

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, February 18, 2017, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Concordia University
2811 NE Holman Street
George White Library, Room 120
Portland, OR 97211

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James Morris (phone)
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Mariotta Gary-Smith (phone), Musse Olol, Gwen Trice (phone)
Absent: Robin Morris Collin, Kayse Jama, Senator Monroe
Guests: David Williams, Next Level Basketball Academy; Michele Malick,
Oregon Department of Corrections
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer, Ty Schwoeffermann

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12am by Chair Morris. Because the Chair was unable to attend the meeting in person, he requested Commissioner Olol to serve as the acting Chair. Commissioner Olol assumed his duties as acting Chair immediately.

II. Review and approval of agenda

The commission reviewed the agenda with an addition: Support of OYA budget.
MOTION (Trice/Gary-Smith): To accept the agenda with the addition of discussion on OYA's budget and possible support. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA December 2016 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Trice/Morris): To approve the OCBA December Minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment

David Williams shared information about the NLBA. Chair Morris suggested he reach out to Senator Winters.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Recap of Black History Month proclamation signing ceremony: Chair Morris and the Commission discussed the excellent speakers and others who made the proclamation signing with the Governor such a special event. Senator Winters, Kathleen Saadat and Representative Bynum all addressed the history of leadership in education of Black Oregonians. The Governor stayed to listen to the remarks which were exceptional.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Policy research internships update:

Immigrant re-credentialing: Lucy and Chair Morris reported on the joint public policy research that OCAPIA and OCBA are partnering around improving the success of immigrants who bring internationally earned degrees to Oregon so they can work in their fields. Ennada Lagout, Fulbright scholar working on her Master degree in Public Policy at OSU will soon be writing and presenting her final report to the champions of the internship including Sen. Dembrow, Chair Watanabe and Governor's policy advisor for workforce. As part of her work, she has interviewed pharmacists here who were credentialed overseas. Commissioner Olol also helped Ennada make connections in the community for potential candidates to interview. Chair Morris has provided connections with the dental boards.

Disproportionate discipline: Vice-Chair Collin has met with Dr. Salam Noor, Director of the Oregon Department of Education. He was very supportive and is interested in pursuing 3L law students for externships, possibly several research interns in partnership with the OCBA.

B. African American Black Student Success Plan Advisory Committee update:

Dr. Markisha Smith, Director of Education Equity Unit, Oregon Department of Education

Dr. Smith discussed the work of the ODE Committee tasked with developing the educational plan for Black student success, k-12, statewide. The statutory charge of the group is implementing HB 2016, which passed in 2015. Some of the key issues addressed by the plan are chronic absenteeism and low attendance, addressing parent and community engagement, and transitions from early childhood to elementary, which will be presented to the legislature this year. In the current biennium, an initial investment by the legislature of \$ 2.9 million has launched the implementation with staffing, research and data analysis, and 4 pilot projects to model programs. The ODE budget for the next biennium includes an additional investment of \$5 million to further the work outlined in the plan. Chair Morris discussed the importance of vocational courses in the trades while in high school as a bridge to academic completion and well-paying jobs.

The Commission asked Dr. Smith, How can OCBA help?

She suggested a letter of support from OCBA to ODE for this plan and the work they are doing.

The Commission thanked Dr. Smith for sharing the information with them.

C. Legislative discussion:

1. Leg Reports from Commissioners and legislators: Ty arranged pre-meetings for Chair Morris and Vice Chair Collin at the Capitol with members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee for General Government in advance of the OAC's budget presentation to them. James and Robin, along with Ty and Lucy, introduced the six new legislators of the committee to the work of the Advocacy Commissions and answered their questions. They were very positive meetings and Senator Manning, who is chair of the Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee, met with our group and posed for pictures. The time for the OAC budget presentation is now set for Monday 2/27, at 3pm. Vice Chair Collin will represent OCBA during its presentation at the budget hearing.

2. Joint Leg Day with Urban League of Portland is set for February 24th. Ty has arranged for OCBA commissioners to meet with Senator Winters, Senator Manning and Representative Janelle Bynum between 9:30am and 11am that day. He would like to arrange additional meetings this week and welcomes input. Urban League and OCBA may have another Legislative Day later in the session. Ty will contact Commissioners as soon as he has more info.

3. Review and Approval of OCBA's priority bill list

Ty reported that he has been working with the outcomes from the OAC's Joint Legislative Meeting in December 2016. The Commissions heard from various agencies that day and also worked in individual groups to select key words that Ty has since used to search for equity-related legislation. He prepared a customized list of bills for each commission related to the strategic priorities and historical leadership of each commission in specific areas of interest.

Ty shared the OCBA's Tier 1 list:

- i. HB 2004 - Tenant Protection bill, 90 day notice for eviction and moving expenses.
- ii. HB 2167 - Oregon Safe Employment Act. OCFW and OCHA are also tracking this bill.
- iii. HB 2194 - Prevailing Wage Rate bill
- iv. HB 2240 - No Cause Eviction Bill
- v. HB 2355 - Law Enforcement profiling bill for data collection on all traffic stops, includes drug crime de-criminalization.
- vi. SB 126 - Lowering mandatory sentences for juvenile offenders (Measure 11)
- vii. SB 416 - Decision to divide public works contracts into separate contracts (BOLI). Could make minority contractors more competitive
- viii. SB 557 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and Cap & Trade
- ix. SB 5501 - OACO's budget bill

MOTION (Trice/Gary-Smith): To approve OCBA's list of priority bills for the 2017 legislature as presented. CARRIED.

