

MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, June 16, 2012
PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 112
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

Attendees

Chair: Isaac Dixon
Vice Chair: Judge Kemp
Commissioners: Karol Collymore, James Manning Jr., James Morris, Lorraine Wilson, Representative Lew Frederick
Guests: Kendall Clawson, Governor's Office; David Matz; Emanuel Matz; Meies Matz; Lawanda Manning; Clifford Walker; Willie Woolfolk (phone); John Yasutake, US DOJ (phone)
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am. Roll call was taken. A quorum was established. Commissioners and guests were introduced.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda

Proposed amendments to the agenda:

- Move City of Portland Housing update from New to Old business

Request to add to the agenda: Use of Commission letterhead was deferred to next meeting.

MOTION (Kemp/Collymore): To approve the agenda as amended.
CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA 5/19/12 minutes

MOTION (Kemp/Collymore): To approve the minutes of 5/19/12.
CARRIED.

In response to a Commissioner Wilson's request for timely distribution of the OCBA minutes, Chair Dixon noted that on the Monday prior to an OCBA meeting, the full meeting packet will be sent to all Commissioners.

IV. Public Testimony

Former OCBA Commissioner Clifford Walker recognized the contributions of former Commissioner Willie Woolfolk from Medford especially around his work on stimulus funds and minority contracts. He encouraged the recruitment of an OCBA Commissioner from that community and thanked the new Commissioners for dedicating their time.

V. Old Business

By-Laws

Chair Dixon asked that the Commissioners review the draft of the OCBA bylaws before the next meeting and send in proposed changes and additions. They will be incorporated at the next meeting and finalized in a regular meeting after that. Several ideas were noted to keep mention of the MLK holiday in the bylaws as well of the role of Commissioners in recruiting potential candidates for Boards and Commissions. He asked that Commissioner Wilson or others with information or history to share about sections of the bylaws to share it with him in an e-mail.

Internship on Civil Rights

Administrator Baker updated the OCBA on the internship on researching and improving hate crime protections in Oregon. The one page description of the Internship concept was sent earlier to the Commissioners and was reviewed. The intern is Wesley Garcia, a law student from Willamette University School of Law. He is being supervised by Gil Carrasco, OCHA Commissioner, and an attorney. The OCBA discussed how it wishes to support the internship. Commissioners Wilson and Manning are both passionate about hate crime protections and the rise in hate crimes in Oregon, including how it is reported, how police are trained regarding it and in options for gang prevention. Recent incidents in Creswell and Springfield show that hate crimes are regularly committed in Oregon. After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they will serve as mentors for the intern as appropriate.

MOTION (Manning/Kemp): To approve the Hate Crimes internship concept and to provide mentoring to the intern as appropriate. CARRIED.

Commissioner Wilson noted that in the 2011 session former Attorney General (AG) Kroger had proposed SB44 which was focused on improving hate crime protections. It failed. She has prepared a letter to newly appointed AG Ellen Rosenblum from the OCBA asking that she address the Commission and discuss her plans for similar legislation. Chair Dixon has also drafted a letter to the AG along similar lines and asked to incorporate Commissioner Wilson's request into his letter to the AG. He thanked Commissioner Wilson for her help.

Chair Dixon will send the draft letter to AG Rosenblum to the OCBA for their review prior to sending it. Other correspondence: Chair Dixon has drafted a congratulatory letter to Erin Janssens, the new Portland Fire Chief, and also a letter to Jamin Dumas letting him know the OCBA has done all that it can for his cause. The letter was circulated at the meeting.

Nominees present speeches

Commissioner Kemp, running for Vice Chair, gave a brief speech which included wanting to elevate the level of the OCBA's work in Oregon.

Vice Chair Dixon, running for Chair, gave a brief speech which included his interest in working more collaboratively with the other three Oregon Advocacy Commissions.

It was noted that the nomination portion of the elections was handled in April 2012 as per the OCBA Bylaws.

Cosmetology Licensing Requirements

The Commissioners and guests discussed the concerns raised by Amber Starks:

- Cosmetology licensing school does not train students in how to work on unaltered Black hair
- The State requires anyone who braids or twists hair to have a cosmetology license, despite the cost of the schooling being prohibitive to many

Ms. Starks plans to contact the Commission when she has more detailed legislative information to be used in drafting a bill.

It was noted that Rep. Frederick was successful in passing a bill requiring that foster care facilities know how to take care of different skin and hair types.

The Commissioners expressed interest in writing a letter of support for Ms. Starks on this issue when she has more information. The letter would be drafted in Committee.

City of Portland Housing Update

It was suggested that this be a quarterly update. Chair Dixon acknowledged his position as Co-Chair of the City of Portland Housing Committee. The City of Portland has an RFP out for the next round of housing discrimination testing. None of the companies that responded were HUD certified.

It was noted that the data collection, analysis and reporting done by the Fair Housing Council were not conducted in the appropriate manner.

VI. New Business

Officer elections

Ballots were distributed for the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the OCBA and the Commissioners cast their votes.

Isaac Dixon was elected as Chair.

Judge Kemp was elected as Vice Chair.

The Chair and Vice Chair began their duties immediately.

US DOJ SPIRIT Program

The Commission welcomed a presentation by John Yasutake, Conciliation Specialist for the US Department of Justice in Seattle. Mr. Yasutake made is

presentation by phone. He described the [SPIRIT \(Student Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together\) program](#) which is a student led process developed and tested by DOJ in school settings, designed to identify and reduce racial tensions and incidents. It is a set of facilitated discussions that are moderated by adult volunteers, and results in a student-led council that meets periodically to create dialogue and problem solving. The SPIRIT program is provided by the US DOJ and sponsored by schools that have extended an invitation to DOJ to conduct it. The invitation and program usually follow a racially charged incident at a school. Mr. Yasutake invited Commissioners who share an interest in Civil Rights and Education to consider becoming a volunteer facilitator for the program. Volunteers receive training from DOJ and are called to assist when the program is being conducted in a participating school where they serve as group moderators or facilitators. He thanked the Commission for inviting him to speak and shared his contact information: john.yasutake@usdoj.gov

The Commission thanked him for his presentation.

CIO sponsorship

The Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO) has asked the Advocacy Commissions if they would sponsor a \$500 table and attend their annual fundraiser. The CIO is a Portland based organization focused on advocacy for immigrant and refugee communities in the area. They provide leadership training, issue discussions and legislative and public services advocacy by and for Oregon's immigrant populations. After discussion, the Commission decided that interested Commissioners should contact Isaac Dixon or Judge Kemp to purchase a seat at the Advocacy Commissions table with personal funds. Chair Dixon and Vice Chair Kemp expect to purchase seats and attend.

Other Business

There was no further business to come before the Commission.

VII. OCBA Program and Priorities

Chair Dixon asked that discussion of the OCBA program and priorities be moved to the next meeting of the OCBA given time constraints. He will share information via e-mail on committee assignments and other aspects between June and the next meeting. The Commission agreed.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by common consent at 11:10 am.