



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, June 21, 2014, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Center for Intercultural Organizing
700 N. Killingsworth St., Portland OR 97217

ATTENDANCE

Chair: James I. Manning
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Gwendolyn Trice, Julie Grey, Kayse Jama, Representative Lew Frederick, Senator Rod Monroe
Absent: Robin Morris Collin, Karol Collymore
Guests: Dr. Lisa Bates, PSU; Cyreena Boston-Ashby PAALF; Gary Sims, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Oregon Department of Corrections

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03AM. A quorum was established.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda and OCBA April 2014 Meeting minutes

MOTION (Manning/Monroe): To approve the Agenda. CARRIED.

MOTION (Grey/Monroe): To approve the Minutes as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment

Gary Sims introduced himself as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Oregon Department of Corrections. He is interested in learning more about the Commission and exploring potential opportunities for collaboration.

The Commissioners thanked Gary for his comments and continued presence at OCBA meetings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Internship with BOLI regarding Apprentices Graduating to Journeyman Status
OCBA Vice Chair Morris, Lucy Baker, Steve Simms and OCBA/BOLI intern Nora Meier met to discuss the outline of this internship that explores factors limiting minority advancement in the trades. Partners include the Emerald Cities Collaborative and Urban League. Nora will work a minimum of 8 days over the summer to launch this internship which will lead to a longer externship with a law student this fall. Nora is a Master's

degree candidate at PSU in Public Policy. She is beginning in July and with the maximum work schedule on the internship of 24 days and ending in late September.

Commissioner Grey, who is a contractor, would like to speak with Nora about her perspective as a female minority contractor. The office staff will connect them and Vice Chair Morris.

B. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Vice Chair Morris opened the election voting process. Paper ballots were distributed for those nominated as officers at the OCBA April meeting. The Commissioners on the phone were asked to send an email with their vote to Administrator Lucy Baker who counted the votes and announce the outcome.

Election of Chair

Votes were counted for James Manning to serve as OCBA Chair.
James Manning was elected Chair of the OCBA by unanimous ballot.

Election of Vice Chair

Votes were counted for James Morris to serve as OCBA Vice Chair.
James Morris was elected Chair of the OCBA by unanimous ballot.

The new officers began their duties immediately.

Chair Manning thanked the OCBA for their continued vote of confidence in him. Vice Chair Morris thanked everyone for their support.

C. Approval of the Statement of Marriage Equality

The Commission considered the statement on the importance of marriage equality that was drafted for them by Commissioner Collymore following a Commission discussion of the subject at their April meeting. Karol worked with Alana Cox in the Secretary of State's Elections Office to review and assure the neutrality of the statement regarding a current ballot measure. The SOS office has reviewed the statement that is now before the Commission and has found it to be neutral, granting it 'safe harbor' against any complaints from the community about it that the elections office may receive.

MOTION (Grey/Trice): To approve the statement on marriage equality as written.
CARRIED.

Senator Monroe thanked the SOS's office for their review.

D. Portland African American Leadership Forum (PAALF) to discuss *The African American Community in Multnomah County - An Unsettling Profile* report - Cyreena Boston-Ashby and Dr. Lisa Bates

Dr. Lisa Bates and Cyreena Boston-Ashby presented the PowerPoint for the *An Unsettling Profile* report. The Commissioners discussed the specifics of many areas covered in the presentation, such as early learning; disparate discipline and how it connects to possible future incarceration; the need for environmental justice in Multnomah County; wealth accumulation and distribution, which includes homeownership vs. renting; and the migration of the African American population of Multnomah County to the eastern edge of the county due to rising rents in North and NE Portland.

Chair Manning and Vice Chair Morris plan to speak soon to discuss what OCBA can do in support of the findings and policy positions that are recommended from the report.

The Commission thanked Dr. Bates and Cyreena Boston-Ashby for their presentation.

V. Administrator's Report

A. Periodic Training for Commissioners:

A new training on the state budgeting process will occur annually, and will be presented by the OACO's Budget Analyst, Travis Miller, and Lucy. This year's training will be in July, via conference call. Participants will learn how the state budgeting process works and how the OACO fits into the process.

There will be an Accounting training in August to cover how agency budgets are adjusted mid-biennium, Other Funds/fundraising, etc., with the OACO's Accountant, Katy Moreland.

There will also be a day-long training that will consist of a half-day joint meeting of the full Commissions, and a half-day of training with the Governor's Senior Policy Advisors and staff and which will also include former Senator Margaret Carter, who will speak on advocacy.

The OACs five new e-commerce portals will be coming online by fall. Nancy has been working on that project for 18 months and is close to completion. These portals will allow individuals to donate to the Commissions using credit or debit cards.

B. Financial Report

June 2014 is the halfway mark of the 2013 – 2015 biennium, and Lucy will present a financial report at each upcoming Commission meeting through the end of the biennium, June 2015. Lucy presented the current financial reports for the OACO to the OCBA, highlighted certain line items and answered Commissioners' questions:

- Line item 3270/Flexible Benefits - one OACO staff member does not take medical benefits. There may be \$12,000 available unexpended General Fund at the end of the biennium due to this circumstance that the Commissions can redirect for use achieving their missions.

- Line item 4100/Instate travel – the Joint meeting of the full commissions is August 19th. All commissioners are invited to attend in person with associated travel and overnight stay reimbursement as needed, which will draw down these funds.
- Line Item 4325/Attorney General fees - review of contract for e-commerce, and defending the OACO against legal challenge in the early part of the biennium
- Line Item 4425/Facility rent– due to a special arrangement with DAS the OACO does not currently pay rent for its office space.

C. Update on the 2015-17 Budget

The OACO has received permission from the CFO's and Governor's Office to submit Policy Option Packages for all 3 of it proposed new positions and the re-class of a current staff position. The OACO's Sr. Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office, Frank Garcia, and the Oregon CFO, George Naughton, are fully in support of OACO submitting 4 Policy Option Packages:

- i. Reclassification of Executive Support Specialist from 1 to 2
- ii. Policy Analyst position
- iii. Office Specialist
- iv. Community Affairs position

This is a critical next step for building the OACO budget to include these positions. There are many more steps and needed permissions and approvals to advance this OACO budget to the legislature next session, but it is well on its way.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- Next meeting August 16, 2014, PCC Cascade Campus
- Vice Chair Morris thanked Commissioner Jama and the Center for Intercultural Organizing for hosting today's OCBA meeting.
- Chair Manning thanked Vice Chair Morris for running today's meeting in his stead as he was out of town and calling into the meeting.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.