



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, 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@state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/OCBA

MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

August 17, 2013

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall, Room 112

705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

Attendees:

Chair: James I. Manning
Vice Chair: Absent
Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin (phone), Karol Collymore, Isaac Dixon, Julie Grey (phone), Kayse Jama, Gwen Trice (phone), Senator Monroe, Representative Frederick (phone)
Guests: Clifford Walker, NAACP; Clarence Williams, Black Education Fund of Eugene
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am. Quorum was established.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Dixon/Trice): To approve the 8/17/13 agenda. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment

Clifford Walker of the NAACP asked if Fannie Savage, a woman with a disability, had recently contacted the OAC Office. Ms. Savage asked Mr. Walker to confirm if the OCBA is still willing to assist her. Lucy Baker summarized the actions taken so far on behalf of Fannie Savage, including referrals to Legal Aid Services Oregon and the plan to contact Disability Rights Oregon in another effort to find a lawyer for her case.

Mr. Walker also asked if disabled veterans can have the call in number for the OCBA meetings. Lucy Baker explained that the Public Meeting Notice states that people needed disability accommodation to access the meeting location needs to contact the OAC Office 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Jama suggested that the OAC Office keep a list of pro bono attorneys available to do work and to make sure this list is kept up-to-date. Commissioner

Dixon noted that the Oregon State Bar keeps a list of such attorneys as well, and the importance of developing a relationship with the Bar. He can connect individuals with actual lawyers at Lewis & Clark Law School who hold clinics, and Commissioner Collin is probably able to do the same at Willamette University's College of Law.

Lucy and Commissioner Jama will meet to see what resources can be shared.

There was a brief pause so Chair Manning could arrive at the meeting place (he had teleconferenced into the meeting as he drove) and conduct the rest of the meeting in person.

IV. Review and approval of OCBA 6/22/13 Regular Meeting Minutes and 6/22/13 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes

MOTION (Dixon/Collymore): To accept the OCBA 6/22/13 Regular Meeting Minutes as written. CARRIED by unanimous consent.

MOTION (Dixon/Collymore): To accept the OCBA 6/22/13 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes as written. CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Senator Monroe noted that it is appropriate for a person to vote on accepting minutes even if the person was not able to attend.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Committee Reports

1. Advocacy Committee – Commissioner Grey

This committee decided it is a priority to connect minority entrepreneurs in rural areas who face similar threats. There are few leadership programs in those areas, unemployment is high and there is no/little organized representation of the black community. People local to Portland such as Roy Jay, Sam Brooks and Dr. Terrell are leaders with whom minority entrepreneurs in rural areas would like to meet. Commissioner Grey would like to meet with local minority business owners before coordinating with resources outside of her area. It was agreed that she should meet with all minority entrepreneurs in her region, inclusive of Latino, Asian and woman-owned businesses.

Social and economic issues are forcing many in the Black community to move farther away from urban areas. The Commissioners agreed to plan an OCBA meeting outside Portland, but probably not until next year. The Office will need to confirm there is funding to cover their travel expenses.

2. Legislative Committee – Commissioner Collin

In addition to Chair Manning and Commissioners Collin, Collymore and Dixon, Representative Lew Frederick and Frank Garcia, Senior Policy Advisor for the Advocacy Commissions, also attended.

The discussion touched on many key areas including racial profiling, minority contracting and the Columbia River Crossing construction project, gun control reform, discipline disparities in schools, early childhood learning and Oregon's Stand Your Ground law.

Senator Monroe clarified that the September 2013 Legislative days and the February 2014 Legislative session are clean-up sessions and times to deal with issues already in play. It is best to introduce new legislation during the 2015 long session which begins in January. Representative Frederick and Senator Monroe recommended using the February 2014 session as an opportunity to inform people about key issues and to meet with the relevant legislative committees.

Chair Manning proposed that the next OCBA meeting, on October 19th, focus on discussion about the interconnectedness of the important issues already addressed and possible legislation that would bring about the most positive changes. He requested that most of the regular items not be on this special agenda. Representative Frederick and Senator Monroe will present related data. The Advocacy and Legislative Committees can use their September meetings as a means to prepare for this discussion.

Lucy and Nancy were asked to propose and send an agenda for the October 19th OCBA Regular Meeting.

