OGAG meeting minutes

June 29, 2017

**Present**

· Kathryn Pettit - Public Member - Urban Institute Policy Researcher

· Traci Hughes - Director, Office of Open Government

· Jennifer Reed, Chair - representative of the Office of the City Administrator

· Barney Krucoff, Vice-Chair - the Chief Data Officer of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, OCTO

· Sandra Moscoso- Public Member

· Tiffany Crowe - Public Member

· Clarence Wardell - Public Member

· Robert Becker - Public Member - Attorney/Board Member of DC Open Government Coalition

· Karuna Seshasai - representative of the Executive Office of the Mayor

· Julie Kanzler - representative of the Chief Technology Officer, OCTO

· David Tseng - representative of Office of the Chief Financial Officer

· Lyndsey Miller-Vierra - representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

· Timothy White - representative of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

· Faith Leach - representative of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity

**Not Present**

· Betsy Cavendish - representative of the Executive Office of the Mayor General Counsel

· Shannon Turner - Public Role

· Josh Tauberer - Public Member

· Justin Grimes - Public Member - Code for DC Co-Founder

· V. David Zvenyach - General Counsel to the Council of the District of Columbia

· Jennifer Comey - representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

· Jay Melder - representative of Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

· Manya Shorr - representative of the DC Public Library

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Meeting commenced at 4:15 pm

Minutes from 4-6-2017

* Move to approve by Jenny Reed
* Seconded by Bob Becker
* 13 ayes, 1 abstaining (who didn’t attend April meeting)
* Minutes are passed

Jenny Reed

* Note that one of the priority areas of the mayor is excellence in government
* Other goals - improving customer service delivery, best in class workforce, driving innovation through continuous improvement

Bob Becker

* This is just one-third of what the goal should be. There’s nothing about open meetings.
* There should more measures of succeeding in FOIA - see in FOI act (requests denied appeals, cases went to superior court, how many documents in public reading room).

What does a successful open government look like and what are the strategies and measures of success? Then concrete steps.

Jenny - we try to have 1 to 5 measures for each goal.

Bob - this measure is least impt - how many appeals?

Think about it in terms of participation and collaboration. We can ask Traci related to open meetings. Going to right groups and having meaningful input in. Not checking off the boxes of open or closed.

Traci - I would ask the administration to more directly involve the Office of Open Government. They have direct responsibility.

Jenny - is the phrasing of the goal correct?

Tiffany - what does a “leader in open government mean” Traci mentioned we have a OOG - that is one of the way to do this. Not clear what we are trying to accomplish.

Clarence - “Leader” gives us enough space.

Julie

* can we consider a matrix like other
* For strategies - think about it internally and externally
* Across agencies, break down silos, we tried to do also - how are we ourselves using the data
* What are we doing for the public

It would help to see the whole city strategy. When we met with Marie, we asked why are they doing it?

Efficiency, data cleaning. How does this fit into overall “excellence” in government?

Clarence - If we increase the data open to the public, can we tie that to a strategy area?

I’m curious to see a metric ties engagement into it. One that captures publication and strategies around public feedback.

Lyndsey - how do we orient ourselves to being open and do that in a more systematic fashion? What should policymakers consider - what does that look like? What are the formats in past? What have we gotten out of it? We need something more structured. This is an opportunity to act in this way so we get the best input and make the best decisions. More informal. Something that people can turn to. People need ‘here are the steps.’

Bob - where does information management fit in? The key to transparency is designing information systems to make information available with the least amount of work to get it. So something would be automatically open rather than having to do something after the fact.

Barney - that is our our mission statement. We are here to make the government more efficient and make the data available within privacy, security. It is a three- leg stool. We plan to release FOIA requests as open data, but it’ll be disappointing at first. The interesting pieces are in the description, which we won’t have captured.

Bob - This happens across the DC government - they assume the release of the name. The government reads exemption far more broadly than intended. Lots of things come in because of a form - there are fields some are exempt and some are public.

Barney - “what was requested” is proving difficult.

Clarence - does modern information architecture belong here?

Jenny - This does exists in OCTO strategy, but should be called out. I see areas where we directly do things.

Tiffany - Your points relate to proactiveness. Think about proactive application of open data principles both technically and on the softer side. Maybe it applies to data already there and strategies within an agencies.

Clarence - There is one key piece missing - how to benchmark against other cities. For example, DC hasn’t joined the Open Police data Initiative. We should do this across all the agencies to see how we stand. That is a pretty hefty goal.

Jenny - this group could help think through appropriate benchmarks. What are the important rankings and measures? Maybe some sort of annual audit to compare DC to other places.

Julie- we shouldn’t do our own ranking 1) we want to avoid conflict of interest 2) we should rely on published rankings 3) it’s easier if someone else does the work.

Barney - we have many pending submissions to the US CIty Open Data Census, our rank has dropped from 25 to 26. There are some constraints, like we don’t control our criminal population data since CSOSA controls it.

Clarence - I know of any actively maintained third party sources.

Tiffany - how do we know we were leaders before?

Barney - We were first in Apps for Democracy. We had an open data site in the early 2000. Our counts of open data are high. People have passed us on open data policy, but we have filled that gap.

Bob - OECD keeping track of OECD staff

David - We could identify an outside organization that could benchmark appropriately.

