



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs  
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## MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs  
April 20, 2013, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM  
Portland Community College Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall, Room 112  
705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

### Attendance:

**Chair:** Isaac Dixon  
**Vice Chair:** James Morris  
**Commissioners:** Robin Morris Collin, Karol Collymore, Kayse Jama, James I. Manning, Lorraine Wilson  
**Guests:** Clifford Walker, Jonathan, Cheryl Cruz, Willie Woolfolk (phone)

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was established.

### **II. Review and Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Wilson requested the addition of nominations of officers under new business.

**MOTION (Kollymore/Morris): To adopt the agenda as amended. CARRIED.**

### **III. Review and approval of the OCBA 12/1/12 Minutes and 2/16/13 Notes**

#### Review of Minutes of 12/1/12

Amendments requested:

In Section VI, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, "tht" should be "that", and delete the word "to"

**MOTION (Manning/Morris): To approve the minutes of 12/1/12 as amended. CARRIED. 5 yea, 1 abstain (Jama)**

#### Review of Notes of 2/16/12

Amendments requested:

Page 3, Section C, Identify the Oregon Department of Education as ODE and add "Oregon"

Page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> line, replace DOE with ODE

**MOTION (Collymore/Morris): To approve the notes of 2/16/13 as amended. CARRIED. 5 yea, 1 abstain (Jama)**

### **IV. Public Comment:**

Clifford Walker provided comment: He served on the OCBA as Chair and Vice Chair and is waiting for a response in writing about unresolved issues that are now being handled by Department of Justice (DOJ). He asked who at the

Department of Justice will provide a response. The Administrator will confirm that DOJ contact.

Willie Woolfolk provided comment: He asked about OCBA's plans to address housing issues statewide and when the Portland Housing Plan will be available? There are issues of non-acceptance of Section 8 housing vouchers and other issues. He also asked if the OCBA will be tracking stimulus dollars, a long standing area of concern to the Commission and Mr. Woolfolk. Commissioner Dixon will ask Rep. Frederick to respond on stimulus tracking and check with the Portland Housing Bureau for their plan.

Linda Hamilton provided a comment: She had been present for testimony at the Capitol on HB 3480 on bias crime and there has also been an incident in Springfield. Has OCBA followed up on the Springfield incident? Commissioner Manning noted that he contacted Police Chief Kerns in Eugene regarding it but not yet in contact with the Springfield Police Chief. Linda also asked how long on the agenda was assigned to Public Comment. She had looked but the information was not on line. The Commission answered that 5 minutes was allotted for Public Comment.

Mr. Woolfolk, Mr. Walker and Ms. Hamilton had additional comment but the time for this agenda item having passed, the Chair closed Public Comment at 9:20 am and advanced the agenda.

## **V. Chair's Report and Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Manning testified on HB 2338 which the OCBA voted to support. It adds statutory language for the Advocacy Commissions to meet jointly at least annually to conduct business on areas of mutual interest. He also provided invited testimony to a meeting of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on the importance of using an equity lens when investing in education.

Commissioner Wilson expressed her concern that HB 2338 will cause the Advocacy Commissions' issue to be lumped together and lose the benefit of having the Commissions separate. Discussion followed and other Commissioners responded that the intent of the legislation is to retain separate Commissions with independent missions while adding the ability to act jointly on key issues.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Ratification of e-vote on OCBA Committee Assignments**

The Committee assignments were briefly discussed and it was agreed they will be re-circulated for the new Commissioners

MOTION (Collimore/Manning): To ratify the e-vote of the Commission approving the OCBA Committee Assignments. CARRIED. 4 yea, 2 abstain (Collin and Jama)

- B. Urban League/OCBA Legislative Day in Salem debrief  
Vice Chair Morris reported on the successful joint legislative advocacy day between Urban League of Portland and the OCBA. 200 people attended. UL had a slate of bills to support and Vice Chair Morris and all those attending met with various legislators. Urban League also had made arrangement with high schools to have students visit the Capitol on that day, to show that Capitol building is a place where people of color can be. Commissioner Morris met with Sens & Reps regarding Bias Crime. Rep. Frederick, Sen. Monroe and Sen. Shields addressed those attending.
- C. Mary Daly-Piehl update  
The OCBA has sent the letter that it approved at its last meeting following a discussion with Mary Daly-Piehl. It is a letter to the Oregon Department of Education asking the Superintendent to create a committee to work on discipline disparities (letter circulated.)
- D. Committee updates (5 minutes)  
Legislative Committee Chair, Lorraine Wilson, provided an overview of the work of the OCBA on Hate crime/Bias crime and intimidation protections in Oregon which began in the 2011 session with a failed bill, SB 44, and a racially motivated attack on a youth in Creswell. Last week she and other Commissioners, Dau Tucker from Salem Hospital and members of the public provided testimony on the current Bias Crime bill HB 3480 which strengthens intimidation protections. Commissioner Wilson also expressed concern that the other committees of the OCBA have not been active.
- E. OCBA Legislative tracking sheet  
Lucy Baker reported that the current legislative tracking sheet for the OCBA was updated and sent out earlier today. She thanked the Commissioners for keeping up with the fast pace of the legislative session and their attention to e-voting in support of bills, writing and submitting testimony as well as traveling to Salem to give testimony. Discussion followed. Several Commissioners had questions on a bill that Cheryl Myers in the Governor's Office of Business Equity had reported about at the joint legislative forum of the Commissions in December, 2012. It raises the size of small contracts from \$5K to \$10K that State procurement managers can let to certified minority contractors without going through a full bidding process. Lucy will ask Ms. Myers to respond to specific questions from Commissioners on Monday including Commissioner Collin's worry that the contracts may not benefit minority contractors.

