



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
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NOTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

October 19, 2013

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall, Room 202

705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

Attendees:

Chair: James I. Manning Jr.
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin, Julie Grey, Senator Monroe
Guests: Lawanda Manning
Staff: Lucy Baker

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9 am. A quorum was not established.

II. Review and approval of agenda and 8/17/13 minutes

The group agreed by common consent to follow the agenda prepared for the meeting. The approval of minutes was delayed until the next regular meeting due to lack of a quorum.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Robin Morris Collin noted that she has spoken with Midge Purcell of Urban League of Portland (UL) about the progress they are making with the update of the Status of Black Oregon Report. They are using a process for creating a vision for the next 50 years in areas that the OCBA has had a long standing interest including housing, jobs, education, family stability and other areas. It is very exciting.

Commissioner Julie Grey also serves on the UL committee that is overseeing the update of the Status of Black Oregon Report and is representing the OCBA. Julie has attended their kick-off meeting and is looking forward to their further discussions. She encourages the OCBA Commissioners to be involved with the update either directly or through her. She will keep the Commission up-to-date on the meetings.

Commissioners Collin and Grey would like to set a meeting with Midge Purcell and interested members of the OCBA for a briefing about the update of the Status of Black Oregon Report and to offer OCBA's support. They would like to explore with Midge ways that the OCBA can partner on the update. Lucy will help set that meeting in November. She will also send a copy of the UL Roadmap to the Commissioners in advance.

After discussion, the Commission members also agreed that they would like to reconnect with Kathleen Saadat, who had long been the staff person for OCBA during its early years. They would like to discuss the history of the Commission with Kathleen and share their strategic thinking as well as invite her to the OCBA regular meeting. Lucy will help set that meeting.

Senator Monroe reported on Short Session and also on the Special Session that has recently ended. He was impressed by the bipartisan leadership of both sessions and especially the latter. Senator Jackie Dingfelder, who serves on OCAPIA, has announced that she will leave the Senate for a post in the Portland Mayor's Office. Rep. Dembrow has announced that he will seek her seat. Sen. Monroe encourages the OCBA to propose legislation with interested legislators. He has a long interest in abolishing the death penalty. Sen. Monroe also hopes to be reappointed to the OCBA.

Vice Chair James Morris reported on his work on the Dental Board which is discussing the implementation of the law recently passed on cultural competency training. Their discussion was primarily in the negative until James joined the discussion to talk about the importance to all for better cultural competence in the health professions including dentists wherever their practice may be. He suggested that the OCBA and all the Commissions may wish to reach out to the health related Boards and Commissions in Oregon to with an offer to speak on the subject of culturally competent care, or refer them to knowledgeable speakers on the subject for their upcoming meetings. Lucy will put together some outreach options to the health Boards with information to the Commissioners. She will also draft a letter from the OCBA to the Boards offering the Commissions' help as they consider culturally competent care.

Vice Chair Morris reported on his meeting with Lucy, and Diane Schwartz Sykes regarding the BOLI the internship program and the Apprentice for Journeyman experience for Trades people of color. The intent is to have a law intern in place for the spring semester. VC Morris plan to update Senator Jackie Winters on the internship program and ask her to mentor the intern.

Vice Chair Morris noted that Deena Pierott, a Commissioner on the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs, and local entrepreneur, is receiving National recognition for her work with students of color interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers. Ms. Pierott is cited among the top 100 Influential Black Professionals by *Ebony* magazine and has been covered by the *New*

York Times. VC Morris is hosting a reception honoring Ms. Pierott and is inviting OCBA to join him. He will get information on the event to the Commissioners shortly. Lucy will draft a letter of congratulations to Ms. Pierott and get it to the Commissioners.

Vice Chair Morris also noted that the new CEO of the Community Cycling Center is a graduate of Tuskegee University. He would like to invite him to attend the OCBA meeting and to recognize him for leadership role; commissioners agreed.

VC Morris would like to see OCBA Commissioners participation at the Urban League of Portland's annual fundraiser and consider doing joint fundraising with the Urban League.

Chair Manning thanked Vice Chair Morris for his report and asked that as emerging leaders in the black community are recognized by the OCBA, that they be asked for their bio in order to highlight them at the OCBA website.

Chair Manning thanked Vice Chair Morris and Commissioner Collin on their roles in helping coalesce the internship with BOLI on Apprentice to Journeyman. It is important and he greatly appreciates their leadership on it.

V. Committee Reports

A. Advocacy Committee: Vice Chair Morris reported for Commissioner Kayse Jama. Highlights included their discussion on a perception of growing activity by hate groups in the state and the continued incidents of racially motivated crime. The Advocacy Committee meeting notes are appended.

The Commissioners thanked the Advocacy Committee for its report and continued to discuss the issue of bias crime, reporting to police and the role of the OCBA around bias crime. After discussion, Commissioners agreed that they would:

- 1) Work collaboratively with NAACP leaders statewide on the issue including the new president of NAACP in Salem, Dr. Terrell.
- 2) Request a meeting with Attorney General Rosenblum and the OCBA legislative committee to consider mutual interests in pursuing legislative remedies for bias crime and discuss the statistics on bias crime kept by DOJ. Lucy will schedule the meeting in Salem and Robin Morris Collin will make lunch arrangements for the participants at Willamette University.
- 3) Send a form for noting bias crime incidents to the OCBA and send it to Commissioners for review.
- 4) Meet with Commissioner Collin's contact at the FBI regarding the bias crime statistics they keep.
- 5) Commissioner Collin also noted that she is willing to work with OCBA on putting together a conference on the subject.

