



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, October 20, 2012
9 – 11 AM
PCC 705 N. Killingsworth, Terrell Hall Room 112, Portland, OR

Attendees:

Chair: Isaac Dixon
Vice Chair: James Morris
Commissioners: Karol Collymore, James Manning, Lorraine Wilson, Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe
Guests: Lawanda Manning, Michael Alexander, Rob Solomon, Clifford Walker
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. Quorum was established.

II. Review and Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Monroe/Collymore): To adopt the agenda as written. CARRIED.

III. Review and approval of the OCBA 8/18/12 Minutes

Page 3: corrected phases "Worked with Rep. Dembrow", "to invite"

Motion (Monroe/Collymore): To approve the minutes as amended: CARRIED.

IV. Public Comment:

Clifford Walker addressed the Commission regarding his request to assist him in approaching the Governor's Office to gain clarity on the reason for his removal from the Commission. The Commission is unable to respond about the removal, but the OACO shared Mr. Walker's request with Frank Garcia, Policy Advisor to the OACO in the Governor's Office. The OACO will follow up with Mr. Garcia letting him know that Mr. Walker is interested in learning the answer from him.

V. Nominations and Voting for Vice Chair:

The Commission addressed filling Judge Kemp's unexpired term as OCBA Vice Chair.

The Chair opened nominations from the floor.

Sen Monroe nominated Karol Collymore. Karol Collymore nominated James Morris. Karol Collymore thanked Sen. Monroe for nominating her but respectfully withdrew herself from consideration.

The nominations were closed by the Chair after the third call for any further nominations and receiving none.

The vote was cast using ballots. The vote was unanimous for James Morris to serve as Vice Chair for the term ending at the June 2013 OCBA meeting. Vice Chair Morris began his duties immediately.

VI. Chair's Report:

Chair Dixon met with Michael Alexander of the Urban League (UL) to share priorities and look at collaborations. Mr. Alexander, who was present in the audience at the OCBA meeting, joined Chair Dixon for the report. He noted his commitment to assuring that the UL meets its mission and maintains its partnerships. The emerging issues of the community and the League include a commitment to assuring that all community voices are included in the discussions and intergenerational voices as well. One of the areas they wish to revitalize their efforts in is jobs development.

The Commission asked if there are other similar organizations to UL in the outlying areas of Oregon. Mr. Alexander noted that he is unaware of other UL Chapters outside Portland. Their traditional community locations are now dispersed by urban renewal and other efforts have dispersed the black community. The Blacks in Government (BIG) group, based in Eugene, has collaborated with UL of Portland, and the Salem NAACP and the Oregon Association of Black Affairs based in Corvallis also exist and share interests in Health Care and Education. All of them are potential collaborators with the OCBA. Also, there is a long standing Black Alumni Association in Oregon.

Dr. Dixon also met with Dante James, Director of the City Office of Equity and Human Rights, to discuss issues Mr. James' Office is addressing including minority contracting and growing the City's efforts in diversity in employment. Mr. James noted he would like to attend a meeting of the OCBA.

Dr. Dixon attended a meeting at City Hall hosted by Jim Francesconi to discuss the criteria of City Council on health care including contracting and equity, the displacement of communities of color to East County and the lack of infrastructure to support them. Mr. Francesconi will be invited to a meeting of the OCBA. At the meeting Chair Dixon attended, there were labor rights organizations present and City Commissioners who were enthusiastic about Mr. Francesconi's report.

The joint leadership of the Commissions met with Dr. Rudy Crew and appreciated his priorities and commitment to improving education among students of color. Dr. Crew noted that he needs to hear from the business community about what they feel is missing from high school education to prepare students for work. Chair Dixon provided him with business feedback from his connections, which he will also share with the Commission. Rep. Frederick noted that because schools have been understaffed, capacity issues have slowed the schools in taking business up on their offers to help. Many of the coordinators for schools who are the connections between the schools and business have been lost to reductions.

VII. Commissioner Reports:

Vice Chair Morris reported on a meeting that he, Commissioners Dixon and Kemp attended with Senator Jackie Winters. Senator Winters was instrumental in establishing the OCBA and has been quoted in a recent article on the subject. She noted that her priority is employment and spent a significant portion of her 2 hour meeting with the Commissioners discussing it. Sen. Winters also has a strong interest in corrections but that was not part of the discussion. She wanted to know what new directions the OCBA will take on and wished to be kept informed. Sen. Winters also asked that the OCBA support Dr. Rudy Crew's connection with Portland business interests.

Vice Chair Morris also attended a portion of the meeting of the joint leadership of the Commissions with Dr. Bruce Goldberg and Tricia Tillman. Lucy Baker also attended this meeting about the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) role in the 10 Year Plan for Oregon and ways to collaborate with the Advocacy commissions. Dr. Goldberg and Tricia welcomed the Commissioners and expressed interest in collaborating on joint internships, legislative advocacy, and data sharing.

