



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Saturday, August 22, 2009

7:15 – 9:15 AM

Portland Community College, Terrel Hall, Rm 112
Portland, OR

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice-Chair: Everette Rice
Commissioners: Sen. Rod Monroe, Mariahm Stephenson, Jennifer Doncan,
Carlos Richard, Phyllis Rand (via phone conference)
Staff: Helen Hoang
Guests: Promise King, Greg Peterson, James Davis

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 7:15am

- II. Review of Agenda, Changes if necessary
 - 1) Sen. Monroe requested to add to the agenda the issue of Sen. Carter's departure from the legislature and what it may mean for Blacks in Oregon
 - 2) Sen. Monroe requested to add Governor's letter dated June 8th regarding suspension of Commissions be added to the agenda
 - 3) Commissioner Rice requested to add to the agenda his draft letter regarding stimulus dollars and how it has been used

- III. Approval of July 22, 2009 minutes
 - 1) Commissioner Rice moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous approval

- IV. OCBA Priority updates
 - 1) Project Clean Slate: Commissioner Richard
 - a) Contact with Joe Nun from Multnomah County Clean Slate Project was not successful
 - b) Recommended that OCBA collaborate with NAACP in Marion County since the interest already exists. Will continue to attempt contact with Multnomah County in the meantime.
 - c) Mr. Davis, Vice-President of NAACP and Mr. Peterson, President of NAACP in Salem-Keizer believes this project affects everyone, not just blacks in Oregon.

- d) Request was made by Mr. Peterson for the Office to look into funding for this project
 - i. **Action:** Office will contact LFO Human Services analyst to obtain budget for Project Clean Slate and report back to Commissioner Richard
- e) Commissioners all agreed that ongoing discussion is needed in order to build support for this project
 - i. **Action:** Commissioners Richard and Thompson will work with NAACP in Salem/Keizer and Project Clean Slate (PCS) to continue the work
- f) **Motion:** Commissioner Rice motioned that OCBA support PCS and its services to Oregonian. Commissioner Stephenson seconded.
Vote: unanimous approval

2) Stimulus Funds

- a) Early Childhood Education: Mariahm Stephenson
 - i. Passed out three handouts regarding funding to Oregon's Headstart (both state and federal programs). Discussion re: outreach to communities regarding availability and eligibility of Headstart programs throughout Oregon
 - a) **Motion:** Commissioner motioned to post information on OCBA's website. Commissioner Richard seconded. Vote: unanimous approval
 - ii. **Action:** Commissioner Stephenson will obtain information on centers in all 36 counties and the Office will post, as well as forward the information to the other three Commissions.
 - iii. Commissioner Stephenson asked permission to contact Early Headstart Coordinator and invite her to the next meeting
 - a) **Motion:** Commissioner Doncan motioned. Commissioner Rice seconded. Vote: unanimous approval
- b) New Hires (older workers): Jennifer Doncan
 - i. Discussion around accessing funding to create jobs for minorities in areas where there is under-representation such as teaching
 - ii. Commissioner Doncan proposed inviting Dr. Pearl, who created *New Careers for the Poor* program to come to the next commission meeting to discuss his Career Opportunity Program (COP).
 - iii. Looking at ways to work with existing welfare laws (TANF) to reduce barriers so that more people on TANF can go to school to bring themselves out of poverty and into classrooms
- c) Disparity in funds to minorities (ODOT Report): Willie Woolfolk
 - i. This topic was not discussed in the meeting
- d) Police Racial Profiling: Clifford Walker
 - i. This topic was not discussed in the meeting
- e) Health Care: Phyllis Rand

i. This topic was not discussed in the meeting

- V.** Promise King, Oregon League of Minority Voters/Partnership with OCBA
- 1) League was created in 2007. Vision: bring all political leaders to discuss diversity, social equality. Mission: promote broader understanding of issues that affect communities of color
 - 2) Poverty Conference on October 16, 2009 at the Salem Conference Center
 - a) Mr. King will send Commissioner Walker bullet points about this conference and it will be posted on the OCBA website
- VI.** Marcus C. Mundy, Urban League (*tentative*)
State of Black Oregon Report
- 1) Mr. Mundy was unable to attend this meeting
- VII.** Administrator's Report to Commission
OACO updates
- 1) Governor's June 8th letter to legislators continues to advocate for the suspension of Commissions
 - a) The Office will continue to monitor the climate of this issue and inform all commissions of any proposed actions
 - b) It is imperative that advocacy work continue and that such work be documented, publicized and recorded
 - 2) Next Joint Commissions meeting will be on October 6, 2009. Scheduled presenters: Mayor Sam Adams, Multi-Cultural Health Services Director Tricia Tillman. Tentative: AG Kroger, Minority Services Director for OYA Lonnie Jackson
- VIII.** Chair's Report to Commission
- 1) Formal apology from legislators to Oregon Blacks and Asians for the original Oregon Constitution exclusion settlement law [**Action**]
 - a) Senator Monroe's expressed his willingness to carry proposed resolution to the Senate for approval
 - 2) State Treasurer invite to October OCBA meeting [**Action**]
- IX.** Old Business
- X.** New Business
- 1) "Correspondence" return window: Commissioners need to respond to requests for input within 48 hours
 - 2) **Motion:** Sen. Monroe motions that OCBA send a letter to the Multnomah County Commissioners asking them to consider ethnic diversity when filling vacancy by Sen. Carter or House seat. Commissioner Rice seconded. Vote: unanimous approval
 - 3) Stimulus dollars accountability spending in Oregon.
 - a) **Motion:** Commissioner Rice motions that a draft letter be sent to commissioners for review and approval and dissemination. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Vote: unanimous approval

XI. Final Thoughts:

- 1) Next meeting suggestions
 - a) September 19, 2009
 - b) Time? Place?
- 2) Agenda suggestions
 - a) Continue to focus on Priorities at each subsequent meeting

XII. Adjournment

- 1) Meeting was adjourned by Chair Walker at 9:35am