



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission for Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA)
Wednesday, November 20, 2013
10 AM - 12 PM
800 NE Oregon St., Room 1A, Portland, OR 97232

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Stephen Ying
Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe
Commissioners: Ping Khaw-Sutherland; Jennifer Kleskie, Joseph Santos-Lyons, Mahendra Shah, Michelle Vlach-Ing
Absent: Rep. Gene Whisnant
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Kathleen Jonathon, Keizer-Salem School District; Jenny Lee-Berry, Governor's Office

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ying, at 10:00 am. A quorum was established.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called with the results above.

III. Approval of Minutes

MOTION (Santos-Lyons/Watanabe): To approve the minutes of 9/17/2013 as written.
CARRIED

IV. Report of the Administrator

New OACO staffing – Lucy reported that as the Advocacy Commissions move ahead with their interest in adding new staff positions for the 2015-17 budget, that DAS HR has provided a number of position descriptions for review as the potential new OACO staff. Lucy and Nancy are currently developing an overview of the positions and will present it to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the Commissions in early December and to all Commissioners shortly after for their review and comment. In preparation for requesting new position descriptions from DAS HR, we met with Frank Garcia. He is supportive of this direction to increase staffing for the Commissions.

New public policy interns joining OACO - Lucy reported on several public policy internships that the Commissions are preparing to launch in spring, 2014.

- OCFW is finalizing a law internship on **strengthening stalking protections** for low income women and victims of domestic violence. They will be working

jointly with the Governor's Office, the Oregon Law Center and Lewis and Clark Law School Law Clinic in collaboration with DOJ's Crime Victim's Office.

- OCBA is preparing to recruit a public policy intern in December on studying **disparities between Apprentice to Journeyman** graduation rate for people of color in the Trades. The Internship will be joint with the Governor's Offices for D&I and Workforce, and the BOLI Apprentice Program Office.
- OCAPIA, with Mari Watanabe and OCBA with Gwen Trice, are working with ODE and the PSU History Department to develop a public policy internship around **rewriting Oregon's History focused on inclusion** of the contributions of communities of color.
- OCAPIA, with Jennifer Kleskie, and the OCFW and OCHA have met with US Attorney Hannah Horsley and Chanpone Sinlapasai, JD to discussion possible public policy support from the Advocacy Commissions around **human trafficking**. Ms. Horsley has been reassigned to year long case with the US Attorney's Office, but is making an introduction for the OAC's with the new US Attorney for human trafficking, Amanda Marshall. Lucy will be meeting with her soon and will get the Commissions connected with her for more discussion on potential internships this spring.

Commissioner Santos-Lyons suggested that OCAPIA explore an additional public policy internship on education, possibly around early childhood. The Commission was interested and after discussion, Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland volunteered to work on it. Lucy will meet with her to prepare a draft internship concept for the Commission to consider and approve.

State recognition for OAC's Public Policy Internships

Lucy also noted that the OCAPIA and the sister OACs were recognized for their public policy partnerships and resource development with state partners. The Governor's D&I Kitchen Cabinet awarded the OAC's a certificate of recognition for this in September

E-deposit for Commissioner stipends

Nancy Kramer announced the DAS initiative to offer electronic deposit to all of Oregon's 300+ Boards and Commissions. She thanked the OACPIA Commissioners for working with her to switch to electronic deposit. This is part of an effort to make Oregon government more efficient and cost-effective.

Commissioner travel reimbursement

Lucy reported on travel reimbursement funds that have been partially restored to the OAC budgets for in-state travel. Commissioner Santos-Lyons proposed that, along with Commissioners, the OCAPIA reimburse speakers for their parking and mileage.

MOTION (Santos-Lyons/Shah): Reimburse speakers for their parking and mileage. Carried

V. Old Business

- A. Education Outreach: The scheduled presentation from U of O Division of Undergraduate Studies, Antonio Huerta was postponed indefinitely until Mr. Huerta may be available to address the Commission or make other connection.

B. Education Committee Report: Commissioner Watanabe

ESL funding: Commissioners Watanabe and Santos-Lyons reported on their interest in the newly established Governor's education funding committee which is reviewing funding for ESL. This group will be making recommendations for the 2015-17 session. There is a member of the David Douglas School staff who has been appointed to this group and would be good to invite to an OCAPIA meeting soon. Ben Cannon has been the Governor's Sr. Advisor for Education but has recently left for another position with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The Commission asked Jenny Lee Berry if she would assist OCAPIA in making connection with the new Sr. Advisor for Education. Jenny answered that she will be happy to help with that.