- 6) Learn more about growing lawlessness in several Oregon Counties that are near bankruptcy. Ask Commissioner Avakian to discuss the issue with the Commission.
- 7) Add the subject of bias crime and lawlessness to the OAC leadership agenda.

B. Legislative Committee

Commissioner Collin reported on the recent meeting. The notes are appended.

Chair Manning thanked the members of the Legislative Committee for their excellent work. As the OCBA prioritizes its work, he will ask each Committee Chair for their top 3 priorities, as well as each of the Legislators serving on the OCBA. He and Senator Monroe have long considered early childhood development to be among the most critical needs in the Black community. Assuring that all kids are ready for Kindergarten by age 5 is key.

Chair Manning also applauded the important support by the Governor and the Legislature crucial in funding programs OCBA considers important including education, jobs, health care access, and funding for the Advocacy Commissions themselves. He asked that Lucy draft a letter to the Governor, expressing OCBA's gratitude and sincere appreciation of the OCBA for his continued support for the Advocacy Commission and his personal leadership elevating equity in Oregon.

Topics of discussion at OCBA meetings have included:

- Racial profiling
- Minority contracting, including the Columbia River Crossing project
- Gun control reform
- Discipline disparities in schools
- Early childhood learning
- Oregon's Stand Your Ground Law
- Disparities in discipline and early childhood education
- Growing activity of hate groups
- Poor air quality monitoring in neighborhoods of color
- Death penalty reform

VI. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The next OCBA meeting is Saturday, December 7th, 9am – 11am, Terrell Hall Room 112, PCC Cascade Campus.

VII. Adjourn:

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

OCBA Advocacy Committee meeting

September 24, 2013

Commissioners: Kayse Jama (Committee Chair), James Manning, Julie Grey, James Morris, Gwen Trice.

Staff: Lucy Baker

Commissioner reports:

Commissioner Grey reported on her work with Urban League of Portland. She is representing the OCBA on the UL committee updating the State of Black Oregon report. They are off to a good beginning and are looking to add information on mental health to the report.

Commissioner Trice reported that she is interested in all information on communities of color in rural and pioneer areas of the state and appreciates the work of the OCBA committee to collect it.

OCBA Chair, Manning joined the group for a short period. He reported on participating and representing OCBA on the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington march in Portland. There was a large turnout. Representative Fredrick delivered a sobering and powerful speech, and Frank Garcia read the Governor's Proclamation in honor of the march.

Standing date for OCBA Advocacy Committee meetings: last Tuesdays at 1 pm, every other month

The group agreed that the last Tues. of every other month alternating with those in which there is a regular OCBA meeting works well for most Commissioners at 1 pm.

Issue briefings:

As one potential way to collaborate with OCBA, Cyreena Boston Ashby, ED of PAALF, has offered to have PAALF (she or Rachel Gilmer) provide a briefing(s) for the OCBA issues they are following or see trending. Commissioner Jama noted that he'd like to include PAALF in a longer list of key leaders and partners that OCBA invites to provide issue briefings. These might include

- Community Cycling Center
- PAALF
- Urban League of Portland
- Young Professionals of Urban League
- Center for Intercultural Organizing
- Africa House (including their new statistical presentation on An Unsettling Profile report)

There was general agreement this is will help OCBA grow relationships with key groups and deepen their joint involvement on strategic issues. Staff will work with the OCBA leadership to begin scheduling these briefings at meetings of the OCBA or with the Advocacy Committee.

Hate Group activity in Oregon

OCBA Chair Manning briefly discussed an incident in Eugene involving a racist banner on a highway bridge under investigation by the police, ODOT, and local civil rights groups. He noted there are implications via news sources of growing organization and activity among hate groups in Oregon and asked if others had noticed activity in their area. All the Commissioners had and agreed that they feel hate group activity is growing. After some discussion, the Committee decided that they will request having a conversation with the Governor's office and the BOLI Commissioner, Brad Avakian, about it to see what action OCBA might take with state partners about it. Staff will assist in coordinating the discussion.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned by common consent at 1:40pm by common consent.

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs Legislative Meeting
Meeting Notes

September 20, 2013

Present: Robin Morris Collin, Chair James Manning, Isaac Dixon, Lew Frederick;
Lucy Baker

Absent: Karol Collymore

Next meeting: **Regular Meeting times:** Alternative Months, Third Fridays from
9:00am – 10:00am

I. Agenda:

- a. Update: Representative Frederick
- b. Unfinished Business
- c. New Business

II. Discussion

- a. Update: Representative Frederick: Things to keep an eye on
 - Implementation of the Minority Teachers Act.
 - Oregon Department of Education and Poverty (Bill 2662?),
 - the “Grand Bargain”,
 - 2014 session limits legislators to 2 bills, 3 bills for each committee, and one month
 - Student privacy
 - Brownfields restoration
 - Procurement Bill, specifically Minority contractors
- b. Long term OCBA issues:
 - Stand Your Ground
 - Apprentice to Journeyman opportunities
 - School Discipline Disparity
- c. New Issues:
 - Hazardous Air Pollutants and Portland students of color

III. Roundtable

1. We should focus on 2 – 3 issues: Environmental Justice. All commissions have some concerns in this area including Columbia River Crossing, schools and asthma; Discipline Disparities, including a focus on teacher training and implementation of the Minority Teachers Act of 1991 and 2013; (Comm. Dixon)
2. OAC Joint Forums are an opportunity for informal outreach and collaboration. Suggestion to do an Environmental Justice outreach to all commissioners (Lucy Baker)
3. Suggestion to Committee and OCBA to monitor and create an online archive of legislative activities in order to maintain continuity of focus and account for legislative successes
4. Medford OR complaint, Representative Frederick will address with a personal letter to the police department.