



**MINUTES**  
**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, November 20, 2010**  
**9:00 – 11:00 AM**  
**PCC Cascade Campus**  
**Technology Education Building Room 222, Portland, OR**

**Attendees**

<b>Chair:</b>	Clifford Walker
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Mariahm Stephenson
<b>Commissioners:</b>	Jennifer Duncan, Phyllis Rand, Phyllis Harris-John, Samaura Stone, Rep. Lew Frederick, Carlos Richard
<b>Absent:</b>	Sen. Rod Monroe, Willie Woolfolk
<b>Speakers:</b>	Jason Scott (BUF Young Prof.)
<b>Guests:</b>	Erik Glass, Tgiddin Muhammad
<b>Staff:</b>	Lucy Baker, Joy Howard (phone)

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:24 a.m.

**II. Review and approval of agenda**

**Motion (Duncan/Harris-John):** To approve agenda as written. – **Carried.**

**III. Approval of October 16, 2010 minutes**

**Motion (Rand/Duncan):** To approve the minutes as presented. – **Carried.**

**IV. OCBA Internship Opportunities**

Chair Walker and Rep Frederick met with PSU Hatfield School to talk about opportunities for Masters level students and others. Rep. Frederick reported on a number of ideas to connect students to opportunities: law enforcement, profiling, surveys, environmental factors, housing, and others are the potential. Finding best practices is an option and research needs. Chair Walker asked that if a Commissioner has an interest, let Lucy know. The Urban Studies Department also has interdisciplinary program. Commissioner Duncan will go with us to discuss. Dr. Yves Lavisier is the contact in that Dept.

**V. OACO Personnel and Commission Policies**

Commissioner Wilson reported on the work of the Personnel Policies which are nearing a final draft for review by all the Commissions in December. Also the first discussion draft for the Commission policies is ready to send to the Policy Committee. She noted that the Commission policies will be tied to the bylaws of the individual commissions. She also discussed the value of clarifying all the expectations of Commissioners. The opportunity to tie the New Commissioner Training to the policies and the bylaws is important as well. Commissioner Stephenson noted that there is work that needs to be completed. Commissioner Wilson is interested in seeing the policies and other new

pieces will be a good on-boarding experience for the Commissioners. Commissioner John also noted that technology will help make training for new Commissioners easier.

Commissioner Richard asked that the Commission set a date for a bylaws work session. Chair Walker asked for volunteers. Commissioners Richard, John, Stephenson, and Wilson will set their own meeting date and the scope of their work. Lucy will coordinate the work of the Committee starting on Monday.

#### **VI. Commission Annual Report**

Commissioner Stephenson will be asking all the OCBA Commissioners to contribute to the report.

#### **VII. Legislation Updates**

Rep. Frederick reported on the bills that are now available to review. Because of the election, the House is now 30/30 Democrats and Republicans. They are meeting to work out how the House leadership will work. For the OCBA, it will be a challenging session to get their issues heard. It will be unusually important for all Black Oregonians to know who their legislators are and contact them. There is a component in the legislature that considers OCBA issues to be unnecessary. This will impact its funding options in the legislature.

#### **VIII. Urban League of Portland – Young Professional Leaders**

**Speaker:** Jason Scott, Black United Fund, Young Professionals President

Mr. Scott discussed his observation on the scattered leadership in Portland among Black Portlanders and he got involved to help organize a leadership focus. He worked with Urban League and Black United Fund to organize young professional leaders from 18 to 42 years of age. 52 young professionals of color attended the first meeting hosted by Baruti Artharee at Providence. Rep. Frederick asked the group to submit their resumes and names who would like to be considered for leadership by the Governor's office and 22 individuals submitted their names. The Governor-Elect is also interested in engaging and hiring young professionals of color. Rep. Frederick will be making a connection with the Governor Elect and the young professionals. Questions for Mr. Scott included how the group does outreach. The group invites the school student union leaders to get involved. Also, they have a Facebook page "young professionals of Portland" and an on-line newsletter.

#### **IX. Commission Goals**

Commissioner Stone reported on her discussion with Commissioner John on OCBA visibility. They asked the Commissioners whether they'd be interested in addressing groups about the OCBA and then report back. Also, they'd like to help the Commissioners further their own interests on the OCBA. An option is forming a Committee to organize the OCBA to share their interest and organize committees around interest areas. They shared a Committee interest area sheet that Commissioners can share their interest areas. They encourage all Commissioners to get involved. The list of interest areas includes 9 areas that have been part of OCBA discussions. It includes Arts and Culture, Education, Government Affairs, Economic Development, Grievance Committee, Health and Wellness, Human Services, Public Relations, Special Events.

Commissioner Richard asked whether the OCBA will be focusing also on their work plan to raise visibility. He'd like to see a way to stay focused on Visibility. The Committees

are a way to mobilize the Commission. Everyone agreed that a clear direction is needed. Where to begin was discussed. Having a committee structure that supports the overall work of the Commission around short and long term goals is very helpful. Chair Walker and other Commissioners commended them on their work. He encouraged Commissioners to get involved. Direction is important. Also resources and directories are important. The structure would support this work as well as gathering input and data. Commissioner John is also working with the OACO office to help each of the Commissions stay in contact on the issues. Chair Walker asked that the Commissioners be agreed to follow votes of the Commission as members poll the OCBA on issues and weigh in on an issue.

Commissioner Richard would like to see a Public Relations Committee to help organize the OCBA to handle events and opportunities to address the community. He asked if a small subcommittee would be useful to prepare the commission for achieving its goals in 2011. Commissioners would value a training on some of the new technologies for communicating.

**X. OCBA Non-profit**

Chair Walker noted that he is exploring establishing a Friends of OCBA non profit/  
**Motion (Doncon/Wilson):** To approve setting up a non-profit for the Friends of the OCBA. **Carried.**

**XI. Guest, Community Comments**

- 1) Erik Glass spoke about the importance of his organization in helping black youth keep out of gangs. He is looking for sponsorships for starting an after school program.
- 2) Tgiddin Muhammad spoke about his work to start a foster care for youth. His difficulty involves a criminal history that prevents him from starting his business.

Discussion:

The Commission encourages individuals in this situation to work towards having a pardon from the Governor. The individual noted that there are a number of difficulties in this area. The Commission is aware that there are a number of people who are locked out. Chair Walker encouraged the individual to let the Commission know specifics of support it can provide. Commissioner Harris John will gather more information and report back to the Commission. Rep Frederick reported that there was a bill in 2009 that is closing many individuals out of work opportunities due to Measure 73. This is an ongoing challenge. The individual noted that DHS can still prevent certain individuals from specific types of work.

- 3) Commissioner Rand noted that community comment and other areas at the end of the agenda are rushed. Chair Walker asked Commissioner Stone to construct an agenda that can be completed on time. Commissioner Duncan asked that Community Comment include a break and occur in the middle of the meeting.

**XII. Good of the Order:**

- 1) 2011 Meetings Schedule

The Commission will continue to meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, with the exception of December. Commissioner Stone will meet with Commissioner Wilson and Walker by phone prior to setting the meeting

**XIII. Adjournment at 11:05 a.m.**