Ty requested a champion for each bill who would work with him to draft testimony in support of each bill prior to its hearing. He will follow up with Commissioners to identify who would like to support the individual bills in the OCBA's priority list.

Ty reviewed the Legislative Calendar which he had shared electronically. Bills that have not received a hearing and work session by April 7th will not progress to the next round of hearings in the opposite chamber, either Senate or House. Bills that have been referred by then to either the Rules Committee or Ways and Means Committee remain viable until end of session.

New Senate and House Committee assignments of legislators were also distributed and a list of all new legislators.

Ty's legislative briefings for the Advocacy Commissions by phone for 30 minutes every other week: Commissioners can phone in to hear all the latest on bills of interest to the OAC's and ask Ty questions. The next scheduled Legislative update is March 3rd. All Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

D. Joint Health Committee meeting update:

Commissioner Gary Smith and Ty reported that committee has grown amazingly. Mariotta led the meeting on housing related to health, followed by the meeting facilitated by OCHA Vice Chair Linda Castillo and Chair Moreno on gaps in Latino behavioral health. The full committee work has now been completed and Ty is working on a summary of all Health Committee issues and policy opportunities.

E. Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) has asked the OACs to support their budget:

The OYA is asking community organizations and partners to support its budget request of the legislature with a letter of support. The Chair and Vice Chair of OCBA have worked increasingly with OYA, as has OCBA around youth sentencing. The Commission agreed that it will provide a letter of support. Lucy will work with the Chair and Vice Chair to prepare a draft for OCBA to review and approve.

F. Suggestions for new Representative to be appointed to the OCBA:

The Speaker of the House entertains suggestions and requests from state boards and commissions for appointments of specific legislators. OCBA discussed their first and second priorities in requesting a new legislative appointment from the House to fill the OCBA position left as Rep. Frederick left his House appointment and became a Senator. Representative Janelle Bynum was proposed by Chair Morris with Representative Theresa Alonso Leon or Rep. Diego Hernandez in order of request. The OCBA discussed this list and agreed by common consent.

VII. Commissioners' Reports

- Commissioner Trice – has been traveling Eastern Oregon doing outreach. Currently on traveling exhibit across Oregon with the Smithsonian and has been raising awareness about the OCBA. She will be in Ontario where there is a Somali community, and wishes to reach out to them. Musse will connect Gwen with a spokesperson for this Somali community.
- Chair Morris – In addition to meeting with legislators in advance of the OAC's budget hearing last week, Chair Morris met with Governor Brown yesterday with other Black business people in Portland. He has been meeting with Project Constructing Hope and supporting Project Social Ignition. He has met with Eric Logan, regarding the funds of \$60M being invested by the owner of Ebony & JET magazine. He is interested in changing the narrative around certifying Minority and/or Women-owned and Emerging Small Businesses (MWESB). In Oregon MWESB certification is mainly for construction companies, but James would like to expand this to other businesses (like coffee shops) or transportation and make it a selling point. The majority of the certifications are for ESB, often owned by white males. He would like more people of color to use the resources and advantages provided by becoming certified.

- Commissioner Olol – recently toured the Federal Sheridan Prison in Oregon. He noted over representation by Black people imprisoned there. It is a harrowing place to experience in a visit, depressing and frightening. Musse discussed the national situation around the recent Executive Orders regarding immigration. African immigrants are scared. Police have stepped up patrols at houses of worship. This is not just about religion, he noted, but about Black people and the majority of these are Somalis. An Imam's wife works in City of Portland, and while traveling to work on a city bus, she was verbally threatened by another rider and will no longer take the bus. African women who dress traditionally are attracting verbal abuse.

VIII. Administrator's Report

- A. New state policy on Improper Governmental Conduct – Lucy reviewed new policies that pertain to state staff and board members regarding reporting unethical behavior to the DAS HR. Complaints or reports can also be reported to the OACO staff and forwarded to DAS.
- B. Review and approval of OCBA's 2015-17 Biennial Report to the Governor and Legislature This report was sent to OCBA Commissioners for their review and edits. No edits were received. Lucy walked Commissioners through the summary of their accomplishments and actions over the past biennium.

MOTION (Trice/Morris): To accept the OCBA's 2015-17 Biennial Report to the Governor and Legislature. CARRIED.

- C. Administrative paperwork - Nancy shared a state form for commissioner review and signing: Authorization to Use Private Vehicle (AUPV.)

IX. For the Good of the Order:

Next mtg Saturday, 4/15/17, Concordia U Campus, 9am–12pm (bldg./rm to be determined).

X. Adjourn

Acting Chair Olol adjourned the meeting at 11:10am by common consent.