

Draft Minutes of the Open Government Advisory Group meeting on April 5, 2018

Attending

- Tiffany Crowe, Chair - Public Member
- Karuna Seshasai - representative of the Mayor's Office of General Counsel
- Alan Karnofsky - representative of the Office of the City Administrator
- David Tseng - representative of OCFO
- Rebecca Katz, representative of the Executive Office of the Mayor
- Elaine Block, office of atty general
- Victoria Wassmer, representative of the Deputy City Administrator/Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
- Jay Melder, representative of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
- Marie Whitaker - representative of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
- Tom Moir - representative of the Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel
- Shannon Turner - Public Member
- Josh Tauberer - Public Member
- Robert Becker - Public Member
- Kathryn Pettit - Public Member
- Justin Grimes - Public Member
- Richelle Russell, standing in for the designee of the Deputy Mayor for Education
- Sandra Moscoso, Public Member [came after minutes were approved]
- Julie Kanzler - representative of the Chief Technology Officer, OCTO [came after minutes were approved]
- Barney Krucoff, Vice-Chair - the Chief Data Officer of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, OCTO [came after minutes were approved]

Members of the public present

- Alex Howard, Sunlight Foundation
- Kristi Overgast - Open Gov Hub
- Katerina Rubello, Open data enterprise
- Unnamed resident who likes data
- Another resident who is a consultant.

Not attending

- Traci Hughes - Director, Office of Open Government
- Clarence Wardell - Public Member
- Faith Leach - representative of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity
- V. David Zvenyach - designee of the Council of the District

Reached out to the Council to replace David Z., now waiting for Council Office of the Secretary to get back to Tiffany/Alan.

Should we not do meeting minutes anymore

Tiffany: Posing for discussion.

Bob: We need them as a backstop.

Kathy: I am not going to rewatch a video but I will skim written minutes to refer to past conversations. And Josh and I don't mind taking notes.

Tiffany: If there are no objections we'll keep doing it.

David: Others I'm sure would be glad to share responsibility of taking notes.

Shannon: Same as Kathy.

Roll call

See above.

Approval of meetings minutes, with copy edits.

January, March minutes approved by voice vote - no one opposed.

Formation of committees (post PPT deck?)

Tiffany - Shared previous list of groups and proposed list of new groups for discussion.

Bob - How do open meetings, FOIA, data Policy interact with legislative affairs group.

Tiffany - At last meeting, several comments came up related to getting information about legislation or composing opinions.

Sandra - Maybe legislative group will form as needed.

Kathy - Legislation will probably be based on people's interests e.g. OMA.

Justin - Are groups thematic or functional?

Tiffany - Traci has said we should focus on helping groups comply with OMA, we should be actively helping.

Bob - That's an agency outreach function.

Tiffany - We've talked about getting agencies in the room here. That would be the outreach to the agencies, not necessarily the technical issue.

Justin, Bob - The other (thematic) proposed committees seem fine [room seems to agree].

Becky - Not clear to me if agency outreach also spans those categories - the outreach will be about open meetings, data policy, FOIA, etc.

Tiffany - Everyone one of these will touch on the others. It's been difficult to get agencies to trust us and show up here. We could define agency outreach generally. A lot of what Barney talks about is compliance - I was looking to him to hear what the goals are . trying to narrow them enough to define what we should be doing there. Agency outreach will give us credibility as a group and be separate from the other items.

Bob - When we've talked about the outreach group, it was envisioned not to just help gov figure out data and records but also to get to the public to tell them what data is available, how to use

it. There's an internal and external function. Encouraging agencies - help them function in the community, in the same way that we want the public to use the data to influence the agencies.

Tiffany - We won't get to those on this meeting, but. Goal - have groups that have actionable priorities by the end of this meeting.

Kathy - Six committees may be too many. Let's move ahead where there's traction and interest. I don't think we can have five active staffed committees.

Bob - Combine OMA and FOIA committees? / Karuna echoed this later.

Tiffany - we have come together on what is important. If people are engaged and care about this, we could get this turnout.

Jay - Why separate agency outreach and public outreach?

Tiffany - Are we attending events run by outside groups? Does OGAG have Twitter?

Bob - Envisioned to include helping people use the data. Including tools, may mean working for toots for DC.

Tiffany - This is all to be defined.

Public comment

Alex- what part of the meeting is happening with the Open Govt. It is a point of major concern that Traci is not here.

Tiffany - Traci was invited to the meeting. Her employment is not part of the open govt advsory group. The process by which her replacement is chosen is not on the agenda today. How do we collaborate with that office? How is it a productive, constructive partnership?

Alex - Raising concerns that the job posting for this office would put it underneath BEGA and is of public concern.

Tiffany - it is in your interest to have this group be effective.

Alex - it is a data policy.

Josh - I'd like to second Alex's concern.

Agency - green room

Data policy - back of this room -

Public communications - blue room - Sandra

Break out for 20 minutes.

OMA/FOIA Breakout Group

Bob - Should get rid of FOIAExpress.

