



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs Regular Meeting
9:00 AM-11:00 AM
June 22, 2013
Oregon Justice Center, Room 213, Willamette University
790 Winter St. SE Salem OR 97301

Attendees:

Chair: Isaac E. Dixon
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Robin Morris Collin, Karol Collymore, Julie Grey, James Manning, Gwen Trice, Representative Lew Frederick
Guests: Cheryl Carter, NAACP; Lawanda Manning; Clifford Walker, NAACP
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:12am. A quorum was established. The new Commissioners introduced themselves. Commissioner Morris Collin is a founding and past Chair of the Environmental Justice Task Force. Commissioner Grey is a program evaluator in southern Oregon and runs a small construction company that is certified by the Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (MWESB) program run by the state. The Oregon Department of Transportation contracts with her company. Commissioner Gwen Trice is the founder and Executive Director of the Maxville Heritage Center. Representative Frederick and Senator Monroe were thanked for their tireless efforts throughout the 2013 Oregon Legislative session.

II. Review and approval of agenda

MOTION (Morris/Manning): To approve agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of OCBA 4/20/13 Minutes

Commissioner Manning is not listed as a Commissioner who attended the 4/20/13 meeting. He needs to be added.

Page 2, Item 4, 2nd paragraph, change "Kearns" to "Kerns".

MOTION (Morris/Manning): Minutes to be approved as amended. CARRIED.

IV. Chair's Report and Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Collin testified on 2 bills during session: HB 3480 (Bias Crime) and SB 560 (Racial Profiling). She noted that Representative Frederick gave excellent opening

testimony. She was honored to testify at both hearings and looking forward to presenting more testimony on behalf of the OCBA.

Representative Frederick stated that the amount of people who came to testify was so great that the overflow hearing room also overflowed. It is not clear where the bill will go from here.

The Commissioners discussed the importance of the public understanding the protocol of presenting testimony. They agreed to reach out to the Urban League to collaborate around training on legislative testimony. Chair Dixon suggested partnering with Portland State University (PSU) as another means of promoting civic engagement among young people. Assistant Professor Hunt at PSU, on the Community Advisory Committee for Black Studies Department, is a contact. It was noted that PSU has an active NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) chapter.

Chair Dixon referenced an article, from the Atlantic Monthly magazine, May 22, 2013, by James Fallows, [“Jerry Brown’s Political Reboot”](#) regarding the similarities between the education issues Oregon and California are facing. It was noted that disruption in the community is a common thread.

V. New Commissioner Introductions

Chair Dixon invited each new Commissioner to introduce themselves and speak about their specific area of interest as an OCBA Commissioner.

Commissioner Kayse Jama is Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO). He is particularly interested in the campaign to end racial profiling and CIO is part of a national effort in support of this issue. CIO and the Urban League (UL) took the lead on supporting SB 560 (end racial profiling). Commissioner Jama looks forward to the OCBA Commissioners sharing skills, knowledge and expertise in support of this bill.

Commissioner Gwendolyn Trice is concerned with education for young people. She wants to better publicize what she sees in rural eastern Oregon. Many students have 4 day school weeks as a means to save on expenses – this has been the case for several years. She would like this to change.

Commissioner Julie Grey is also concerned about education. She strongly supports STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs but feels barriers exist. She is also interested in learning more about apprenticeship programs.

Further discussion on what actions the OCBA can take regarding these areas of concern was tabled until the strategic planning session later today.

VI. Officer Elections

Chair Dixon 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.

Election of Chair

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

The new officers began their duties immediately.

Chair Manning thanked the OCBA for their vote of confidence in him. He do his best to support the OCBA's mission and he thanked former Chair, Isaac Dixon for his excellent leadership. Vice Chair Morris thanked everyone for their support.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. OCBA's Legislative Update

Representative Frederick noted some key wins among the 20 bills the OCBA supported including the Public Accommodations bill and the Hair Care bill. He also acknowledged that not every bill that OCBA supported passed. He noted that it is important that Representatives and Senators know the community is concerned about specific issues. One way to accomplish this it to attend town halls in your community. It was suggested the OCBA also work with PAALF (Portland African American Leadership Forum) to build leadership and community engagement around key issues.

Representative Frederick discussed the four-week session of the Oregon Legislature in February 2014. This will be the next opportunity for legislation to pass. His office will prepare bills to be reviewed by Legislative Counsel no later than mid-September, 2013. He is only permitted to submit two bills and is soliciting ideas. He asked the OCBA to consider which bills they would like to see submitted.

He said that during Black History month, which is February, he presented a Black History Month moment every day during session to his fellow representatives which was well received.

B. Discussion of Immigrant and Refugee Issues

Commissioner Jama noted that the Cultural Competency bill passed, which was a significant success for Oregon's refugee and immigrant community. He noted that because of gentrification in Portland, many immigrants and refugees who cannot afford increased housing expenses are moving to small towns that are unfamiliar

with people of color. He asked that Commissioners pay special attention to any racial issues that arise in these outlying communities.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Develop OCBA Work Plan (will help determine staffing needs of OACO):
This item was tabled and will be discussed at the Strategic Planning session following the OCBA's regular meeting.

