

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@oregon.gov
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, June 20, 2015, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
George R. White Library, Room 120
2811 NE Holman Street
Portland, OR 97211

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James I. Manning, Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Karol Collymore, Kayse Jama, Musse Olol, Representative Frederick
Absent: Robin Morris Collin, Gwen Trice, Senator Monroe
Guests: Lawanda Manning; Donna Hammond, IBEW; Connie Ashbrook, Oregon Tradeswomen; Oregon Labor Commissioner Avakian, Paloma Sparks and Steve Simms, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI); Emlyn Foxen, OCFW research intern; Mari Watanabe, OCAPIA Vice Chair and Portland Business Alliance; Pegge McGuire (phone), Fair Housing Council of Oregon; Theresa Powell, DHS, Aging and Disabilities Office; Rashida West, Shidaz Stylez
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:14am. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made introductions.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Frederick/Collymore): To accept the agenda as written. **CARRIED.**

III. Review and approval of OCBA April 2015 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Jama/Collymore): To accept the minutes as written. **CARRIED.**

IV. Public Comment – OCAPIA Vice Chair Mari Watanabe introduced herself and invited a member of the OCBA to attend an upcoming White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islander (WHIAAPI) Roundtable event on July 23rd in Portland.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – there was no unfinished business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elections for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair

The vote was conducted by ballot. Lucy Baker counted the votes and reported that James Manning was elected as Chair and James Morris was elected as Vice Chair. Chair Manning and Vice Chair Morris thanked the commissioners for their support.

B. [Status Report on the Disproportionately High Numbers of Terminations among African American Apprentices](#) – Steve Simms, Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and Christine Zenthoefer, OCBA/BOLI research intern

Steve Simms presented a PowerPoint developed from the most recent OCBA /BOLI research project: “*Labor Agreements as a Solution for Increasing Job Opportunities for African Americans and Females in the Construction Trades in Oregon.*” The three case studies examined in the report represent construction projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of labor agreements in addressing long standing disparities in the number of apprentices and journeymen of color working on each of the projects over a variety of trades and pay levels. The Chair entertained questions from Commissioners. Members of the public who were attending were asked to send Lucy Baker their questions to be answered after the meeting.

The Commissioners appreciated the hard data highlighting a longstanding issue for apprentices of color and discussed employer incentives, coalitions, pre-apprenticeship programs and further collaboration with BOLI on this subject.

Steve thanked the OCBA for its support and the Commissioners thanked Steve for his presentation.

C. Wage and apprenticeship bills - Commissioner Avakian, Bureau of Labor & Industries Labor Commissioner Avakian thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak at the meeting about recent legislation including:

1. Authority to garnish income of a business after Avakian makes an order.
2. Oregon Paycheck Fairness Act passed - illegal for an employer to retaliate against an employee who voluntarily shares info about pay rates
3. SB 674, to replenish the grant fund for re-establishing shop classes in middle schools and high schools. Commissioner Avakian envisions Oregon having the best workforce training program down the road, but it will require \$150 million in the grants.

Commissioner Avakian thanked the Commission for its support of wage and other related bills during the 2015 session. The Commissioners thanked him for the update and for his important work in ensuring people receive the wages they are due.

He noted the good research the Commission is doing with BOLI’s Apprenticeship Office and invited those Commissioners involved in the research to meet with him and Steve Simms as the study moves into the policy phase. Paloma Sparks will help coordinate that meeting.

D. [Race, National Origin, Familial Status, and Disability Disparate Treatment in Portland Rental Housing](#) – Pegge McGuire, Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO)

Pegge reviewed the process the FHCO uses to test for discrimination in housing and reported that housing discrimination continues. She noted that the report on discrimination is long and that her time with the Commission was short but offered that if Commissioners wish to have a specific training on all the outcomes of the study, that she would offer that in a webinar if that would be helpful. The study revealed that some landlords were found to withhold security deposits from certain protected classes of people and the FHCO is tracking this. Commissioner Jama requested the OCBA to do what it can to make progress on this issue.

Often needed repairs to apartments appear not to be made because of the tenant's race. Pegge urged Commissioners to send her tenants with complaints as she can assist with repairs being made. Representative Frederick will meet with Pegge regarding bringing these issues to the legislature in interim session.

