

Advisory Committee on Consumer Protection

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2024 - 8:30 a.m.

In Person / Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ira Rheingold, Ingmar Goldson, Timothy Robinson, Phillip Robinson, Linda Perlman, Savitri Taneja

OCP STAFF PRESENT

Brittany Freeman, Patty Vitale, Eric Friedman

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Ira Rheingold. Ira Rheingold moved to adopt the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes. Ira Rheingold moved to approve the meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

The committee discussed their thoughts on past speakers that have joined the meetings. It was said that adding the component of a speaker is beneficial, very informative, helps the committee to build relationships.

The committee discussed who to bring in next to speak to the group. County Council members were said to be an option.

Timothy Robinson mentioned that the committee should align speakers with topics and goals the committee is trying to accomplish. Phillip Robinson discussed that having speakers can allow the group to develop relationships with Delegation and get ideas from them about what the committee could be doing and provide ideas to Delegates.

The committee agreed that they need to be strategic in what speakers they reach out so that are in alignment with the mission of consumer protection. They want to pull data to also present to Councilmembers and get input.

It was decided to invite Councilmember Kristin Mink to the June meeting where the committee plans to discuss an overview of the data and committee introduction. Brittany will reach out to her with an invitation to the June meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Report from subcommittees
 - Data analysis
 - Committee member Aemish Rao had begun to pull State of Maryland data and MoCo zip codes. The subcommittee is working to pull more

data for the June meeting. They are looking at standardizing information to put into a report and identify trends. The committee will use this data for annual report. Patty Vitale will pull Sentinel data for the next subcommittee meeting.

- Educational programming
 - They are looking into speakers for upcoming meetings and plan to use reports from the data analysis subcommittee to identify topics for new programs.
 - Ira Rheingold is giving a presentation on newest consumer scams and schemes on Wednesday, 6/5.

OFFICE REPORT

Patty Vitale reported that OCP hired a New Home Inspector as a new Investigator and are planning to put out a press release about him joining the team. OCP also had a law student join their team as a summer intern.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT AND DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Brittany Freeman discussed upcoming dates that subcommittees could use for potential programming.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 8:30 a.m. – virtual.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. by Ira Rheingold.