Salem-Keizer School District, ESL and outreach for Marshallese community: The Commission welcomed Kathleen Johnathon, a Community School Outreach Coordinator (CSOC) for Salem-Keizer public schools. She works closely with the Marshallese community in the district and has worked closely with the school, parents and students to improve the learning environment and outcomes for Marshallese students. Historically, the students had a low graduation rate and low matriculation rate into college. They felt bullied by the dominant culture kids and got into scuffles. Because of one of these incidents that was covered by the Statesman Journal, the CSOC's organized the community to request a new staff position to work with the Marshallese community. Kathleen was hired to do that work which has had great results in all areas of concern including Marshallese student graduation rates which are now more than equal to the white students. She is focusing on getting her students to college now with scholarships and other support. In the S-K school district the Marshallese are the 3rd largest immigrant population along with Spanish and Russian speaking students. Among the challenges the S-K district faces are budget reductions that have forced the layoff of newly hired education assistants which are entry level positions that help build bridges between parents, students and the school. Because of these layoffs Kathleen now serves 250 ELL and non-ELL Marshallese students solo.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Jonathon for her presentation and noted that they wish to follow how budget reductions have affected those who support immigrant student populations. They also encouraged Kathleen to consider application to the Governor's Office for appointment as an OCAPIA Commissioner. The Commission is recruiting to add a Pacific Islander to the OCAPIA and would be pleased to have Kathleen submit her application.

Portland Public Schools Dual Language Immersion Programs

Mari and Joseph had both attended a recent public forums hosted by Portland Public Schools (PPS) as they consider adding Vietnamese Dual Immersion and expanding their Chinese Dual Language Immersion Program that would add Cantonese to the current Mandarin immersion instruction. While many are very positive about the impact and importance of such programs, some of those commenting at the forums are opposed based on their worry that the new programs would lead to immigrant students taking available spots that would usually go to a non-immigrant student.

OCAPIA letter of support to PPS: After discussion, the OCAPIA will send a supportive letter to the Portland Public Schools for the Chinese Dual Immersion expansion. Lucy will work with Mari, Stephen and Joseph to prepare the letter that will be based on the prior letter in support of PPS' Vietnamese program.

There is another community forum scheduled by PPS on 12/3 co-sponsored with the Chinese American Civic Association (CACA). Commissioner Santos-Lyons asked if a Commissioner might also attend that forum. He noted that PPS will prepare its next budget in March and all advocates will need to support maintaining funds for dual language immersion. There will be openings available on the PPS design team for the Chinese language plan and he encouraged interested Commissioners to apply for that seat. Parents of ESL students are also welcome to join.

OCAPIA public policy internship concept: Joseph noted that there might be an opportunity for an intern to help OCAPIA study the role and effect of Education Assistants to Oregon school systems, including a community scan of where they are and what they provide on improving education disparities. The internship would study and prepare a paper in preparation for considering policy implications to Oregon education. Many school districts have EA's who represent the diversity among the student population and which serve as a pipeline for future teachers.

The Commission noted its interest in developing such a concept for their review and approval and Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland was asked to work with Lucy to prepare the concept. Jenny Lee Barry also volunteered to help with data or ease connections as part of the partnership of the Governor's office for OAC public policy internships.

C. Civic Engagement Committee Report:

Know Your Rights Workshop: Commissioner Santos-Lyons reported that he, Vice Chair Watanabe and Commissioner Kleskie had met to consider developing a program on knowing your rights. Marissa Madrigal's staff met with them and is considering offering a pilot forum on the subject. Diane Pei Wu from East Portland libraries would be a good contact for the Commission and its partners for both curriculum design and as a location to launch a forum on rights that could also attract the Indian and refugee communities. Such a forum would be an introduction for community members and a way to build more connections in the community.

Jenny Lee Berry asked if there are opportunities for partnering with other groups, or if this is specific to APANO. The Commissioners noted they would welcome other groups' interest and involvement as it is developed. Jenny offered her help in reaching out to other groups with interest in subjects OCAPIA addresses.

Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland discussed OACPIA's partnership with APACC, which had avoided having political candidates come and speak before the election until recently. This is a big achievement in educating the community and involving them in the political process.

Commissioner Ying noted that Jim Francesconi, who is running for Multnomah County Chair, will be speaking at the Red Robe Café on December 16th, from 5 pm - 6 pm. The community is invited to attend.

