



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, May 21, 2011, 9 – 11 AM
PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 100
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Vice Chair: Lorraine Wilson
Commissioners: Isaac Dixon, Judge Kemp, Phyllis Rand, Carlos Richard, Willie Woolfolk, Rep. Lew Frederick, Sen. Rod Monroe
Absent: Samaura Stone
Staff: Lucy Baker

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was established. The OCBA welcomed new Commissioners Isaac Dixon and Judge Kemp. They introduced themselves and noted their interest in serving and making positive changes. Commissioner Dixon noted that he will soon be in Medford on business and looks forward to meeting Commissioner Woolfolk.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Motion (Monroe/Dixon): to approve agenda with the change that Unfinished Business of the OCBA be moved to follow the legislative report. **Carried.**

III. Review and approval of April minutes

Motion (Woolfolk/Wilson): to approve as written. **Carried.**

IV. Legislation Updates

1) Sen. Monroe discussed the budget and the projected revenue in Oregon. There is a better forecast and they were able to fund more for Project Independence. SB 97 on multicultural care was defeated along party lines. They expect to finish their business by June. The SEIU public employee's union negotiations are still going on. The public employees

have been part of the solution by taking cuts and furlough days. Kicker reform has had bi-partisan support but it is falling apart.

- 2) Report from Rep. Frederick
 - a. He discussed SB 97 on culturally competent care. It was defeated 30 – 30. The reasons why are not clear.
 - b. Rep. Frederick introduced a bill that provides foster children’s cross-cultural parents with training on hair care and other subjects having to do with their foster children’s care.

The Commission thanked Rep. Frederick and Sen. Monroe for their reports.

V. Unfinished Business

Commissioner Richard facilitated a discussion on the unfinished business of the Commission. The Commissioners reviewed their unfinished business as reflected in the minutes of the OCBA starting with October 31, 2009. The full document of unfinished business is attached as part of the minutes.

October 2009

Meeting with OCAA & OCHA and Michael Cobb of ODOT regarding stimulus funding and how it is distributed.

Resolution: Rep. Frederick will pursue this legislatively and will report back to the Commission on how stimulus funds have been distributed.

February 2010

Host OCBA meeting/forum in southern Oregon

Motion (Walker/Dixon): to table the Community Forum tabled until the new Chair is elected and revisit it. Carried.

April 2010

The Dumas case. Discussion followed with this update: The Commission reviewed and heard the Dumas Case. The Commission has not provided a formal decision on the Dumas case back to the complainants. At the time, Chair Walker sent a letter to the Dumas’ encouraging him to pursue a hate crime, but he believes that it was not pursued. The case has been decided in the courts. At the time, the Commission also pursued a pardon with the help of Danny Santos. Mr. Dumas must apply for the pardon and he did not.

Current options discussed included pursuing another pardon with the current Governor and Mr. Dumas. The Commission needs to either write a letter saying that we have gone as far as possible.

Motion (Walker/Dixon): to table further work on the Dumas Case Carried.
7 Ayes, 1 Opposed 1 (Richard)

May 2010

Establishment of sub-committees and revisiting the OCBA bylaws.
Motion (Richard/Rand): to table the Bylaws until such time as the new officers are in place Carried.

June 2010

Dr. Cal Henry presentation and interest in building a partnership with OCBA around fair representation. Commissioner Wilson noted that the OCBA has been working collaboratively with Dr. Henry's organization. Dr. Henry regularly presents to the Commission and corresponds.

Commissioner Dixon recommends the OCBA develop Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with formal partners to provide a clear written record of what the partnership will consist of.

Establishing a 501c3 for the OCBA.

Motion (Wilson/Dixon): to table the issue of establishing a non-profit to assist the OCBA in fundraising for the new leadership to pursue. Carried.

July 2010

Draft a letter to Supt. Susan Castillo regarding education disparities, plan meeting with joint commissions and other organizations because this issue affects all communities.

Lucy noted that Superintendent Castillo has been meeting separately with the Asian and Hispanic Affairs Commissions on this subject. The Joint Chairs and Lucy can provide an update on where the Commissions are with this discussion and the Superintendent. Commissioner Wilson noted that when Dr. Pearl met with the Commission last July, the importance of substitute teachers was also part of the discussion. Commissioner Dixon noted that the education issue is big: child discipline and other issues are all part of it. Perhaps meeting with Dr. Castillo is the big issue, but we must prepare for it.

Motion (Richard/Kemp): to table the letter to Dr. Castillo until new leadership is established then revisit it. Carried.

