

Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizen Affairs

March 08, 2018 Meeting Minutes Summary

(2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE)

I. Opening - Call to order by Commission Chair

II. Roll Call

Attendees

Tanisha Murden (Commission)
Nicole Porter (Commission)
James Berry (Commission)
Corwin Knight (Commission)
Eric Weaver (Commission)
Decarlo Washington (Commission)
Clarence Johnson (Commission)
Dolores Mason (Ex-Oficio Member)

III. Voted on February Meeting Minutes

IV. Old Business

- 1) Communication between all the commissioners needs to ongoing.
- 2) Commissioner Porter mentioned that posting of events and other actions should be in a note section that allows individuals to know what is happening.

V. Update Contact Information

- 1) Commissioner Corwin, Commissioner Barry, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Weaver their DCBC email does not work. They will reach out to OCTO for assistance.

VI. Commission Event

- 1) Commissioner Corwin suggested doing an open house. Information booth, mingle and talk to people one on one and let people know that the commission does exists. Also providing light snacks at the event.
- 2) Projected Dates, Location and Time: RISE Center; Saturday April 28th, May 5th, May 12th; 11:00AM-2:00PM

- 3) Commissioner Washington wants to narrow down what the catch of the event will be (what is the slogan). Commissioner Murden, reemphasized it is to get the community connected to the commission and become familiar with goal of the commission.
- 4) Commissioner Murden mentioned the need to do outreach to different wards. Not just doing it at the MORCA office, not hosting the commission meeting in the MORCA office every month there needs to be more of a presence out in all 8 wards.

VII. Annual Report

- 1) Commissioner Barry did a briefing of the annual report and mentioned this was done in 2012 when there was another chairman. There are some facts and the biographies of the commissioners. Also mentioned there were recommendations made by the commission.
- 2) Mentioned there were a number of consistent meetings that were taking place
- 3) Barry mentioned that the agendas were put in the annual report to highlight what was discussed
- 4) Commissioners discussed what outreach events would go in there-turkey, holiday
- 5) The goals and priorities of the commission

VIII. Discussing of Goals in the Annual Report

- 1) Commission reviewed the goals that were listed in 2012.
- 2) Priorities for 2018 should be centered on voting.
- 3) Commissioner Barry talked about the ex-officio members in the commission and the need to bring those members together and what they are doing to advance the commissions goals within their organizations.
- 4) Commissioner Porter suggested following up, to be in touch with each of the ex-officios between meetings and gauge and assess their engagement. And if they don't come to the meetings they need to do a commission check with the agencies that do not have a presence. Commissioner Barry says that we need to have more of an open dialogue with these members to be engaged. To develop initiatives that might work and how we can strengthen the ex-officio members to promote change.
- 5) Commissioner Murden wants the biographies turned in tomorrow so they can include that into the annual report.

IX. New Business

- 1) Commissioner Murden brings up a point that there have been several issues when the community has problems with agencies that come out to do outreach and don't provide resources. She specifically mentioned that there were issues on Potomac Garden.
- 2) Commissioner Porter, asked if individuals who cannot get to the agencies how can they help them (the community) as the commission. The transportation might be an issue.
- 3) Public member mentioned that the library would be a great place to host meetings and have the commission go a hold a town hall.
- 4) Public member mentioned that she wants some time on the agenda

to come and brief the commission on the progress of the Portal. Commissioner Washington mentioned that it would be wonderful to have a returning citizen working on that and building it up.

- 5) Commissioner Corwin mentioned that if individuals are not ready for the change, the venue will not help change the outcome.

X. New Business cont.

- 1) Commissioner Porter suggested that the commission have access/knowledge of the events that MORCA hosts. Also what was the success rate and what could have been the issues that led to attrition. Suggested that the commission brainstorm possible workshops that MORCA can host. Develop a toolkit of the types of workshops that work for individuals.
- 2) Commissioner Corwin suggested we table that for now and focus on the event. Commissioner Porter, will be in touch with Ms. Martinez from MORCA to see why there is no notice on the workshops and how they can get more involved; she wants to know what is available to the reentry community.

XI. New Business cont.

- 1) Porter suggests that they add check in on reentry programs and content in the city for the month on the agenda. (**Voted on this motion**)
- 2) Self-employment workshop, Commissioner Porter talked about this and that this is something that her organization works on. 508 Kennedy Street.
- 3) Commissioner Murden mentioned that commissioners need to show up to the events that other commissioners are having. Commissioner Weaver has an event every other Wednesday.

XII. Voted on Agenda as it was written

XIII. Meeting Adjourned