Candidate training: Commissioner Santos-Lyons reported that OLAA is interested in co-hosting a session with OCAPIA that would be a training for citizens of color interested in running for office. It would cover campaign managing and other key areas. It could be a good goal for next year. Mari noted that the Portland Business Alliance (PBA) Public Service Training was well attended and that Thuy Tran has joined the effort. It is a good way to enter the pipeline for leadership positions in the community.

D. Request from Simon Tam, The Slants– Vice Chair Watanabe

The Commission reviewed the request of Simon Tam for the OCAPIA to provide an amicus brief as he disputes the USPTO denial of The Slant's claim to trademark their name. They also reviewed the OCAPIA's previous letter to USPTO regarding The Slants' case as well as Commissioner Vlach-Ing's review of the case and recommendation regarding the amicus brief. The Commission thanked Michelle for her time and great work on this request as she reviewed the opinions of the Trademark Office, their arguments concerning The Slants and other background case review of similar requests for use of words it considers racist in trademark cases. Her conclusion is that the USPTO will not endorse the use of a racist term which is their longstanding position. She reviewed for the Commission the use of the word "Slant" in trademarks which is allowed when it does not refer to a race of people. She believes that pursuing the trademark issue for The Slants with an amicus brief will not be effective. After further discussion, the Commission was agreed that everyone is supportive of Simon Tam's larger effort which includes the right of all communities to control the words they use to describe themselves. They agreed that OCAPIA will not provide an amicus brief for The Slants' trademark case and will reach out to Mr. Tam, via Vice Chair Watanabe, with their decision.

E. Report on meeting with Mila Prakash- Commissioner Kleskie.

Commissioner Kleskie Met in July with Mila and her daughter in Scappoose. Ms. Prakash let Jennifer know that following the report in the news about her experience, it continued and she was discriminated against repeatedly. The day that she met with Jennifer, she had heard a death threat against her life. Commissioner Kleskie encouraged her to report it to the local police, which Ms. Prakash did. Since that time her car has been deliberately scratched, her business is struggling and health insurance will end soon. Commissioner Kleskie will be helping with a referral to the Asian Health and Service Center which is a qualified health exchange navigator. The Asian Family Center and Pei-ru Wong may also be able to help with legal services.

Earlier, the OCAPIA had sent a letter to the Mayor of Scappoose with an offer of assistance and followed up with phone messages, but have not heard back from him. The Commission thanked Jennifer for her good work to reach out to Ms. Prakash.

- F. **New Commissioner Recruitment:** Vice Chair Watanabe reported on work by the Commission to recruit applicants for the 2 open positions on OCAPIA. Lucy will send the current roster to all Commissioners which shows the term ending dates for each member. The OCAPIA had agreed that they would seek a Pacific Islander to fill the open position. She had been looking forward to inviting Kathleen Jonathon to apply and was delighted that she could attend the Commission meeting today. The Commission would like to prepare an interest packet for potential Commissioners that include the interest form or link to the Governor's website, the OCAPIA Strategic Plan and job description for Board members from the Governor's handbook, along with OCAPIA meeting dates. Lucy and Nancy will work on this and share it with Commissioners. Commissioner Shah has several members of the Indian community whom he feels would make excellent Commissioners on OCAPIA with others in the State.

VI. New Business

- A. OCAPIA meeting locations and times: The Commission considered other locations for their regular meetings that may be easier for the community or for Commissioners to attend the meetings. They will explore the OR State Bar Association location in Tigard as a potential location. Michelle Vlach-Ing will reach out to them to see if it would be available a few times per year. Also a meeting in Salem would be good. Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland also offered the APACC as a location for OCAPIA meetings which could include evening meetings. There was also interest in combining a Meet and Greet at a fall and spring regular meeting of the OCAPIA.

Lucy and Nancy will send options to the Commissioners for an e-mail vote.

VII. Other Business

Climate change issues: Commissioner Kleskie asked if there is interest on OCAPIA for climate change issues which is a global issue for Asian countries. Commissioner Santos-Lyons now serves as the OCAPIA designee on the Oregon Environmental Justice Taskforce. If Jennifer wishes, she is welcome to take his seat, otherwise he will attend his first meeting of the EJTF in December and will report back.

Commissioner Santos-Lyons would like to create a Google Group for Commissioners to use when e-mailing each other. He invited Commissioners to sign up at OCAPIA@googlegroups.com. He will work with Lucy and Nancy to assure they are also administrators of the Googlegroup.

Commissioner Khaw Sutherland reported on a Civic Fellowship - 2 month internship at White House, with applications due on Feb 1, 11:55am. She shared copies of the application materials with Commissioners.

VIII. Public Comment: There was no public comment

IX. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned by common consent at noon.