



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Oregon Business Alliance, Main Conference Room

200 SW Market Street, Portland OR 97201

ATTENDEES:

Chair: Stephen Ying
Vice Chair: Mari Watanabe
Commissioners: Ping Khaw-Sutherland, Jennifer Kleskie, Michelle Vlach-Ing (phone),
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer
Guests: Joseph Santos Lyons; Mahendra Shah; OCBA Commissioner Lorraine
Wilson (phone)

I. Introduction of Commissioners/Guests

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM. A quorum was established.
The Commission welcomed new OCAPIA Commissioners Joseph Santos-Lyons and Mahendra Shah who will officially begin their service on October 1, and also welcomed OCBA Commissioner Wilson.

II. Review and Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

III. Approval of Minutes and Notes from last meetings

The Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION (Watanabe/Khaw-Sutherland): To accept the minutes as written.

CARRIED.

IV. Leadership Report

Chair Stephen Ying reported on his follow-up regarding the Grants Pass assault of an Asian family in their home. He contacted the Mayor of Grants Pass and suggested the Mayor make a statement in response to the crime that diversity is important to Grants Pass and that the assault is a criminal act that will be addressed, and the Mayor has done so. He also contacted the Young Hang family which was assaulted to offer support. Mr. Hang let Chair Ying know that they have received an outpouring of support from the community with cards, flowers, and offers of support and assistance. Chair Ying also contacted the local FBI for an investigation and report. More to come.

Chair Ying reported on his work with the 1882 Project which has worked with Congress for a national apology for the Chinese Exclusion Act which was in effect until 1943. Congress passed an apology in June, 2012 following the Senate apology earlier. An event honoring the apology will be held at 6 pm on October 13th, at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Hall, 315 NW Davis, Portland. It is open to the public.

Commissioner Ping Khaw-Sutherland – Reported on the APAC and OCAPIA collaboration at the Pittock Mansion which was a reception for the minority Chambers of Commerce in the Portland Area. It had great attendance and the City of Portland helped with expenses. City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, Roy Jay, Gail Castillo, Dante James and Commissioners from OCHA, OCBA and OCAPIA attended and spoke.

The Commission acknowledged and thanked Ping for her excellent organizing work for the event and APAC for their collaboration with OCAPIA to host it.

V. Administrator's Report

Lucy Baker reported that the Commissions have been busy including the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation and OCHA's 30th anniversary kick-off which both had events at the Capitol this month. APAC/OCAPIA's Pittock Mansion event was very successful and also the OCFW is planning the Women of Achievement Awards in October which will also be held at the Capitol.

Budget reductions in the 2013-15 biennium. Lucy reviewed the two proposed budget reduction scenarios of 5% each that are a required part of all Agency Request Budgets (ARB) for the 2013-15 Biennium. OACO's ARB was submitted to DAS at the end of August and included the 2 required budget reduction options for the Office. These 2 reduction scenarios were considered and approved by the Commissions in September 2012 as they prepared a set of potential reduction scenarios for the OACO office. Since that time, 3 reductions have already been implemented in the current biennium by the OACO: 1) reductions and restrictions on Commissioner/Staff travel reimbursements 2) reduction of phone and postal expenses, and 3) reduction of rent.

The 2 proposed reductions for the 2013 – 15 biennium for OACO would be very difficult and would impact its ability to support the Commissions. They would include 1) Close the physical OAC Office and have staff telecommute from their homes. And 2) add 53 additional furlough days for staff over the biennium amounting to 1.5 additional furloughs per person per month.

Lucy met with the OACO budget analyst in the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) about this situation that would significantly reduce the function and effectiveness of the OACO and Advocacy Commissions. LFO has requested OACO to submit a 2 page piece detailing the reductions that the Advocacy Commissions have already sustained

and provide an outline of how additional cuts would adversely affect the function of the Commissions. She will report on the proposed reductions to all Commissions by mid October and will work with them to prepare a draft for LFO by the end of October. If successful in its presentation to LFO, the OACO would be protected from across-the-board reductions to state agencies in the next biennium.

Commissioners asked about the opportunity to fundraise as a way of covering lost General Funds in Commission budgets. She responded that fundraising by Commissions can help and is expected by the legislature for each Commission. Other Funds raised by fundraising is a part of the state budget for the Commissions at a rate of \$10,000 each during the biennium. After discussion, the Commissioners asked to see the history of Other Funds amounts for the Commissions over time. ACTION: Lucy will send the OACO Other Fund history to the OCAPIA.

The OACO will be providing its first fundraising training for Commissioners on September 26, 2 – 4 pm. All Commissioners are invited to attend. It will be held at the Portland State Office Building.

The Commission thanked Lucy for her report.

VI. Old Business

Review Action Item List – remove top 3 items.

ACTION: Joseph Santos Lyons will send out invitations to OCAPIA Commissioners to Ballot Parties

ACTION: Joseph will send Ping the e-link to voter registration, to send to APACC. Deadline for voter registering is October 16th. He noted that less than 50% of eligible Asians are registered to vote.

Action on Tax credit: Commissioner Vlach-Ing and Sunny Petit, OCFW will meet regarding legislation for tax credits. Michelle is open to working with other interested Commissions and Commissioners.

Action on Travel Portland – Asian and Pacific Islanders were not surveyed when Travel Portland conducted its Multicultural survey on potential use of the Convention Center. At an OCAPIA meeting with Travel Portland, they asked OCAPIA's help to identify API business and groups to be surveyed

ACTION: Commissioner Khaw-Sutherland will start the list and forward it to Commissioners to add to it.

VII. New Business

Internships: Lucy Baker reminded the Commissioners to share ideas for Commission public policy internships. She will work with interested Commissioners to develop a short description of the internship for the OCAPIA to review and approve prior to

recruiting the intern. The Advocacy Commissions public policy internships are not currently paid and are at the Masters and PhD levels for course credit.

Senator Jackie Dingfelder asked if the Advocacy Commissions might consider recruiting interns for legislators' offices. The Commissioners were interested in doing so. Senator Dingfelder asked that students interested in legislative internships be encouraged to send their resumes to Carol Suzuki in the Senate Majority Office and to Rep. Tina Kotek for internships in the House. It would be helpful for the OACO office to take on the role of being a central point for community partners to also be able to access legislative internships and submit interns. Joseph Santos Lyons noted that a recent leadership grant to the Communities of Color Coalition might be a good spot to recruit interns. Oregon Voices also applied to the Oregon Humanities Foundation for a grant.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month: Vice Chair Watanabe reported on Asian Pacific Heritage Month and the various observances including a Cultural learning day: highlighting the differences between Asian cultures. Chair Ying noted that there will be an observance at the Convention Center also.

Senator Dingfelder asked that as the OCAPIA and community partners plan events in the Capitol to contact her for preparing a resolution before the legislature and reserving a date to provide an invocation.

VIII. Individual Commission Reports/Upcoming events

Vice Chair Watanabe met with OCBA Commissioner James Morris. They discussed having a mixer for Commissioners to get to know each other better from all the Advocacy Commissions. He offered to host the gathering at the University Club.

OCBA Commissioner Lorraine Wilson reported that she is a member of Blacks in Government based in Eugene. They recently hosted a forum working with Rep. Lew Frederick and who presented. She is interested in learning more about grants that would help Commissioners attend and host training and asked that Administrator Lucy Baker assist in the search for grants.

The next OCAPIA meeting will be on November 21st, 10 am, at the Portland State Office Building which is preferred for ease of parking.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by common consent at 12:03pm.