B. Retreat follow-up

1. All committees will set quarterly goals at their next committee meeting and briefly share them at the October meeting.
2. The committees were asked to share their meeting schedule with the office.

C. Internship concepts

Lucy shared the final copy of the disparate discipline in schools internship concept for a law student with the OCBA via email. Commissioner Collin will supervise and that has the potential to partner with the Department of Education. Michael Mahoney, in Portland Public Schools' Superintendent Rob Saxton's office, is interested in learning more about this internship and will meet with Commissioner Collin later in August to discuss it. Commissioner Collin will ask the intern to have something prepared to share at the October OCBA meeting.

MOTION (Monroe/Dixon): To ratify the OCBA's e-vote in favor of the internship concept on Education Discipline as submitted. CARRIED by unanimous consent.

VI. Chair's Report and Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Trice noted she is interested in compiling a list of all resources available for small business development in frontier counties and asked the OCBA and OACO to help with this. It was suggested she discuss this request at the September Advocacy Committee meeting.

Senator Monroe stressed the importance of having the OCBA on the record as being supportive of bills on a broad range of topics of interest to the OCBA and the Black community. The OCBA's backing carries weight with other legislators. He mentioned the Natural Hair Care bill, which the OCBA supported and which became law, as an example. Commissioner Dixon suggested using chat or an instant messaging program as a more efficient means to communicate quickly and easily during session's fast pace.

Commissioner Jama was highly encouraging that the OCBA work on the issue of ending racial profiling and is willing to help with that.

Commissioner Dixon reported that, with Lucy's help, he was able to connect a Lewis & Clark student with Morrison Family Services, and this summer, instead of doing migrant work, she completed a public policy internship. He is also presenting a symposium in September with Mary Daly-Piehl and her daughter on discipline disparities which will be presented to future faculty members through University of Phoenix.

Chair Manning will attend the August 24th rally to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the civil rights march on Washington and will march as a representative of the four Oregon Advocacy Commissions. He also attended an event where Donzaleigh Abernathy was the speaker. She is the daughter of Dr. Ralph Abernathy, close personal friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the strategist behind the civil rights movement.

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VII. OACO Administrator's Report

A. 2013-2015 Budget Update

The OACO's budget for the 2013-2015 biennium passed including 2 Policy Option Packages:

- 1) Work-study student to assist with community outreach
- 2) Travel budget mostly restored.

OACO expects to receive notice from the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) that all state agencies, including OACO will need to prepare a recommendation for a 2% budget holdback of funds (about \$8,000 for OACO) in the current biennium. Whether the funds will be made available will be in February, 2014 after the

economic forecast is made, and also that a 5% contingency plan to reduce every state budget. She will share her recommendation with the commissions for their review once the LFO announcement and requirements are received later in August.

B. OACO Staffing – Update

During OACO's budget hearing in March 2013 Joint Ways & Means asked the Advocacy Commissions what resources they need to carry out their missions. All Commissioners were surveyed and the answer was additional travel and staffing. OACO will be working with the Commissions this year to look ahead to the 2015-2017 biennium to better determine what additional staffing the Commissions determine are necessary.

C. Public Records Requests (PRR)

The Office receives approximately one public records request every month. OACO is working to post more information on the Commission websites regarding how the public can make those requests and how any associated costs to fill the request are calculated. The OACO uses the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) PRR guidelines and fee schedule. Requesters are provided with an estimate of costs to fill the PRR which must be paid in advance of receiving the public records.

D. Serena Stoudamire Wesley, the OCBA's Strategic Planning facilitator would appreciate feedback on her work with the Commission in June. Lucy will send a survey to all OCBA Commissioners.

VIII. Other Business

Senator Monroe noted that the Governor vetoed a bill which would have allowed some Oregon schools to keep their mascots that depict Native Americans. The Senator invited the OCBA send the Governor a thank you for his decision.

MOTION (Monroe/Dixon): To send Governor Kitzhaber a note from the OCBA thanking him for his veto that would have continued to allow the use of Native American symbolism for school mascots. CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Lucy will draft the thank you note to the Governor.

Guest Clarence Williams from the Black Education Fund in Eugene was introduced. He noted that he appreciated hearing about the many resources discussed in today's meeting. He is aware of gaps that need to be closed and now has a better idea of who those are that can close them. He is aware of other people who would be interested in getting involved in the issues the OCBA is addressing.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous common consent at 10:56am.