Barney - I'm trying to get FOIAExpress to reach its potential before throwing it away.

Tiffany - Since there are only six of us, combining FOIA/OMA seemed logical.

Bob - There's legislation pending about it: omnibus transparency bill, bill about sealing criminal case records. They cover OMA, FOIA, open government office.

Barney - We're doing open data. There are parts of data policy touching on open government office.

Tiffany - There's interest in policy around Traci's replacement at office of open government, and if we don't have a policy group, it could be in this group.

Bob - Since BEGA is independent, we don't have any authority over it.

Barney - Well OGAG isn't in charge of anything, really.

Karuna - There are gray areas in OMA and FOIA and the Administration may want to update outdated regs and OGAG could be helpful for what the modernization should look like.

Bob - Most of that has been addressed in proposed legislation but Councilmember Allen isn't interested in transparency and hasn't moved it.

Karuna - I'd recuse myself from votes here. This puts government members in a difficult position.

Josh - Gov members can more easily make recs to their own agencies than to the Mayor or Council?

Karuna - Exactly.

Tiffany - OGAG gov members could be providing technical advice, i.e. expertise.

Bob - In practice it has not worked like this, like when EOM chose FOIAExpress EOM didn't consult office of open government.

Tiffany - How do we get to the point where we can provide that assistant.

Bob - We can make a recommendation about how that interaction should happen.

Karuna - OGAG could be researching e.g. what other FOIA portals are used in other cities.

Tiffany - So this group would be researching best practices related to OMA and FOIA.

Bob - How do we have a more wholistic approach to e.g. defining FOIA exemptions.

Tiffany - OGAG as a center of knowledge.

Barney - Want to get more agencies to use FOIAExpress.

Bob - Is that agency outreach?

Karuna - We could be pinpointing weaknesses, e.g. particular agencies with large FOIA backlogs.

Bob - Regarding OMA, public bodies don't fit under agency outreach - they're not within deputy mayors.

Tiffany - We could be identifying public bodies that have a need.

Josh - These are things we could have been suggesting to BEGA re: their job search for the office of open government.

Karuna - Need better email retention policies. Lack of regs are slowing FOIA down and making OCTO be stretched thin.

Josh - Add something about BEGA?

Actions that the group landed on:

- Updating statutes and regs for FOIA, OMA, OOG, and email retention or data retention generally.
- Identify other problems holding agencies back from compliance.
- Resolve whether BEGA-OOG relationship is in scope for OGAG.

Data Policy

Areas of focus - barriers, celebration

- Julie, Richelle, Victoria, Justin
- Legislative - committees weren't required - like zoning has a lot of data.
- 2 prongs - persuading
- Higher participation among outside groups
- Activities -
- Justin - under the old version, we evaluated agencies.
- Victoria - give them a grade/assessment.
- Rogue data bounty - people who come and want to help - will look on the web that is on the web, but not in the data inventory
- Julie - can turn a score board into a leader board. Could not be number of data sets, but could be the ratio of data sets published/open data.
- Kathy: Opportunities to celebrate success/progress
- Justin - what would be a legislative supported data policy - what is 2.0
- Richelle - helping agencies understand how to upkeep their data sets, strategies for making sure that the agencies are maintained.
- Julie - this group further influencing group - to get more power, we need to urge a budget change. We are asking agencies to do more with the same number of people. They need an agency data officer. MPD is hiring a agency data officer at the highest technical level. Advocate for shifts to budget. We would make written recommendations and attend council meetings on agencies. There may be some lines
- Julie - you should go to the budget meetings
- Scope of idea: Identifying barriers - desk research on why agencies would resist.
- Justin - why did you succeed - understanding drivers

Justin - have we articulated a series of recommendations to the policy

Three long-term - (Justin

Victoria's - mayor's order - where in the evaluation - hotwash a year later. Where are areas where there are gaps. Information gathering.

Justin - is there anyone doing an existing assessment of this? Where we do stand currently? Quant and qual...

Julie - 1 challenge for us - what data are we able together vs the universe.

Victoria - some is dated - what is out there that wasn't on the inventory? It may be there on the web somewhere, but hasn't been updated in 15 minutes.

Justin - triangulate on FOIA request - are those on the list?

Richelle - what datasets are being FOIAed - and engage with agencies around saving the time.

Justin - US open data census - what is missing?

Julie - we are ranked 6th out of 100. We worked towards it.

Short-term - information gathering - look at see - identifying barriers.

Victoria - what are the challenges on resources?

Julie - we can put as much pressure we want on the agencies, but they can only respond with what capacities they have. It is possible to get things done by re-allocation. But it will be easier with help from the top.

Julie - measure and qualify where we are

KP - think about the right indicators...

Victoria - lead to legislative fixes, best practices, resources, external activities and events
190 datasets open, but not on the data portal

Justin - I don't know who wants my things - public doesn't know who to ask

Code for DC - takeaway - how do we act as a conduit to get the loop completed - #1 item they asked for is a name.

