

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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Minutes
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, June 8, 2019, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Oregon State Bar, Sandy Room
16037 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Tigard OR 97224

ATTENDANCE:

Chair: Jamal Fox
Vice Chair: Lawanda Manning
Commissioners: Angela Addae (phone), Ben Duncan, Mariotta Gary-Smith
Absent: Djimet Dogo
Guests: Dr. Irvin Brown, ODE; Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson;
Kossikan Yawo, Human Rights Advisory Council in Washington County
Staff: Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Meeting Called to Order

A. Introductions and Roll Call

Chair Fox called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM. A quorum was established. Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed visitors.

Dr. Brown briefly discussed his work at the Oregon Department of Education. His focus as Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Specialist: leading from the front, 197 school districts, training everyone. ODE has begun staff training on microaggressions with a goal to have all staff trained.

Mr. Yawo is the Vice Chair of the City of Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Council (HRAC). HRAC advises the Beaverton Mayor and City Council. Affordable housing, college readiness, and Voter registration are all top concerns.

Chair Fox welcomed the guests and offered collaboration and policy support from OCBA on key challenges to community.

II. Review and approval of agenda and minutes

A. Approval of the June Agenda.

MOTION (Addae/Duncan) To approve the agenda without Urban League Report.
CARRIED.

B. Review of April meeting minutes. MOTION (Duncan/Manning) To approve the minutes of April 13 as written. CARRIED.

III. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Pathways to recredentialing

The Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) has been championing the OACs' policy work around pathways to recredentialing for immigrant and refugee populations since 2014, with annual convenings and discussions by policy partners in workforce, HECC (Higher Education Coordinating Commission), Community Colleges, Licensing Boards, Immigrant and Refugee agencies and associations, and in partnership with Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) and Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA). There are many barriers to immigrants and refugees with professional credentials gained in their home country to practice here in Oregon. Language proficiency and other requirements within the licensing process have blocked many from re-entering their professions and are now driving taxis or employed in unrelated, low level work, in order to support their families. Commissioners Dogo and Olol have been active in this area and participated in OCAPIA discussions on the subject, which have now informed a 2019 bill requiring Licensing Boards to assure easy access to licensing process at their websites, and to reduce barriers into their professional fields for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials. OCAPIA will be convening its next forum on recredentialing, and policy review, which will include progress in the 2019 session, and will invite the OAC Chairs to extend their invitation to all Commissioners. Chair Fox looks forward to OCBA's continuing engagement and thanked the Commissioners who have been long time participants in this work.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Discussion

1. OCBA/OAC submitted testimony e-votes ratification.

The Commission reviewed the list of OCBA's testimonies on approved, priority bills that were written and submitted since the April OCBA meeting. Nancy read the bills into the record. Chair Fox thanked all who were part of getting these testimonies submitted. All OCBA Commissioners received these testimonies before submission. Ratification of review and approval of testimony.

- i. Joint Committee on Student Success, Invited Testimony by the four OACs – 4/2/19
- ii. HB 2824 – Oregon Youth Commission
- iii. HB 3310 – Oregon Voting Rights Act
- iv. HB 2015 – Expanded Driver License
- v. HJR 10 – Unanimous jury verdicts for criminal proceedings
- vi. SB 1008A – Juvenile justice omnibus bill
- vii. SB 698 – Translate prescription drug labels
- viii. SB 420 – Marijuana convictions expungement support
- ix. HB 2242 – Environmental Justice in Oregon Public Utility Commission

MOTION (Gary-Smith/Duncan) To ratify OCBA's e-approval of the testimony submitted by the OCBA since its April meeting as listed above. CARRIED.

2. Urban League legislative review and discussion.

Urban League was not available to report today. Staff will request a report at the

August OCBA meeting or a written report for the Commission to discuss.

B. Speakers' bureau proposal

The OCBA welcomed Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson to discuss a proposal/request from the late Senator Jackie Winters, to establish a speakers bureau to share the stories, rich history, and expertise of the Black community across Oregon. Justice Nelson noted that she was attending the OCBA today as an extension of Senator Winters, a treasured friend and colleague. Senator Winters invited Senator Manning, Senator Frederick, Representative Bynum, Representative Sanchez, and Justice Nelson to a special meeting in the week before her passing. Sen. Winters asked them to address collectively the needs and challenges of brown and black kids. Senator Winters asked the group at her bedside how to elevate OCBA, the Black voice in policy and other arenas, and Black experiences remaining consistently in alignment with those who have lived them. Justice Nelson noted that in every aspect of her personal and professional lives, it is important to talk about different experiences and the perspectives they bring. Recently, Justice Nelson took the tour of Black Portland called "The Secret Bus Tour" and noticed the language used to describe the history, locations, and happenings of the area had greatly changed since when she last took the tour years ago. The expansion of Legacy Emanuel Hospital into North Portland through eminent domain, redlining, and other means which decimated the Black neighborhood, was no longer described as tragic, but rather as deliberate, reflecting a growing realization of the overall truth of the situation. The experience of the Black citizens of Oregon is documented and will benefit from a speakers bureau within the OCBA, the work of the Oregon Historical Society, the Black Pioneers and others. She is making this ask of OCBA. Justice Nelson is also making herself available and is willing to help identify people. From Vanport to the present, it is vital for people to understand the history of brown and black people who have been here for decades and made countless contributions: tragic experiences and triumphant experiences.