August 2010

Lack of educators K-12 who are African American: Commissioner Richard suggested this become part of the discussion on Education when it begins. Also Chair Walker asked that data become part of our website.

Chair Walker suggested that the Commission create its own State of Black OR report.

Resolution: The OCBA will build a resource center at its website with links to key studies and databases regarding the success and issues of Black Oregonians.

This will include the Urban League study and the Oregon Affirmative Action Report.

September 2010

The Commission asked Lucy Baker to see about getting the ODOT report on minority contracting for the OCBA to review and also post on the OCBA website. She will contact Rep. Lew Frederick regarding it. Commissioner Richard would also like to request ODOT Director, Michael Garrett might meet with the Joint Commissions to discuss contracting, if he has not already met with individual Commissions. Also, the stimulus for education is part of the issue. Cheryl Myer should be involved also. Lucy will contact her to check her availability to meet the OCBA.

Sen. Monroe noted that legislators are not allowing the agency heads to give them a cursory report about minority contracting. They are pushing them to provide detailed statistics and data. Commissioner Dixon noted that ODOT has been challenged to hire diverse managers to oversee contracting and their slow progress in that area may part of the issue.

The Commission reviewed the John Charles case: It is currently cold and no further action is needed.

October 2010

The Chair encouraged each commissioner to get at least one media contact and establish a friendly relationship. This is an ongoing process.

November 2010

Setting a date for bylaw review. This will be addressed after the elections.

VI. City of Portland – Fair Housing Audit Results

The Commission discussed the results of the recent City of Portland study of fair housing practices. Commissioner Wilson had read the study and was concerned that City Commissioner Nick Fish was not pursuing redress of the housing issue. She wants to write to Nick Fish on behalf of the Commission and go on record that the OCBA is watching and expects action to address the fix.

The Commission agreed that it will send the letter to Nick Fish. Commissioner Wilson will circulate the draft letter she has prepared. Commissioner Dixon noted that for Section 8 housing landlords, this has deep consequences. Once the OCBA Commissioners review the letter to Nick Fish, it will be sent to him on Commission stationery.

VII. Campaign speeches from candidates for OCBA leadership.

Commissioner Woolfolk withdrew as a candidate for the OCBA Vice Chair position. Commissioner Richard withdrew as a candidate for Vice Chair. Commissioner Stone is then the sole candidate for Vice Chair.

Candidate presentations for OCBA Chair:

Commissioner Carlos Richard presented on his interest in running for Chair of the OCBA. He will provide the Powerpoint presentation he used to all the Commissioners.

As Chair of OCBA, his external vision includes increasing partnerships and coalition building with Urban League of Portland, Office of Youth Violence and others as well as growing stronger relationships with legislators over time. He feels it is important for OCBA to reach all of its goals. As Chair OCBA, we would position the OCBA to develop a legislative agenda and work with the Legislative Assembly on an on-going continuous basis to further the mission of the OCBA. Internally, Commissioner Richard wants to leverage the statutory authority of the OCBA to achieve better outcomes for African Americans and Blacks in the state of Oregon. He considers the key platforms that guide OCBA's work including Education/Jobs/Budget etc must strengthen and align with the Governor's work on these issue. As Chair, Commissioner Richard would work to establish subcommittees to further the work of the OCBA including legislative, advocacy, and executive committee to monitor the budget. He also would work to assure that the portion of each Commission meeting is devoted to Commission business and time available for guests following Commission business.

Commissioner Lorraine Wilson presented on her interest in running for Chair of the OCBA. She will provide the overview of her remarks to all Commissioners.

As Chair of the OCBA, Commissioner Wilson wants to rededicate the Commission to its statutory purpose for equity and to position the OCBA as the umbrella organization for leadership for the black community. She feels that the Commission should host a symposium and develop a strategic plan with partners to accomplish its goals. Commissioner Wilson wants the OCBA to be proactive, including working with state agencies around solutions to the needs of the Black community. Outreach to the community is important for OCBA as well as a stronger web presence, use of social media tools and a Facebook account to post articles, data/statistics, and share information. She will work to build cohesion in the Commission and assure orientation on the roles of Commissioners. Building relationships with other state commissions and starting a National Association will also be important. Being a Commission for the past year Commissioner Wilson noted that she has often expressed frustration on the OCBA on being effective. She is prepared to lead.

The Commissioners thanked the Candidates for their presentations. Voting for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the June meeting of the OCBA. The OCBA historically uses secret ballot for the election of officers.

VIII. Adjourn

The OCBA adjourned by common consent at 11:05.