Barney - concerns - hard to maintain and spam

Julie - what we do have - on github - there is an issues repo - already completed data request. We can they get them more involved. OCTO can't answer the questions because we don't originate the data.

Justin - action items.

By 5/3 we will do X - outline/plan for assessment - topics, approach, questions.

Julie - superpower - ½ DC and ½ staff.

Barney - suggests to change title to open data.

Justin - summary of events or announcements - anything coming up. Job openings. Preamble to public comments - prompts for challenges, questions,

May 5 - innomaytion -

REPORT-OUT

OMA-FOIA - Josh

Discussed hindrances for agencies being compliant - FOIA express, email retention policy, whether we know wh

- Scope - updating statutes on FOIA, email retention
 - Identifying problems that are holding up for compliance
 - Resolving whether BEGA open government office is or is not in scope

OPEN DATA

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PUBLIC OUTREACH and COMMUNICATIONS

- Shannon - Area of focus - partially outreach of what the group does and what the outcomes of what we generate are. Data and open government are usable, accessible and bridging the gap between what we are doing and what residents need to know. How we bring people into the conversation. Theme based outreach - "transportation week" - outreach to people doing this work anyway. Recruiting agencies to go to those meetings. Having agencies give us information to talk to the public. Short-term - social media, website up to date, notifying public of data publications

Bob - alot of it is agency centric, but there are public bodies and the outreach needs to include them as well.

Justin - adding to the agenda - announcements, jobs, events meeting time.

Bob - Barney has created an email group - we should just email announcement throughout the month.

AGENCY OUTREACH

Marie - Technical assistance with data openness, culture of transparency, advocacy for additional resources, ease of compliance of OMA, and what OGAG does. In the short term: Figure out the main challenges that agencies face - maybe this is a task for multiple OGAG groups. Looking into FOIA data for a better understanding of agency capacity. Identifying bright spots in the government to set a standard for others. Create resources and guides for agencies and public bodies to use. For next meeting, creating a google doc.

Barney - Remember the interagency data team - great place to come on the agenda.

Karuna - Toolkit is great and something to work with office of open government on. A cheat-sheet would be a great thing for agencies to have.

Kathy - We (the olh GAG data literacy subgroup) have been working on a guide for agencies that we haven't wrapped up yet.

Tiffany - themes of barriers - saw agency outreach group as going beyond compliance. Because you want to share data based on what the public wants to see. Go beyond the bare minimum.

Bob - one of the chronic issues - when we hear regularly from some ANCs - we are part-time. ANCs are not covered by OMAs. Some ANCs stream all their meetings and do comply and meet FOIA obligations. Have them teach each other how to do this.

Justin - one advantage of this - we could do a road show. Add ourselves to the agenda. Take opportunities to talk to ANCs about how they are doing FOIA.

Barney - I'm torn. OCTO could offer everyone email and websites that would make it easier to comply. They are likely to be high-need. There's more that could be done if we didn't view them as outside the government.

Tiffany - if someone in the group was a recorder, we can add them to the notes. Email and share the committee assignments.

May goal - meant to be done internally. Read the emails

Member of the public - Questions - my question - who is the contact person about transparency in an agency - laws being applied in different ways in different people. When the public brings something to the government, that the response is public - what is the determination?

Example - vacant house registration - convoluted and shrouded in dark mystery. People going through angst and misapplication of the law. What they send you back doesn't make any sense. Automatic registration - and you fight it online and it is all public and no one is getting response. Bring light to government actions. Need to know decisions are made...

Julie - we are the open government advisory group. We should be issuing advice. As staff and public members, we represent a broad range of views and have import behind it. We should make statements and share with mayor and make those statements public. To that end, the OMA and FOIA, they wanted to put in their set of topics whether the BEGA issue should be a topic. Can we answer that question as a group?

Tiffany - it was discussed at the meeting. Group of public and govt are very passionate. We would need

Justin - Is the topic in scope?

It is in the basic tenets of the group was to make recommendations to other. As long as there's time allotted, it is constructive. If there is a topic to recommend, there is time to discuss and vote.

Josh - it was brought up 6 weeks ago and people could have learned more.

Tiffany - Traci was here and at the last meeting, the resolution of the group was that her specific situation was that her situation was not in scope. But the interaction and role of office of open govt did matter. The director of office of open government will also have a role.

Justin - everything is in scope. There's alot around this topic. Scope of the position, how the position is filled, etc. We should ha

Julie - as OGAG, if we are not going to address it, there should be a reason.

Bob - we could vote to disagree with EOM's position - as I read the job secre - it subordinates the [GET BOB to clarify]
BEGA has no jurisdiction over FOIA or open meetings.

Barney - if this group wants to make a resolution - they should bring it in writing and I have three options. Traci was a moderating influence.

Jay - Someone could propose something specific for discussion and a vote.

Shannon - I agree that we should be giving advice

Tiffany - as a citizen, you can do that. There's no controversy around being a true advisory committee meeting.

5:48 - Justin - Motion to adjourn