Jenny - there are indices that hit on different aspects of open government.

Julie - you could stack them all together.

Kathy - I think we should add the point of open government to the goal. Is it for “transparency”? For “effectiveness”?

[Unknown] - Open Government Partnerships (<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/>) is a good resource. They have working groups and every country comes up with their goals. There is a framework for different aspects.

Jenny - Data Policy piece took a while, but now there is more space for other aspects.

Sandra - I wish we had these goals a year ago - it is good to revisit. Recapped two meetings of committee

* Asked all the agencies if they were interested in the “Data Stewards toolkit” you opened up your data, now what do you do? We believe that we should provided documented guidance for “agency data officers.”
* Second piece - engage data users and get to the right audiences
* I met with Marie in DMPED and they don’t need anything. They don’t generate alot of data. They are encouraging other agencies that they pull data from to open up their data. I learned about what they do to make the data accessible and understandable.

Tim - there are some instances that we release data that is wrong - they are helping us clean the data. We could try to keep it in until it is perfect, but it’ll never be perfect.

Sandra - we should document reasons to do it, how to do it, and how to engage.

* Josh, Julie and I met.
* Not everyone should be doing hackathons, but save those for when it is strategic.
* For education data, they should reach ngos, parents, etc.
* Julie has been in contact with Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) and we are going to build out more based on initial framework. We are going to package and fill it out and ask for agencies to participate.

Barney - They are working with new tools, a site with a subset open data sites that is DOEE focused. They can feel more ownership.

* It would be good to have one of the cluster agencies, one that may be more reluctant to open up data, could help DMPED. To have agencies at different stages.

Jenny - maybe DOEE can talk about their experiences and share with other agencies?

David - encourage agencies to share their stories and will encourage other agencies to share what they have.

Jenny - There’s lots of good work around open government - it doesn’t always get talked about.

Bob - every agency has a FOIA tab - maybe it should be an open government tab too?

Karuna - they are including their datasets. The stretch for us is finding people who work for the government.

Barney - There is something in MD - the Maryland Manual - it tells who and what the MD government is - the agencies, who is part of it. This committee and the members is on the site. It is not easy to determine where the DC government begins and ends. It is not easy to know legal structure compared to how we have chosen to organize ourselves.

Bob - how many websites does the city have?

Barney - inside mayor’s office, OPLA. Who has independent procurement or personnel authority (Lyndsey has a chart).

Tiffany - How much of the work of this group is for the DC government to use (help for ). If you’re a resident, you care more about how many apartments are zoned - what does the public care about. How do we determine what the public interested is in.

Karuna -We need to explain why residents should care. She is the mayor’s open government officer and learning DC government herself. Those priorities - how agencies can work together - if there are best practices from other regions, let us know.

Bob - part of open data policy is to identify high-value datasets.

Karuna -it is us working together. The mayor is committed to open government, but what does that mean? Making FOIA more consistent - training for FOI officers, consistent interpretation across agencies. What are the priorities should we focus on next?

Barney - traditionally the agency-centric view of how to find information, but the the website should allow for thematic searches. You can get to the impt issue event

Lyndsey - starting customer service work - how does the dc government work for employees who are public-facing district staff. Could make a higher-level external-facing version to package that to residents and business owners to better navigate their interactions with the government. Variety of needs and services. First priority is around District employees on how the government works. Need a good grasp on how to get a question answered. I’m looking at it from a different perspective

Jenny - opportunity for broad survey ? what are the top pieces of information?

Tiffany - tracking of OCTO hits, searches,

Barney - we have google analytics - OCTO web team under Michael Rupert. It is a technical

Have him a presentation on where people drop out.

Barney - the website doesn’t come up here. MD manual is a classic old website (it could be downloadable instead), but in principle that someone maintains

Clarence - we should be more proactive about informing the public - are there ways to bring into community in physical assets

Sandra’s idea - have data displays at the library. if you go to a bookstore, have something topical. Something big is happening - like budget. Stand around it with data and books around it. Next to a station - people can look it up right there.

We have published our data collection tool and collected names of data officers. Some agencies too small. Some agencies where position is vacant. Published the tool and . Working with 5 agencies on data inventory and run through the general counsel. June 14 publish the tool. The agencies have 180 days. OCTO gets 90 days to March 11 to publish the inventory

Bob- notes that it is sunshine too planning the event for rolling

Barney - data policy - dc.gov home page.

Sunlight Foundation - Alex Howard spoke to our agency officers. They have blogged about it.

Sandra - that is what Josh wants to do. Agency stories, Make it interesting. DMPED has a good relationship because people are asking for help. Because there are data-people to visualize data,

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Formapoolza - July 22 - hackathon for form. Redesigning 5 form. Featured experts from Center for Plain Language at american university. About the information that they need to collect. How to ask it in the right way. Reevaluate what info do we really need?

Working with deputy mayor on HHS and DataKind and OCTO on hackathons around human services in September

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Sept 21 is rosh hashanah 2017 - need to shift dates.

Barney - afraid we don’t have enough data -

Jenny there’s been a good round of submission from the agencies. WIll lead to more data

ANC commissioner - Hackathon for traffic violation cameras - would need to blend a couple files. Also looking at procedures. Also build cameras to monitor - September. Working with Charles Allen.