Commissioner Wilson reported. She noted that community member Fanny Savage has contacted Commissioner Wilson to update the Commissioner on her situation. Commissioner Wilson will keep in contact with her.

Commissioner Wilson also attended the OEIB meeting in Hermiston. She did not feel that the meeting was very helpful or inclusive of parents and the outreach was not very thorough. She can provide some helpful feedback. Rep. Frederick would appreciate having a note from Commissioner Wilson about it.

Rep. Frederick attended the OEIB meeting at Marshall High School in Portland. At that event, only one OEIB Board member attended. He also noted that it was presented in such a way that feedback was taken on 10 issues with no opportunity to comment on whether there were other issues not addressed. The choice of location at Marshall High School, which was closed 2 years ago, seemed odd.

Rep. Frederick also attended the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington and found it very informative on housing, healthcare, and education. He felt that there was also a significant involvement and presentation by corporations at the Caucus, although many of them do not have much diversity among their employees. During the caucus, at a reception, the Oregon delegation and the state of Oregon worked to attract those representing Associations to bring their annual meetings to Oregon.

He has been working on a national effort with Sen. Jackie Winters that addresses discrimination against people with criminal backgrounds for housing. Rep. Frederick and Sen. Monroe consider the building of the Convention Center Hotel in Portland to be an important potential source of employment and contracting for the Portland Area, and communities of color.

VIII. Administrator's Report

Budget reductions in the 2013-15 biennium. Lucy Baker reviewed the two 5% proposed budget reduction scenarios that are a required part of the OACO Agency Request Budget (ARB) for the 2013-15 Biennium which was submitted to DAS at the end of August 2012. These are scenarios that the Commissions considered and approved in September 2012 as they prepared a set of potential budget reduction scenarios for the OACO office. Since that time, 3 reductions have already been implemented by the OACO in the current biennium: 1) reductions and restrictions on Commissioner/Staff travel reimbursements, 2) reduction of phone and postal expenses, and 3) reduction of rent.

The 2 proposed reductions for the 2013 – 15 biennium for OACO would be very difficult and would impact its ability to support the Commissions. They would include:

- 1) Closing the physical OAC Office and have staff telecommute from their homes
- 2) Add 53 additional furlough days for staff over the biennium amounting to 1.5 additional furloughs per person per month.

Lucy met with the OACO budget analyst in the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) about this situation and they agreed that further cuts would significantly reduce the function and effectiveness of the OACO and Advocacy Commissions. LFO has requested OACO to submit a 2 page piece detailing the reductions that the Advocacy Commissions have already sustained and provide an outline of how additional cuts would adversely affect the function of the Commissions. LFO will consider the report and whether they will recommend to the legislature that the OACO be held exempt from further budget reductions in the coming biennium.

Lucy addressed the difference between General Funds (tax dollars) and Other Funds which are funds raised by fundraisers, donations, and grants

Current budget, DOJ costs: Commissioner Wilson asked about the current budget specifically around the \$5,000 of DOJ expenditures. She had asked for a breakout of DOJ charges and the amount that pertains to the OCBA. DOJ has approved providing that information broken out as pertaining to the OCBA. The Commission discussed with Lucy the requirements by DOJ on revealing the specifics of DOJ charges and who can request that DOJ provide a legal opinion.

Internships:

Commissioner Wilson reported on the internship concept that she and Sen. Monroe have developed that would produce a manual of the key steps needed for the public policy process. The concept was circulated to the Commissioners and reviewed.

Motion (Wilson/Collymore): to approve the internship concept as written. CARRIED.

[A copy of the internship concept is appended to these minutes.]

Sen. Monroe noted that a Masters Student is preferred but that a Senior undergraduate could be good. He noted that students may have a key interest area that could form the foundation of the research for the manual. Once the report is published, then he believes that the report itself needs to be implemented by the Commission. Project Cleanslate might be a suitable topic, brownfield sites are others.

IX. Old Business

Action items deferred until next meeting:

- Priorities of Work document
- Roles and responsibilities of Commissioners
- All New Business topics

X. Adjourn

MOTION (Monroe/Collymore): To adjourn. CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 11 am.

OCBA Internship topic, 2012-13: **DRAFT**

Public policy process: From community issue to public policy

OACO/Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA)

Internship on documenting the process by which key issues in the community are identified, researched and are ultimately addressed by means of public policy whether legislative, rulemaking, or administrative process.

A Masters Intern in Political Science, Public Policy or other related field will work with OCBA Commissioners Lorraine Wilson, Senator Rod Monroe and other Commissioners to create a manual outlining the process of moving policy concepts through the stages of policy making including 1) how issues are identified, 2) researched, 3) analyzed to determine policy components needed to address the issue, 4) stakeholders identified and engaged, 4) timeframes identified and 5) the solution moved through the policy making process. The Intern will work with Commissioner Wilson and the OCBA to prepare a report on the process which will be useful as a resource and guide for Commissioners. The intern may identify a particular issue in consultation with the Commission that will be used as the working model for the subject.