

COAA Commissioners Meeting: July 2021

Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Platform: WebEx (Virtual)

Note-taker: Hellen Fissahaie

Meeting opened at 6:17pm (technical issues before hand)

Meeting called to Order by Hellen Fissahaie at 6:25pm EST

Attendees:

- **Commissioners:** Hellen Fissahaie, Kate Okoye, Theodore Siemengi, Ngatchou, Richmond Danso (Nana), Etayenesh Asfaw
- **MOAA Staff:** Sosina Baruda, Yared Mengistu, Semhal Hagos, Gelila Getaneh

Hellen Fissahaie: Thanks everyone for your attendance. Let's start with updates from MOAA then will proceed to get updates from COAA. We'll conclude with an open discussions and questions. Gelila or Semhal please begin with updates.

Updates: MOAA

Semhal Hagos: MOAA 2022 Grant RFA and Notice has gone out till June 30: Pre-bidders orientation for new applicants, July 16th and more info through newsletter and blast. Grant is focused on funding 501 ©3 organizations in the city serving the African community in the District.

Yared Mengistu: No updates.

Sosina Baruda: Reaching to DC residents on resources, update 100 residents weekly and June 24th was Immigrant Heritage Month. Community Outreach specialists, with program updates have weekly calls to update them on current government resources, call 100 residents per week. There were other events throughout the month.

Gelila: Immigrant Heritage month was a celebration and showcase west African performances and hairdresser was able to provide discounts etc. and in collaboration w/ MO Latin Affairs. Successful event. Plan on doing something similar next year.

Commissioners Update:

Hellen Fissahaie: Challenge is receiving invites for events in short timeframes. To support MOAA, would like events calendar provided in advance to schedule Commissioners to support and attend. In addition, if there are activities or tasks needed of Commissioners provide notice and we can identify ways to support. Are there any new updates from the other commissioners?

Theodore Ngatchou: Challenge hearing speakers. Will look forward to hearing more about the upcoming grants. Another grant from Wells Fargo and Greater Washington grant. Would like office to advocate for African Small businesses to advocate for these grants to be pushed towards some of our communities to benefit from it.

Etayenesh Asfaw: Is the MOAA Grant available on the website and how can people participate?

Semhal Hagos: In the District clearing how website. Will send the link in chat and email everyone.

Theodore Ngatchou: Question regarding the business directory? What is the status?

Semhal Hagos: Will let the office know of this and provide updates later.

Hellen Fissahaie: It is something that is part of COAA strategic plan to support or policy facilitate it. We will continue to define and discuss to get this information up and moving.

Theodore Ngatchou: Is there an update on the status of business cards for commissioners?

Hellen Fissahaie: Yes, it is still on the table, and I have spoke with Aly and we are working towards it.

Link for Grant:

MOAA African Community Grant FY22 https://dcgovict-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/thomas_yabroff_dc_gov/ERi6qp1wEsVFfn72TgJCsWcgBqVMGv8h0q99xYORB8jDqUw?e=8VjxvP

Meeting ends: 6:57pm EST