F. Discussion of immigrant and refugee issues

Lucy Baker discussed the history of this part of the Commission agenda, which came from a discussion with the Advocacy Commission leadership, Rep. Dembrow and the Center for Intercultural Organizing last summer. The discussion focused on steps the Advocacy Commissions could take to expand its scope of discussion to immigrant issues. Chair Dixon was part of those discussions and it was agreed that the Commissions would include time for discussion of immigrant and refugee issues on their agendas as an intentional way to be inclusive. Discussion followed including the work of the Center for Intercultural Organizing with immigrants and refugees and their interest in working with the Governor's Office.

**VII. New Business**

A. Ratification of e-votes to support legislation with testimony

Since the February OCBA meeting, the Commission has tracked and considered a number of bills and voted to support them with testimony using e-votes. All e-vote outcomes are ratified at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Nancy Kramer read the following bill numbers that have been approved by the OCBA for testimony using e-voting:

1. HB 3480 –Bias Crimes bill
2. HJR1 – Constitutional amendment eliminating Death penalty
3. HB 2668 - Public accommodation on public property
4. SB 833 – Short-term driver license

MOTION: Manning/Collymore) to ratify OCBA support for the bills read into the record above. CARRIED

Commissioner Collin noted that if HB 2668 on public accommodation does not pass that the Commission consider approaching the Governor to use an Executive Order to accomplish the intent of the bill.

B. Ratification of e-vote to provide testimony on invitation of the Oregon Education Investment Board on adoption of the Equity Lens for guiding investments in education

Since the February OCBA meeting, the Advocacy Commissions were invited by the Oregon Education Investment Board to provide testimony to the OEIB on the importance of using an Equity Lens to evaluate investments in education. The OCBA used an e-vote to approve their support of the Equity Lens document and provide testimony to the OEIB. Commissioner Manning has since traveled to Salem to give testimony on that issue. Discussion followed on the use of an Equity Lens for investment in education. Commissioner Jama has also prepared a statement on the importance of equity in education investments and is willing to share it with the

OCBA. The Commission thanked Commissioner Manning for his testimony and asked Commissioner Jama to share his statement as well.

MOTION (Morris/Collymore): To ratify the OCBA e-vote to provide testimony to the OEIB on the importance of the Equity Lens in education investment. CARRIED

- C. Develop OCBA Work Plan (will help determine staffing needs of OACO):  
In the interest of time, this item was tabled until the June meeting. Nancy will re-circulate the OCBA statement of work to all Commissioners.

D. Committee Chair Call Overview:

The OCBA Committee Chairs met in a conference call last week and the outcomes were discussed by the Commission.

- i. Hosting an OCBA Planning Retreat  
Chair Dixon reported that the Committee Chairs recommend the OCBA hold a planning retreat in June.

Discussion by the Commission followed. It was felt that if the retreat would not be a financial burden to the OCBA, it would be a great way for the Commissioners to get better acquainted with new Commissioners and each other. The focus of the planning session would include development of a work plan, and assigning committee projects. It would also lay the ground work for OCBA's strategies for community engagement in key areas of concern. Commissioners agreed that having a facilitator for the planning retreat would be helpful, and one of the colleges/universities might provide space for the retreat and assist with facilitation.

Commissioner Collin offered to help plan the retreat agenda. Other ideas to add to the retreat agenda, from the Committee Chairs' meeting included elements of Commissioner orientation, time for committees to meet and develop their plans, and discussion of increasing visibility for the Commission and fundraising.

E. Other business

Commissioner Jama asked if the OCBA has considered taking a position on the Portland referendum on fluoridation of their drinking water. After brief discussion by the Commission there was no clear consensus on the issue.

F. Nominations for OCBA Chair and Vice Chair:

Chair Dixon opened nominations for officers and called for nominations from the floor for the position of OCBA Chair.

NOMINATION: Commissioner Morris nominated Commissioner Manning for the position of OCBA Chair

There being no other nominations from the floor for Chair, Chair Dixon called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair.

NOMINATION: Commissioner Collymore nominated Commissioner Morris as OCBA Vice Chair

There being no other nominations from the floor for Vice Chair, Chair Dixon closed nominations for Officers. The election will be held at the OCBA regular meeting in June.

VIII. OACO Administrator's Report (10 minutes)

- A. End of the biennium General Fund update: Lucy reported that the expected amount of unexpended General Fund at the end of the biennium will be low.
- B. Review of OCBA's current budget: Commissioner Wilson had several questions about the 2011-13 OACO budget expenditures:

What does the entire telecom budget consist of? It has multiple line items, and what savings has been realized in telecom? Lucy will send an overview of the individual lines that comprise the OACO telecom and will point out the area of savings in telecom.

What does the line item for out of state travel consist of? Lucy answered that it is primarily used for Commissioner travel to regional training sessions. OCBA and OCAPIA Commissioners traveled to training in Seattle in summer 2011 for BIG and the White House API Initiative conferences respectively. The amount in that line reflects a portion of that travel.

Legal fees comprise a large amount of OACO General Fund expenditures in this biennium. What are we doing to mitigate that in the next biennial budget? Lucy answered that current DOJ costs include a modest portion for Administrator consultation and contract review for a new e-commerce site that each Commission will have at their webpages. The larger portion is for DOJ consultation that is subject to attorney client privilege. Neither of these is expected to be needed in the next biennium.

- C. Travel reimbursement requests – asked Commissioners to submit their expenses through May
- D. Internship concepts request  
Lucy asked Commissioners to submit their internship concepts for the fall.

11:00 a.m. IX. Adjourn

MOTION (Collymore/Manning): To adjourn. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07am.