



MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, May 15, 2010
9 – 11 AM
Portland Community College Cascade Campus
Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice Chair: Mariahm Stephenson
Commissioners: Senator Rod Monroe, Representative Lew Frederick, Jennifer Doncan, Carlos Richard, Phyllis Rand (teleconference), Willie Woolfolk (teleconference)
Staff: Daniel Rodriguez
Guests: Lucy Baker (community member), Daniel Franks (Portland Media), Phyllis Harris-John (pending commissioner), Pam Richmond (Portland Media), Kalonice Walker (community member)

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:05a.m.

II. Welcome and introductions of newly appointed commissioner: Phyllis Harris-John

III. Approval of April 17, 2010 minutes

- 1) Revisions: Change date of meeting minutes to April 17, 2010, Section II, change motioned to moved for representative Frederick, Section VI, change wording is poor to currently exists for Pam Richards-Portland Resident, Section VII(c) change motioned to moved for Senator Monroe.
- 2) Vote: Senator Monroe moved to accept the minutes as corrected: Commissioner Stephenson seconded, approved unanimously.

IV. Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 1) Commissioner Stephenson moved the name of Chair Walker be placed in nomination for Chair of the OCBA for the next year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woolfolk. Senator Monroe moved the nominations be closed. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2) Chair Walker moved the name of Commissioner Stephenson be placed in nomination for the position of Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Doncan. The motioned passed unanimously.
- 3) The names of Chair Walker and Commissioner Stephenson will be placed on the ballot for Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the June 19th meeting of the OCBA.

V. OCBA Priority updates

- 1) Dumas Model
 - i. Commissioner Richard - no report at this time as no information has been received from the Governor's Office
- 2) Stimulus Funds
 - i. Commissioner Stephenson reported this topic is less about the actual Head Start funds but more about the willingness of the community to assist and/or utilize the program. Commissioner Woolfolk asked if more parent advocates of the Head Start program have been identified from Stimulus Funds. More investigation needs to occur to identify the total number of positions created by these Stimulus Funds. Commissioner Stephenson indicated she will continue research in this area. Senator Monroe indicated he had chaired a committee that passed a bill for Early Head Start with one million in matching funds
- 3) New Hires (older workers)
 - i. Commissioner Doncan will meet with Professor Pearl and determine his attendance at the next OCBA meeting on June 19, 2010.
- 4) Disparity in funds to minorities (ODOT Report)
 - i. Commissioner Woolfolk urged commissioners to examine the ODOT Affirmative Action Report. Minority recruitment is low and ODOT admits a lower than expected diversity hiring. In fact, ODOT admits to starting entry level minority hires on the litter patrol.
 - ii. Commissioner Richard indicated that a less than stellar hiring pattern of minorities exists within all state agencies. There remains little ability to track diversity hiring. Blake Dye, ODOT minority recruiter has indicated a reluctance of minority applicants to move to Portland, OR. Commissioner Richard expressed a need to have all four commissions unite under a Common Goals Common Issues theme and approach this disparity in hiring as a united group.
 - iii. Senator Monroe indicated a rather interested fact that while the number of contracts awarded to minority contractors is fairly high but the dollar amount is very low.
 - iv. Commissioner Stephenson stated that the Black Owned Businesses who serve as sub-contractors are not receiving funds, in fact, they are not being hired to do some of the work. It appears the contracts are being awarded but the sub-contractors are not being hired. The minority status of the RFP's are being used to receive contracts but the work is not reaching the minority owned subcontracting firms.
 - v. Commissioner Frederick stated that ODOT, like other state agencies, has an abysmal record at diversity hiring. Additionally, these agencies do not have an adequate succession planning program in place. Commissioner Frederick also urged fellow commissioners to read the ODOT Affirmative Action Report.
- 5) Policing Disparities
 - i. Chair Walker acknowledged the change of leadership within the City of Portland and their lack of diversity hiring. He urged continued vigilance by all OCBA commissioners.
 - ii. Commissioner Doncan expressed a desire for the Portland Police to conduct cultural competency training
 - iii. Chair Walker read aloud a letter from Mr. Dumas who supported all efforts by the OCBA. Chair Walker also referenced a letter from Danny Santos from the

Governor's office where he proposed a meeting in Salem between Chair Walker, the Public Safety Policy Advisor, Cameron Smith and a representative from the Attorney General's office where the larger issue of Hate Crimes will be addressed.

- 6) Health Care
 - i. Commissioner Rand indicated that historically the top three pieces of legislation have been: Social Security, Medicare and Health Care. She urged continual outreach to ensure its continued support.

VI. OACO Updates

- 1) Memo from Danny Santos
 - i. The letter from Danny Santos was distributed and three areas were addressed: Governor's Office Updates; Roles and responsibilities with OACO and New Commissioner Training
- 2) Recruitment of full time Administrator
 - i. The recruitment for the OACO Administrator was distributed. It was noted that the mention of the probable move to Portland was listed on the recruitment flyer. The close date of the recruitment will likely be extended one week to May 26.
- 3) Office Lease
 - i. The lease document has been submitted to Portland State University Facilities Division for final approval.
- 4) KPM work sessions
 - i. An additional work session has been scheduled for June 8th in Portland to continue the work on the Key Performance Measures required by the Legislature.

VII. Guest, Community Comments

Poetry reading from Kalonice Walker. Kalonice was selected a winner by the Oregon Poetry Society and read aloud her poem titled, *Sounds*.

VIII. Good of the Order

- 1) Comments
 - i. Commissioner Frederick urges everyone to complete their ballots for the election. "Make A Difference"
 - ii. Senator Monroe urged continued boycott with the State of Arizona

IX. Next meeting agenda suggestions

Commissioner Stephenson recommended that the establishment of sub-committees and revisiting the OCBA bylaws be on the next agenda for June 19, 2010.

X. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Richard and seconded by Commissioner Stephenson that the meeting be adjourned at 10.55am.