approved as submitted.

**Training** – Michael reported that he’d contacted Force Science about video evidence training. Most of their video training is embedded in existing programs that are geared toward police investigators, and to create something for citizens, they’d have to develop it. They’re willing, but board members were concerned about cost. They offer a certification curriculum, which Kathryn Olson has taken. It’s 4 days and costs \$1500, and while it’s open to law enforcement, they would welcome OPARB members. Kathryn mentioned that Grant Fredericks of Spokane has similar expertise. Steve mentioned that the video analyses he was exposed to at the NACOLE conference in Austin were very meaningful.

Michael reported that the book he read about handling potentially difficult public meetings, *Standing in the Fire*, focuses on the meeting leader, and different ways to be introspective and look into yourself. *Resolving Identity-Based Conflicts* gave more concrete information about addressing conflict, and was less introspective. It deals with understanding where a specific community is coming from and is about being proactive in anticipation of specific meetings.

Nancy will purchase seven copies of *Standing in the Fire* and six *Resolving Identity-Based Conflicts* for Board members.

Outreach – No updates

The Board went into closed session to discuss the consultant contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Notes taken by Nancy Roberts

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17 at 5:30 in the AI Rochester room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at City Hall. Reception will be closed, so come to the east door on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and knock to be let in.