The Commissioners thanked Justice Nelson for coming and for her work and sacrifices, and thanked Commissioner Addae for her leadership in exploring and establishing a speakers bureau. All noted that racism has changed, and is now at a flashpoint. A coalition of groups from the Black Community are looking to push the state forward. OCBA can be a place to hold these different conversations.

The Oregon Black Pioneers have been documenting the Black experience for the last 25 years working with the Oregon Historical Society. Justice Nelson, Commissioner Addae, and the OACO Administrator/ED will reach out to them soon for an initial conversation in late summer. The Oregon Women's History Consortium and Oregon Cultural Trust can help as well, providing a repository for our stories and images. The Commission noted the wonderful work of the Roosevelt Rough Writers in documenting the voice and wisdom of many long time residents of the Oregon Black community, and of the Albina Queens in honoring the leadership and power of Black women.

MOTION (Manning/Addae): To form a speakers bureau for Black excellence.
CARRIED.

Chair asked Commissioner Addae to spearhead this effort and welcomes any other Commissioners who would like to contribute. Commissioners discussed naming the new

speakers bureau in honor of Senator Winters. Justice Nelson will speak with Senator Winters' family about naming the speakers bureau in her honor.

1. Link to speakers bureau at Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education: <http://www.ojmche.org/educate/education/speakers-bureau>

2. Oregon Black Pioneers is a possible partner for speakers bureau: <http://www.oregonblackpioneers.org/>

C. Remembrance for Senator Jackie Winters

The OCBA and Justice Nelson shared their remembrances and the legacy of Senator Jackie Winters who had passed that month. Her work in social justice, second chances for those who had been involved in the Justice system, and assuring the rich experiences and contributions of the Black Community she loved in Oregon will live on, was apparent in the bills drafted and championed. Senator Winters lived to see the passage of her bill that provides second looks for youth incarcerated under Measure 11. This and many other bills focused on the well-being and safety of all Oregonians are among her legacy of work. The OCBA thanked Justice Nelson for her wonderful remembrances of Senator Winters. Commissioners and staff who have known and worked with Senator Winters shared their insights and experiences. All agreed that Senator Winters was a joy to know, a strong partner and leader in social justice, tough minded, and will be missed tremendously.

D. OACO Administrator hiring timeline

Hiring process:

Vice Chair Manning and Lucy reported on the timeline for hiring the new OACO Administrator/ED, as Lucy retires on October 1st. The OAC Chairs and Vice Chairs; Duke Shepard, Deputy Labor Commissioner; Sophorn Cheang, from the Governor's Office; along with Sherry Carter from DAS HR, and Lucy, are working as a group to review and update the position description. After the position description is finalized, the Chairs will formally submit the position description for review by DAS HR Classification and Compensation. Once the proper compensation level is set for the OACO Administrator/ED it will be posted on job listings online and in networks. Currently the group expects to conduct interviews in October for a November hire of the new Administrator/ED.

MOTION (Manning/Gary-Smith): To approve the draft hiring timeline for the new Administrator position. CARRIED.

VI. Commissioners' Reports

Chair Fox reminded Commissioners that the next OCBA meeting date in August coincides with the Pan African Festival, on Saturday August 10th. He asked that the OCBA meeting be moved to allow Commissioners to attend the Pan African Festival before or after August 10th. Nancy will send a Doodle poll so Commissioners can choose the next OCBA meeting date that works for everyone.

VII. Administrator's Report

Lucy reported:

- A. Chairs' approval of report contract with CORE (Center for Outcomes Research and Education)
- B. Additional important investments:
 - 1. Chairs approved new software, Tableau, for interactive data portal for new website. The portal will run on Administrative datasets.
 - 2. Nancy is launching the OACO and OACs' new website in 2019.
 - 3. Lucy is working with DAS HR to draft a first OPA 2 position around project management for the OACs' office support staff.

VIII. For the Good of the Order:

Announcements - Chair Fox asked that Commissioners forward events of interest to staff for distribution.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Fox adjourned the meeting at 11:10am by common consent.

1st DRAFT