



MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs Saturday, April 16, 2011, 9 – 11 AM, PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall, 705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker

Vice Chair: Lorraine Wilson

Commissioners: Rep. Lew Frederick, Phyllis Rand (joined by phone), Carlos Richard, Samaura Stone, Willie Woolfolk (joined by phone)

Guests: Alexandra Arnhold, OCBA Student Intern
Mary Daly-Piehl, concerned parent, Eugene
Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland

Staff: Lucy Baker

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Motion (Wilson/Stone): to approve agenda with the addition of a report by Commissioner Rand. Carried.

III. Review and approval of minutes

Motion (Wilson/Woolfolk): to approve. Carried.

IV. Legislative Report

Lucy Baker discussed the OAC budget presentation before the Ways and Means' General Government Committee on March 24. All the Commission Chairs testified as well as Rep Frederick, Urban League of Portland, APANO, BOLI and a number of other Commission partners. Rep. Frederick noted that he also got good follow-up with the legislative members of the Ways and Means Committee. It is encouraging for adoption of the OAC budget. The final vote on the OAC budget will occur in late May.

Rep. Frederick reported on the effect of the new census data in legislative and policy discussions. The new census data has shown that diverse communities are growing in Oregon especially among Latino and Asian populations. In Rep. Frederick's district, there has been a 16% drop in the population of Black citizens. But the area east of 205 around David Douglas, Gresham, Tualatin, and Beaverton have all seen growth in the African American population.

The Commission reviewed the most recent OCBA Legislative Summary and discussed bills of interest.

Rep. Frederick provided a legislative update. Several of the bills he has proposed regarding community policing and Project Clean Slate are not progressing. The outlying legislators felt that the community policing bills pertained only to the Portland area and did not support them. The bill regarding immediate drug testing for police following an incident among the Police will not be passed this session but the Portland Police are independently taking steps to do drug testing as part of their new contract.

Rep. Frederick recently introduced a bill to provide training for foster parents on culturally appropriate hair care and other subjects having to do with their foster children's care. He noted that the Attorney General's office had a bill on hate crimes that is not progressing. There are several BOLI bills being co-sponsored by Commissions this session. The BOLI bill on public accommodation is having trouble but was passed by the House and sent to the Senate. The BOLI bill on providing protections for interns in the workplace is progressing.

The OCBA and Urban League of Portland Our Voices United Legislative Day is being held at the Capitol on April 19th and all Commissioners are invited to attend.

Commissioners Stone, Walker, Wilson, and Woolfolk all expect to attend and Rep. Frederick will address the joint attendees in HR 50 over lunch.

V. OCBA Intern Report

OCBA Public Policy Intern reported. Alexandra Arnhold reported on the extent to which large bids can be broken into smaller bids so that smaller minority contractors can apply. She is putting together data from the Tri-Met Yellow Line contracting practices on minority contracting. Tri-Met did an excellent job of pulling minority contracting into the project, by breaking it into smaller bids. She will be meeting with Bruce Watts at Tri-Met who is the Diversity Contracts manager at Tri-Met.

Chair Walker asked if it will be possible to know how many African American workers have benefited from the contracts. He's interested to know if they actually are getting jobs. Rep. Frederick thinks that it may not be possible due to privacy issues, but because small contractors are getting these contracts, they do employ workers of color.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Arnhold for her report and noted that they look forward to seeing the final written report of her findings.

VI. Presentation on disproportionate student discipline data by race.

Mary Daly Pehl addressed the Commission on concerns that she and a number of parents share that children of color are disciplined and expelled from middle and high school at a disproportionate rate for the same offences than white students. When Ms. Pehl adopted 2 black children she discovered that the public school in her area discipline black kids at a different rate than white kids. She began meeting with other parents and searching for groups who are interested in this subject, including the ACLU. The recent ACLU report called "The Rails to Jail" outlines the problem. She and others in the coalition have written to Oregon School Superintendent, Susan Castillo, saying that a searchable database needs to be available for on line regarding discipline by race by school. The Portland Parent Coalition, the Salem-Keizer School System parents have signed on as supporters and researchers.

Ms. Pehl discussed HB 2289 which creates a taskforce to review ODE's accountability and would be an opportunity to track discipline data as a measure of accountability. She also noted that Sen. Shields' bill requiring racial impacts statements has been rewritten to address only adults, losing its original wording to track children as well. She feels that tracking youth is important as education and lack of it is considered to be the pipeline to corrections.

