



MINUTES
Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
Saturday, March 19, 2011
9 – 11 AM
PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 112
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Commissioners: Phyllis Rand, Lorraine Wilson, Samaura Stone, Carlos Richard, Rep. Lew Frederick
Absent: Sen. Rod Monroe, Willie Woolfolk, Phyllis Harris-John, Jennifer Doncan
Staff: Lucy Baker, Joy Howard

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:11 a.m. a quorum was established.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Motion (Rand/Frederick): to approve agenda as written. Carried.

III. Review and approval of minutes

Motion (Rand/Frederick): to approve as written. Carried.

IV. Administrator's Report

- 1) Training – A brief overview/training of the Robert's Rules of Order will be conducted at the beginning of the commission meeting.
- 2) OACO Staffing – Joy will be transferring to the Governor's Office and her last day with OACO is Friday, April 1st. The ESS1(Executive Support) position has been posted as of Friday, Mar. 18th and it will be open for 2 weeks. After posting closes, DAS Human Resources will review and give OACO a list of qualified applicants and then a panel will be put together for the interview. Hopeful to have a representative from each commission part of the panel.
 - a. Rep. Frederick asked job posting be sent to:
 - i. Urban League of Portland
 - ii. Sharon Hennessee
 - iii. Hacienda Corporation (Pietro)
- 3) Robert's Rules of Order overview – handout
 - a. Lucy reviewed the handout with commissioners.
 - b. Rep. Frederick noted that a commissioner training has been set for all commissioners in the upcoming weeks

Motion: (Wilson/Frederick) - to affirm Robert's Rules of Order as the guidelines in conducting OCBA meetings. Carried.

V. Legislation Updates

- 1) Ways and Means Committee

OACO has completed its written budget presentation and sent it to Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO). Lucy will send a copy of it and the 2011-13 budget figures to the commissions on Monday. The OAC budget hearing will be Thu. March 24th at 3 p.m following the OAC Joint Commission meeting at the Capitol. She will be visiting the office of each legislator serving on the Ways and Means General Government Committee before the hearing to ask if there are any specific questions they wish to know about the OAC or its budget. Rep. Frederick noted that he will attend the 3/23 hearing if his schedule allows and speak in favor of the OAC Budget. The Commission thanked Rep. Frederick and Ms. Baker for their work in securing the OAC budget thus far.
- 2) Report from Rep. Frederick
 - a. There a number of bills that are moving slowly through the process and many may not make it through a hearing.
 - b. The psychological and drug evaluation of police officers immediately following an arrest of use of deadly force - because of pressure, the Portland Police have agreed to a contract for random drug testing. Was told last week that there will be a contract for random steroid testing for 2/3 of the police force as well.
 - c. Project Clean State – has a lot of support, only problem is that money is attached. Has regional support and bipartisan support and it saves money. Currently unknown if there will be a hearing for it.
 - d. Minority Impact Statement – will be going to hearing
 - e. The bill on Hate Crimes may not make it through the house due to some political issues
- 3) SB655 – Adding a 5th Commission to OACO (Immigrant and Refugee Affairs)
 - a. Lucy – sent out an update recently. We have been asked to prepare a fiscal impact statement for it. OAC has added a .5 FTE Office Assistant to the fiscal impact for adding a 5th Commission.
- 4) April 19th –Our Voiced United Legislative Day with Urban League and OCBA
 - a. Plans are moving ahead for the joint legislative day with OCBA’s new partner, Urban League of Portland. So far, OCBA has helped to add a press conference at the Capitol to the list of activities on 4/19 and will be sending a letter to all legislators from OCBA. Rep. Frederick encouraged the Commissioners to attend and meet with legislators.
- 5) SB97 Testimony – Culturally Competent Care
 - a. Lucy – OCBA has sent in testimony on behalf of the hearing

VI. Health Care Updates – Commissioner Rand

- 1) Nationally the Health Care Reform bill has been passed
 - a. Some pieces of it will be implemented incrementally including a Health Exchange in Oregon. This has been the main focus of Commissioner Rand.
- 2) NW Senior & Disability Services
 - a. Commissioner Rand serves as the Chair on this committee. She provided a handout about the emergency management system which covered the Tsunami effects of Oregon and the issue in transporting people to safety during a disaster.

VII. Unfinished Business

- 1) Feb. 21 – Restorative Listening Project – Chair Walker
 - a. Chair Walker attended the event and asked for clarity on what the role of OCBA was to be at the event.
 - i. Rep. Frederick noted that historically the Project started as a discussion about gentrification of N. Portland. Since then it has evolved into listening circles on a number of important subjects to communities of color.
 - ii. Commissioner Stone thanked Chair Walker for attending. Commissioner Stephenson had originally considered it as an opportunity for the OCBA to collaborate with the Restorative Listening Project for Black History Month. Commissioner Stone asked OCBA Commissioners to attend, but had heard that the meeting was cancelled. There was no formal commitment on the part of the OCBA to attend or to collaborate.
- 2) Process for resolving issues and complaints that come before the commission (**handouts**)

Discussion:

 - a. Chair Walker – brought up the need of a investigator for the commission
 - b. Commission Stone – feels the best process is to ask the public to fill out OCBA Complaint forms and then consider them at the next Commission meeting and vote. We should “investigate” only if necessary, then move forward.
 - c. **ACTION:** Lucy can review minutes and see what motions were made and what follow-up was brought back to the commission
 - d. Commissioner Richard – If we get a complaint, then it should consist of inviting the person to come to a commission meeting so all commissioners can hear from the complainant, then at the next meeting take a vote and make decisions. Would love to bring a lawyer on to the commission.
 - e. Rep. Frederick – Concerned because there are some legal things we can do, but some things that we simply can’t do. There just aren’t remedies within the scope of the Commission for certain things. The OAC needs a clear step legally of when the commission should step in.
 - f. Lucy noted that investigation is beyond the statutory mission of the OAC. She has no staff or budget resources to support that work.
 - g. Chair Walker – If a complainant attends a Commission meeting, what happens in the interim? The OCBA needs to a consensus of where the commission stands on an issue/complaint and some type of follow-up needs to be done immediately following someone attending a commission meeting.
 - h. Commissioner Richard – would like to develop a process of receiving information from people with disabilities. Feels like we do need a process in between meetings of where the commission stands on a citizen complaint.
 - i. **ACTION:** Commissioner Wilson would like OCBA to send letters to Dumas and Flemons letting them know “this is beyond our scope etc...”
- 3) OCBA Vision Statement
 - a. Commissioner Richard – Feels proposed statement too closely resembles what is already in the mission statement. Likes idea of adding partners and other commissions to be a part of the discussion on moving forward.

4) Letter to Legislators

- a. **Motion: (Richard/Frederick) – to approve Commissioner Wilson’s letter to the legislators. Carried.**

VIII. New Business

1) Filling Vice Chair position

- a. Chair Walker asked that anyone interested in filling the position until June let everyone know. **Note:** following the Commission meeting, Commissioner Stone noted that she is interested in serving as the Interim Vice Chair.

IX. Adjourned by common consent at 11:36 a.m.