- B. Ratification of e-votes to provide testimony on other bills since last meeting:
Since the last OCBA meeting there have been a number of bills the Commission has considered for support via e-vote. Testimony written and submitted. The following bills were approved by the OCBA using this method and were read into the public record prior to ratification:
 1. *Joint Testimony from the four Advocacy Commissions:*
 - a) HB 2328, Oregon Advocacy Commissions to Meet Jointly Annually
 - b) HB 2611, Culturally Competent Care
 - c) HB 2661A, Study on Public Safety Disparities
 - d) HB 2668, Public Accommodation
 - e) HB 2669, Intern Protections
 - f) HB 3409A, Hair Care
 - g) SB 739, ODE Consultation on Oregon History
 - h) SB 755, Minority Teachers Act
 - i) SB 833, Short-Term Driver License
 - j) Oregon Education Investment Board Creation & Use of an Equity Lens

 2. *Joint Testimony:*
 - a) HJR1, Prohibit the Death Penalty (OCBA, OCHA)
 - b) HB 2212, Small State Procurement Contracting (OCAPIA, OCHA)

 3. *Oregon Commission on OCBA:*
 - a) HB 3480, Bias Crime
 - b) SB 5501, Funds the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
 - c) SB 560, End racial profiling

MOTION (Morris/Dixon): to ratify the electronic votes in support of bills read into public records and will appear in the minutes. CARRIED.

Lucy thanked Commissioners for keeping up with the fast pace of session. There is a list of all bills for which the OACs testified at the Commissions' website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OAC/Pages/Advocacy.aspx>

- C. Overview of the Retreat Purpose
The Commissioners reviewed the goals of the OCBA Planning Retreat. It was agreed that the goals of the retreat are:

To develop a work plan; define projects the committees will cover; and work with OCBA legislators Frederick and Monroe to guide OCBA through the upcoming legislative process.

D. Internship Concepts:

Lucy reported that twice yearly the OACO asks Commissioners to submit internship concepts for Masters- and PhD-level and law interns. Each Commissioner is asked to submit public policy internship ideas for their Commission to consider. Those concepts that are approved by a Commission are then sent to Oregon Universities and Law Schools for recruitment of interested interns. The Commission then selects the applicant(s) that will be awarded the internship. All Commission public policy internships are unpaid and for credit towards the degree of the involved students.

1. Brownfields Redevelopment internship

Commissioner Collin briefly explained this concept. A brownfield is a parcel of land contaminated by toxic waste, such as old gas stations, mechanic garages or photo developing stores. Developers are purchasing these inexpensive pieces of land. Oregon law requires that the land be cleaned up and returned to its prior state. Black communities participate in the clean-up; however, black communities do not benefit from cleaned properties because they become attractive to developers. Brownfields drive property values down, developers buy up property, gentrification occurs, often financed by government dollars and the existing communities are forced out. A need exists for an organized vision of cleaning up and developing brownfields. This requires coordination between OACs, contractors and community organizations, with the goal of creating jobs in the community.

Representative Frederick has 147 brownfields in his district. Hispanic and Asian communities also have high numbers of brownfields. He said that Oregon has the highest number of electric vehicles, and charging stations could be on brownfields.

Ideally there would be also be legislation requiring construction contracts to be broken into smaller amounts so sub-contractors and minority owned businesses can participate. A common problem for small contractors is that if they sub under a larger contractor company the small businesses cannot afford to wait until the end of the job to be paid.

2. Journeyman Certification Process

Vice Chair Morris outlined an internship that would study why the number of Black journeymen is significantly smaller than the number who begin the apprenticeship process. Individuals and companies can both be certified. He would like to see data collection and analysis regarding the conversion rate from apprentice to journeyman.

It was noted that this internship concept could develop allies such as Unions. Another suggestion was to look at existing boards and commissions in state of Oregon which have apprenticeship programs and build relationships with them.

Once the description of the internship concepts is developed for these or other OCBA internships, they will be distributed to the Commissioners for review and approval.

E. Other Business

Lucy would like to make the connection between Commissioner Trice and the Oregon Department of Education regarding curriculum design (SB 739A). There is a wealth of connection and knowledge amongst the four Advocacy Commissions that can support the schools and provide a richer experiences for students about their Oregon history.

IX. OACO Administrator's Report

- A. End of the biennium General Fund update – in the interest of time this item was tabled until next meeting if still pertinent
- B. Travel reimbursement requests – tabled until next meeting
- C. Public Records Requests – tabled until next meeting

X. Public Comment

Cheryl Carter of NAACP of Portland invited the OCBA to collaborate around youth education and profiling. She advocates for more tutors are needed for students if they are to succeed in higher education. She appreciated her about brownfields and would like to attend a future OCBA meeting.

Clifford Walker, a past OCBA Commissioner, thanked Commissioner Collin regarding her efforts in ending racial profiling. He encouraged the OCBA to reach out to past commissioners for their knowledge and experience. Mr. Walker again commented regarding his removal from the OCBA.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01am.