Rep Frederick noted that Sen. Shields' bill was changed to have racial impact only for adults in order to get it passed. But it is a good first step. The foster children bill re racial impact recently had a hearing and Rep. Mike Schaufler spoke eloquently in favor. Disparity in child discipline is a long standing issue.

Mary asked the Commission to support the effort hold schools accountable for their child discipline rates by race and also to track HB 2289 as part of the legislative updates the Commission follows. The Commission thanked Ms. Pehl for her report and noted its interest in following the discussion and its support for accountability around child discipline.

VII. Commissioner Rand update

Commissioner Rand presented on National health care legislation. The President considers it to be a priority. Funding for it is critical. Commissioner Rand also discussed disaster preparedness and the check list available on-line of the essential components for an emergency kit, including a whistle. The Commission thanked her for her report.

VIII. 4/19 Our Voices United Legislative Day for Urban League & OCBA

Midge Purcell, the Legislative Director of Urban League, addressed the Commission on the plans for joint legislative day on April 19th. She expects 150 people to participate. Cleveland, Parkrose, and other schools will be there as a great civics lesson. Commissioner Stone noted that she expects to bring 12 students from the Middle School where she teaches life skills. NAACP Eugene is sending participants and student organizations from Corvallis and other locations have been contacted. 30 organizations have endorsed the day. This includes the Center for Intercultural Organizing, and the Collaboration for Health Equity. Commissioner Frederick noted that Midge has made a huge difference by being in the Capitol regularly. She is known by all the Legislators and when she walks into a legislative meeting, she is greeted and the conversation changes as a result. Midge thanked Rep. Frederick who regularly serves as a lone ranger to support legislation critical to communities of color. She comes to the Capitol to support his efforts.

Urban League is updating the talking points for a number of bills and will have them ready as handouts to participants to use with legislators. She thanked the Commissioners for their good work in promoting attendance from outlying areas of the state for Legislative Day. Participants will gather in HR 50 at 9 am to receive a packet of legislative information and have a short training on talking to legislators. SB 97 on Cultural Competency is a priority. Some of Rep Fredericks' bills including Clean Slate and the ODOT diversity are also priorities. Many participants will be telling their stories to legislators to help them understand how legislation affects communities of color. Senator Alan Bates will be meeting with Commissioner Willie Woolfolk. As a member of Ways and Means Health Committee he is important to the success of SB97.

Commissioner Woolfolk is also interested in learning more on SB 3311 on the Health Authority to conduct a study on the use of douglas, and the Health Exchange SB 99, and SB97. Senator Bates used to serve on the OCBA.

The Commission thanked Ms. Purcell for her report and all her good work to make the Legislative Day with Urban League and OCBA a success.

IX. New Business

Lucy Baker provided an orientation from Roberts Rules the nominating and voting process for the Chair and Vice Chair positions which will be nominated at this meeting and will be voted on at the June meeting of the OCBA according to its bylaws.

Chair Walker opened nominations for Chair. Nominations from the floor were received for:

- Commissioner Richard,
- Commissioner Stone, and
- Commissioner Wilson.

The 3 candidates accepted their nominations for Chair and will run.

Chair Walker called for nominations from the floor 3 times, hearing no further nominations; the nominations for Chair were closed.

Chair Walker opened nominations for Vice Chair. Nominations were received from the floor for:

- Commissioner Richard,
- Commissioner Stone, and
- Commissioner Woolfolk.

The 3 candidates accepted their nominations for Vice Chair and will run.

Chair Walker called for nominations from the floor 3 times, hearing no further nominations, the nominations for Vice - Chair were closed.

Motion (Stone/Frederick): To provide time on the May agenda for campaign speeches of no more than 5 minutes each for the Candidates to outline their priorities/vision as Chair or Vice Chair. Carried.

Lucy discussed plans for new Commissioner training. The training is proposed to be held with the Chair of each Commission at the Capitol. The training will include meetings with the Governor's Sr. Staff for appointments, diversity, legislation, business, and head of DAS to discuss the roles of the Commissions in advising policy, growing leadership, and building success.

X. Unfinished Business

The Commission briefly reviewed the list of unfinished Commission business that Commissioner Richard has prepared. After some discussion it was agreed that resolving or disposing of each issue will be important for the Commission to move forward. The May meeting will devote 45 minutes to reviewing and deciding a disposition for each point. Commissioner Richard was asked to facilitate the discussion by the Chair.

The Commission will review Bylaws at the May meeting.

The OCBA Vision Statement will be considered a work in progress.

XI. Adjourn

Motion: (Rand/Richard) To adjourn at 11:10.. Carried