



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs  
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## MINUTES

**Oregon Commission on Black Affairs**  
**Saturday, December 1, 2012**  
**9:00 – 11:00 AM**  
**PCC Cascade 705 N. Killingsworth,**  
**Terrell Hall Room 112, Portland, OR**

### Attendees:

**Chair:** Isaac Dixon  
**Vice Chair:** James Morris  
**Commissioners:** Rep. Lew Frederick, James Manning, Sen. Rod Monroe, Lorraine Wilson  
**Guests:** Michael Alexander, Mary Daly-Piehl, David Matz, Eliya Matz, Meies Matz, Samuel Matz, Clifford Walker, Willie Woolfolk  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am. Quorum was established.

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

Commissioner Wilson asked that the housing item from the October meeting be added.

Mary Daly-Piehl's presentation on disproportional discipline was added to the Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAE) item.

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

### **III. Review and approval of the OCBA 10/20/12 Minutes**

Page 3, Section VII., paragraph 6, first sentence, second line, "it" not "if"

**MOTION (Monroe/Manning): To approve the minutes as amended.:**

**CARRIED.**

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

Clifford Walker made a request at the 10/20/12 OCBA meeting, and understood he would receive a response to his request in writing. Chair Dixon noted that the Oregon Department of Justice said Clifford Walker should call them with any questions about the matter.

Clifford Walker welcomed the OCBA on behalf of the Humboldt Neighborhood Association (HNA). He asked that the OCBA support the HNA board's unanimous vote on Nov 15, 2012 to oppose retaining names of schools & other public institutions named for former slave owners. He submitted a statement on the subject.

He noted that the *Portland Observer* newspaper said it was not receiving public meeting notices for the OCBA meetings. The OACO will check to see if it is on the distribution list.

**V. Old Business**

Housing item – Commissioner Wilson

1. Commissioner Wilson referenced an article on two black community members in Portland opposing foreclosures. It is believed that they received unscrupulous financial advice. She requested that the OCBA look into this particular issue.
2. Commissioner Wilson raised the questions, “What is threshold for proving discrimination? Why does there need to be a threshold?” She would like to educate the community about what discrimination looks like, so people are aware.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilson will send the link to the article on Fair Housing to the OACO.

Oregon Alliance for Education Equity (OAEE) Membership - Mary Daly-Piehl

Mary Daly-Piehl is a member of the OAEE. As a concerned citizen she asked the OCBA to support the elimination of discipline disparities, whereby students of color are disciplined at a higher rate than white students for the same behaviors.

She circulated a letter she wrote for Commissioners to review, asking Oregon Department of Education Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton to form a subcommittee to examine how Oregon schools collect and report disciplinary data.

ACTION: OACO will connect Mary Daly-Piehl with the Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and Hispanic Affairs.

Mary Daly-Piehl, as a representative for the OAEE, circulated an OAEE membership form , and asked the OCBA to join. She shared a bill in draft form the OAEE is supporting, on exclusionary discipline and the discipline gap of concern to the OAEE . She hopes that the OCBA will consider supporting it.

The OCBA thanked Ms. Daly-Piehl for her presentation.

Review of Action Items

The Action Items were reviewed and updated.

Priorities of Work document – Chair Dixon

Chair Dixon briefly reviewed the four items on the document and requested that between now and the next meeting, Commissioners edit and expand the document as they see fit.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilson will submit a copy with her suggestions.

Proposal for Meeting to Discuss Commissioner roles and Responsibilities –  
Commissioner Wilson

Concerns regarding the efficiency of Commissioners interacting effectively with the OAC Office.

ACTION: Vice Chair Morris will work with Commissioner Wilson and schedule a meeting via Skype to discuss the potential agenda.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee:

This committee is in the process of meeting with the Oregon Department of Justice's Attorney General's office to discuss a revised version of Senate Bill 44.

There were no other Committee Reports. Commissioner Wilson raised concerns that none of the other committees have met in the last year and it was concerning because the OCBA moved from monthly meetings to every other month with the expressed intent that Commission business be conducted within the Committees. Chair Dixon noted that he will review the Committee Structure and send a revised schedule to the Commission.

ACTION: Chair Dixon will review the committee structure in December.

**VI. New Business**

Commissioner Reports

Vice Chair Morris: Met with the Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Assistant Attorney General Diane Schwartz Sykes and DOJ Legislative Liaison Aaron Knott.

The AG reviewed the various Departments of the DOJ and noted her interest and support for the Civil Rights Office. She wishes to see her staff work collaboratively with the Commissions and asked tht Legislative liaison Aaron Knott and Diane Sykes to meet with the OCBA Legislative Committee. Mr. Knott is familiar with SB44 and the reasons it failed in the 2011 session. He looks forward to discussing it with the OCBA.

Senator Monroe: Met with the Governor in mid-November 2012. All educational institutions will now be under one umbrella. There will be a meeting in January 2013 to strategize about education reform.

Guest Willie Woolfolk asked what the OCBA's position is on tracking stimulus funds. He suggested that the OCBA talk with Representative Lew Frederick who is knowledgeable about the subject and ways to improve.

Senator Monroe's term to serve on the OCBA is ending and he is willing to volunteer for reappointment to the OCBA for another 2 year term. The Commissioners thanked him and noted how important his contribution to the OCBA has been.

ACTION: OCBA Chair Isaac Dixon will send a letter to the President of the Senate asking that Senator Monroe be reappointed.

Commissioner Manning: He attended an Oregon Alliance for Education Equity fundraiser in Eugene, he was invited to be a member of the Bethel School District Budget Committee and will be sworn in to the Eugene Water and Electric Board on January 2, 2013. He expressed interest in attending the Salem portion of the New Commissioner Orientation when it is scheduled.

## **VII. Administrator's Report**

Lucy Baker attended the kick-off of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Michael Alexander, Executive Director of the Portland chapter of the Urban League attended as well. Mr. Alexander, who was attending the OCBA meeting joined Lucy's report and highlighted the importance of cultural competence in health providers and honoring and respecting people's beliefs in healing. Three other issues of importance are pre-natal care for all women in Oregon regardless of immigration status; ensuring natural hair care for blacks is recognized at the state level as differing from hair care for other types of hair; and education equity.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will distribute information on the OHEA to the OCBA Commissioners for them to consider joining the group.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will circulate the Urban League's information on a proposed joint legislation day with the OCBA.

Community member Meies Matz expressed concern that the black community is fractionated, and that the buying power of this community is not being organized to make change.

ACTION: Chair Dixon will contact Meies Matz directly to discuss this further.

It was noted that Lucy Baker is preparing a presentation on the OACO budget for the hearing with the Joint Ways and Means Committee in March 2013.

ACTION: Lucy Baker will send the Commissioners a draft of this presentation for their review.

New internship: Commissioner Wilson reviewed an intern candidate's information and would like to discuss this with Lucy Baker. Senator Monroe supported the candidate.

ACTION: Commissioner Wilson will contact the OACO to discuss this.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

**MOTION (Monroe/Manning): To adjourn. CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:03am.