



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9 – 11 AM
PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 107
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair: Carlos Jermaine Richard
Vice Chair: Samaura Stone
Commissioners: Judge Kemp, Phyllis Rand, Willie Woolfolk, Clifford Walker, Lorraine Wilson
Absent: Isaac Dixon, Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe, Karol Collymore
Staff: Nancy Kramer (absent), Lucy Baker (absent)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Richard at 9:08 a.m. A quorum was established. Chair Richard announced that the meeting would not be recorded as the recording device was accidentally left at his home. Chair Richard apologized for the mistake. Chair Richard attempted to utilize the recording device in the Polycom to record the meeting.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Motion (Wilson/Walker): to approve agenda with the addition of the following agenda items: discussion on hate crime incident in Creswell, general discussion on hate crimes in Oregon, and discussion regarding the partnership between the OCBA and the Urban League **Carried.**

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Richard – No
Vice Chair Stone – No
Commissioner Kemp – Abstain
Commissioner Walker – Yes
Commissioner Rand – Yes
Commissioner Wilson – Yes
Commissioner Woolfolk - Yes

III. Review and approval of September minutes
Motion (Richard/Kemp): to approve as written. Carried.

IV. Old Business

1. Unfinished Business

Commissioner Richard facilitated a discussion on the unfinished business of the Commission. The Commissioners reviewed their unfinished business as reflected in the minutes of the OCBA starting with October 31, 2009. The full document of unfinished business is attached as part of the minutes.

October 2009

Meeting with OCAA & OCHA and Michael Cobb of ODOT regarding stimulus funding and how it is distributed.

The Commission continues to have questions regarding how the stimulus dollars are utilized by ODOT; more specifically how is the stimulus monies distributed among people of color in terms on contracts. There was also discussion in regards to the lengthy application process that may serve as a deterrent for minority contractors.

Resolution: An invitation will be extended to Michael Cobb and Michael Garret to a future meeting of the OCBA for a dialogue of the OCBA's concerns and ways to enhance services for minority contractors.

February 2010

Host OCBA meeting/forum in southern Oregon

Resolution: Now that the new Chair is in place, this will be placed in the outreach/visibility committee under the leadership of Commissioner Kemp.

April 2010

The Dumas case. Discussion followed with this update: The Commission reviewed and heard the Dumas Case. The Commission has not provided a formal decision on the Dumas case back to the complainants. At the time, Chair Walker sent a letter to the Dumas' encouraging him to pursue a hate crime, but he believes that it was not pursued. The case has been decided in the courts. At the time, the Commission also pursued a pardon with the help of Danny Santos. Mr. Dumas must apply for the pardon and he did not.

Current options discussed included pursuing another pardon with the current Governor and Mr. Dumas. The Commission needs to write a letter saying that we have gone as far as possible.

Resolution: Chair Richard will draft a letter to send to Mr. Jamin Dumas stating that the Commission has gone as far as we can with this case and provide referrals for legal resources future follow up

May 2010

Establishment of sub-committees and revisiting the OCBA bylaws.

Motion (Richard/Rand): to table the Bylaws until such time as the new officers are in place **Carried.**

Resolution: This has been moved to the By-laws committee under the leadership of Commissioner Isaac Dixon (Chair of the By-laws Committee)

June 2010

Dr. Cal Henry presentation and interest in building a partnership with OCBA around fair representation. Commissioner Wilson noted that the OCBA has been working collaboratively with Dr. Henry's organization. Dr. Henry regularly presents to the Commission and corresponds.

Commissioner Dixon recommends the OCBA develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with formal partners to provide a clear written record of what the partnership will consist of.

Establishing a 501c3 for the OCBA.

Resolution: The Commission, upon establishing partnerships with organizations, will draft letters of memorandum outlining the scope of our collaborative work together.

The commission will revisit the subject of establishing a non-profit 501c3 to assist the OCBA in fundraising.

July 2010

Draft a letter to Supt. Susan Castillo regarding education disparities, plan meeting with joint commissions and other organizations because this issue affects all communities.

Lucy noted that Superintendent Castillo has been meeting separately with the Asian and Hispanic Affairs Commissions on this subject. The Joint Chairs and Lucy can provide an update on where the Commissions are with this

discussion and the Superintendent. Commissioner Wilson noted that when Dr. Pearl met with the Commission last July, the importance of substitute teachers was also part of the discussion.

Commissioner Dixon noted that the education issue is big: child discipline and other issues are all part of it. Perhaps meeting with Dr. Castillo is the big issue, but we must prepare for it.

Resolution: The Commission will invite Supt. Castillo to a future meeting of the OCBA to discuss issues and concerns within the educational system.

August 2010

Lack of educators K-12 who are African American: Commissioner Richard suggested this become part of the discussion on Education when it begins. Also Chair Walker asked that data become part of our website.

Chair Walker suggested that the Commission create its own State of Black OR report.

Resolution: This will be moved to the Advocacy committee for further follow up and work currently taking place within the advocacy committee on education.

There is a Communities of Color report produced and sponsored by PSU that the OCBA will add to its website as well as the State of Oregon report produced by the Urban League and the Oregon Affirmative Action Report.

September 2010

The Commission asked Lucy Baker to see about getting the ODOT report on minority contracting for the OCBA to review and also post on the OCBA website. She will contact Rep. Lew Frederick regarding it. Commissioner Richard would also like to request ODOT Director, Michael Garrett might meet with the Joint Commissions to discuss contracting, if he has not already met with individual Commissions. Also, the stimulus for education is part of the issue. Cheryl Myer should be involved also. Lucy will contact her to check her availability to meet the OCBA.

Sen. Monroe noted that legislators are not allowing the agency heads to give them a cursory report about minority contracting. They are pushing them to provide detailed statistics and data. Commissioner Dixon noted that ODOT has been challenged to hire diverse managers to oversee contracting and their slow progress in that area may part of the issue.

The Commission reviewed the John Charles case: It is currently cold and no further action is needed.

This item will be combined with unfinished business for October 2009 and an invitation extended to Michael Garrett and Michael Cobb for discussion and concerns regarding minority contracting.

The OCBA will also extend an invitation to Cheryl Meyers to attend a future Commission meeting.

October 2010

The Chair encouraged each commissioner to get at least one media contact and establish a friendly relationship. This is an ongoing process.

Resolution: This item was removed

November 2010

Setting a date for bylaw review. This will be addressed after the elections.

Resolution: This item is currently housed within the Advocacy Committee

V. New Business

Motion (Richard/Stone): The Commission did not have an opportunity to review the new business on the agenda due to the discussion on old business, unfinished business from past meetings. A motion was made to table the new business to the next meeting and Committee Chairs would send updates via e-mail. Carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Richard – Yes

Vice Chair Stone – Yes

Commissioner Kemp – Yes

Commissioner Walker – Yes

Commissioner Rand – Yes

Commissioner Wilson – Yes

Commissioner Woolfolk - Yes

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Ralph Nickerson addressed the commission with a passionate plea and requested that contingent upon the time of Commissioners, they attend some classes at Jefferson to observe the behavior of the students and inability of teachers to resolve these issues. The Chair thanked Mr. Nickerson for his concerns.

VII. Adjourn

The OCBA adjourned by common consent at 11:05am.

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Richard – Yes

Vice Chair Stone – Yes

Commissioner Kemp – Yes

Commissioner Walker – Yes

Commissioner Rand – Yes

Commissioner Wilson – Yes

Commissioner Woolfolk - No

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