Vice Chair Morris would like to work with Pegge on Federal Notices of Funds and add this project as a partnership between OCBA and the FHCO.

Chair Manning thanked Pegge for her presentation.

E. Ratification of e-vote for [2015 Legislative Session Bills supported by OCBA](#)

The OCBA reviewed and voted to support the following bills electronically since the April Commission meeting. They were read into the record for ratification at the current meeting:

1. HB 2734 - authorizes local government to create remediation of contaminated property
2. HB 3308A - Directs HECC to convene work group to make recommendations on how to address disparities in higher education among traditionally marginalized, underserved and underrepresented communities
3. SB 215 – Importance of an equity focus in the SB 215 workgroup (sunsetting of OEIB)
4. SB 187A – Establishes Oregon Student Information Privacy Act

MOTION (Jama/Morris): To ratify electronic votes of the OCBA to support the bills as read into the record. CARRIED.

F. Updates from the Governor's Office – rescheduled for the August meeting.

G. OCBA Committee updates:

1. Advocacy Committee – Commissioner Jama reported that African Americans and immigrants who work for DHS have spoken with him about discrimination and racism they experience in the workplace. Representative Frederick asked that these employees contact Janet Soto in the Governor's office and also BOLI regarding these issues.
2. Legislative Committee – Commissioner Collin and Chair Manning met briefly. The meeting notes are appended as part of the minutes and will be circulated to all Commissioners.

H. Urban League of Portland's [State of Black Oregon Report](#) – rescheduled for August meeting.

I. [10 Year Plan for Oregon](#) – Former Budget Analyst, Oregon's Office of the CFO, Clair Clark

Clair presented the website of the 10 Year Plan for Oregon and the statistics that are being kept there showing the progress being made in key areas of Education, health, jobs and economy and other areas. Commissioners found the data to be very helpful and asked if links might be made from the OCBA website to the 10 Year Plan site. They noted their interest in data divided by race and ethnicity. They thanked Clair for her presentation.

VII. Commissioners' Comments

- Commissioners appreciated the Concordia University meeting space and expressed interest in holding OCBA meetings there.
- Representative Frederick would like to know any subjects for bills by August meeting. Representatives are only permitted two bills in short session. Subjects of interest to him for 2016 and 2017 include air quality.

VIII. Administrator's Report

- A. Update on hiring for new OACO Policy Analyst position – hiring for the .5 FTE Policy Analyst position will happen in September. A request which was made to add the other .5 FTE to make the position whole into the Christmas Tree bill did not happen.
- B. Organizing a tour of OYA's McLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Salem – this will take place in August or early September.
- C. Going to see the Governor! Her meeting with the Chairs will be in late July.
- D. Travel reimbursements for the current biennium due first week in July. Please see Nancy after the meeting regarding travel reimbursements.

IX. For the Good of the Order:

- Next mtg 8/15/15, PCC Cascade Campus, exact location to be determined, 9am–12pm.
- Emlyn Foxen is interning for the OCFW and OCBA re: Incarcerated women. She is meeting with Senator Shields on Monday and would like to speak with any OCBA Commissioners who are interested in this topic.
- There is a Juneteenth celebration at N. Williams & Russell, Good in the Hood next weekend.

X. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:09pm.

From: Robins Mac Mini [<mailto:rcollin-wucl@comcast.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 11:30 AM

To: KRAMER Nancy * OAC; Lucy Baker

Cc: Robins Mac Mini

Subject: Leg Committee Meeting today

Chair Manning and I got on the phone today — I think I'd canceled the official meeting.

We had a good talk checking in on our various concerns, and would like to follow up next month on a few items, below:

— we would appreciate an update on where the Brownfields bill (HB 2734) stands now. Will it go to the Senate next? How can we help it pass into law?

— We would like to follow up on air quality monitoring, especially in the Salem and the Eugene areas.

As to both items above, I wonder whether a joint meeting with the Environmental Justice Taskforce might be a good idea.

— as to the Joint Education committee, we would both like to update where the ODE and OEIB stand on addressing disparate discipline. Are there any disparate discipline bills in the legislature now?

Thanks,

Robin Morris Collin