

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Portland Community College Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall, Room 208
705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland OR 97217

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: James I. Manning Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Kayse Jama (phone), Robin Morris Collin, Musse Olol (phone), Gwen Trice (phone), Representative Lew Frederick
Absent: Karol Collymore, Senator Monroe
Guests: Clifford Walker; Brian Allard, OCBA Extern on Discipline Disparities; Kuri Gill, Oregon Heritage Commission; Janet Soto, Policy Coordinator for Governor's Office of Economic and Business Equity; Lawanda Manning; Theresa Powell
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order at 9:10am.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Morris/Frederick): To approve the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA February 2015 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Morris/Frederick): To approve minutes as written. CARRIED.

IV. Nominations for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Manning opened nominations for Chair.

Kayse Jama nominated James Manning for Chair.

Chair Manning called for any other nominations for Chair three times. Hearing no further nominations, Chair Manning closed the nominations for Chair. He was deeply honored and accepted the nomination.

Chair Manning opened nominations for Vice Chair.

James Morris was nominated for Vice Chair.

Chair Manning called for nominations from the floor 3 times and hearing no further nominations closed the nominations for Vice Chair. Vice Chair Morris accepted the nomination.

The Officer elections will take place at the June 2015 OCBA meeting.

V. Public Comment

Clifford Walker introduced himself as a former OCBA Commissioner, and asked what response OCBA had received from the Governor's office regarding his question at the February meeting regarding the reason for his dismissal from the Commission. The response had been sent to Mr. Walker by e-mail several weeks ago, but as he had not received it, it will be sent in hard copy via USPS in the coming week.

There was no other Public Comment.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – there was no unfinished business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Policy Research Internships report – Brian Allard

Brian shared his research on school discipline disparities with the OCBA and also recommendations for restorative justice approaches regarding these embedded biases.

Nancy will post the presentation to the OCBA's website. The OCBA will reach out to Brian regarding sharing his presentation with policymakers.

Chair Manning and Commissioner Collin thanked Brian for his presentation which has added to the policy options being considered by the Oregon Department of Education and the OCBA to address this issue.

B. Ratification of e-vote for 2015 Legislative Session Bills supported by OCBA

1. HB 2002 - Requires Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to establish independent procedures for receiving and recording profiling complaints
2. HB 2704, Relating to the recording of law enforcement officers
3. SB 939, Directs Department of Corrections to enter into contracts with nonprofit entities to create programs to assist children of incarcerated parents

MOTION (Morris/Frederick): To ratify the e-vote to support these bills as they were read into the record. CARRIED.

C. Kuri Gill, Program Coordinator, Oregon Heritage Commission

Kuri thanked the OCBA for having her. She briefly explained that that OHC offers technical assistance and grant programs to groups to document, collect and share materials relating to Oregon's history.

Of particular interest to the OCBA was Kuri's work with the Oregon Black Pioneer Program. The Black Pioneers are working with Kuri to document historical sites of black history from the 1880's to 1984 across Oregon. Site suggestions can be submitted online. Commissioners gave Kuri several suggestions during the meeting and were asked to connect anyone working on these suggested sites to Kuri. Representative Frederick suggested the OBP attend the in-service day for teachers the 2nd week in October and requested there be a presentation and/or a booth can see where historic places are in their own backyards.

Commissioners briefly discussed holding an OCBA meeting and a joint listening session in eastern Oregon in collaboration with the Oregon History Commission and also a visit to the Maxville Heritage Center. Chair Manning asked that the Advocacy Committee and Lucy explore this idea during the summer and report back.

D. OCBA Committee updates

1. Advocacy Committee – Staff were asked to poll OCBA Commissioners for good dates and times for this committee to meet during the month the OCBA does not have a regular meeting to see if the Advocacy Committee might begin meeting again before Fall. All Commissioners will be invited to this committee. A request was made that if the meeting is canceled, Commissioners will be notified a week in advance.
2. Legislative Committee – Representative Frederick asked to provide his legislative report under Commissioner Comment on the agenda. See it below.

E. Janet Soto - Policy Coordinator, Economic & Business Equity - Procurement issues and the work of the EBE

Janet thanked the Commission for having her. Governor Brown’s approach to equity in state government is that it be part of the planning, not just part of the plan. No official decision has been made regarding hiring a Senior Policy Advisor for Diversity & Inclusion. She also wants to examine existing state data to understand how the state can better serve communities of color in the areas of Workforce, Jobs & Economy. Robin Johnson is now serving in the Governor’s Office as a Policy Analyst (formerly with the OHA’s Office of Equity & Inclusion). She will examine the state’s workforce data and disaggregate it. Robin and Janet are both Policy Coordinators, not directors. Business Oregon will hire a new senior level business manager.

Commissioner Collin noted that areas of disparity are already known, such as construction opportunities and the Department of Transportation.

Janet invited Commissioners to consider sponsoring a public policy research project to disaggregate data in procurement.

Vice Chair Morris would like to speak further with Janet. Commissioners would like to continue to hear from Janet as this new approach to diversity takes shape in the Governor’s Office.

The OCBA thanked Janet Soto for her presentation.

F. Sharon Gary-Smith, Executive Director, McKenzie River Gathering had to postpone her visit.

VIII. Commissioners Comments

At the Commissioners’ request, Lucy provided an update regarding the OACO’s budget hearing: The 4 OAC Chairs attended the 3/25 hearing along with representative Frederick and Senator Winters and community partners provided written testimony in support of the request for 3 additional staff. The hearing went well; however, since that time, the Legislative Fiscal Office recommended adding .5 additional staff, specifically the Operations and Policy Analyst position. Later this week Joint Ways and Means (JW & M) will hold the work session regarding the OACO’s budget. Lucy and Chair Manning will attend and Lucy will keep the OAC’s abreast of developments.

Representative Frederick gave an update regarding legislation of interest to the OCBA:

- HB 3375, the Educational Equity Act (formerly Minority Teachers Act), which requires the number of teachers of color to mirror the number of students of color passed.
- The Minority Contractors bill passed the House unanimously.
- HB 2016-2, which develops a plan to deal with educational disparities related to African-American students, will pass the Education Committee and likely proceed to the JW & M Committee.
- The bill for Trimet relating to disparate enforcement and exclusion did not survive.
- HB 2002 relating to recording profiling complaints continues along the legislative process.
- HB 2704 relating to police officers wearing body cams is still alive.
- HB 2734 relating to cleaning the brownfields is alive. And bills related to mental health that may have an impact on communities of color.
- HB 3025 (Ban the box) is still alive. - Manning thanked Oregon for Ban the Box work.
- Oregon Youth Authority bill regarding the use of solitary confinement may be resurrected.
- Expungement of previous marijuana charges is not a bill right now, but the Committee on implementing the legalization of marijuana may develop a bill. Chair Manning will send a letter from the National Coalition of African American Commissions to Rep Frederick.
- HB 2655 relating to students choice to opt out of standardized testing – Chair Manning would like to send a letter in support of this bill.

The Commissioners thanked Representative Frederick for his report.

IX. Administrator's Report

Lucy reported earlier in the meeting on the OACO's budget hearing before Joint Ways and Means General Government Committee went very well. The Chairs presented with her and there were many supporting testimonies and comments including from Rep. Frederick, Sen. Winters, Kendall Clawson, and Midge Purcell.

B. Expending available General Fund – The OCBA looks forward to receiving sponsorship requests from Urban League and the Roosevelt Rough Writers.

X. For the Good of the Order:

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the June OCBA meeting.
- Next mtg 6/20/15, location to be announced.

XI. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.