

Meeting Minutes

Oregon Public Records Advisory Council

February 5, 2021

1:30 pm

Present:

Les Zaitz, Rob Bovett, Mark Landauer, Scott Winkels, Steve Suo, Emily Harris, Stephanie Clark, Michael Kron, Tony Hernandez, Senator Thatcher

Not present: Shirin Khosravi, Representative Power, Adam Crawford

Also present: Todd Albert

Minutes

Having a quorum, Stephanie Clark brought the meeting to order and the council approved the agenda. Stephanie Clark explained the next steps of supporting SB 500, letting the council know that a hearing had been scheduled for the following week and encouraging individuals to submit testimony, should they desire.

Stephanie let the PRAC know that she heard from Rep. Wilde and he did not currently plan to schedule a hearing for HB 2224, the arbitration bill.

Mark Landauer asked if anyone knew when Todd was going to be scheduled for his confirmation hearing. Council members and a member of the public discussed where to find the information about when this would be scheduled. Todd Albert let the PRAC know that he found a press release stating that the hearing was tentatively scheduled in front of Senate Rules Committee for February 23rd.

SB 692 had been introduced by Senator Thatcher since the previous PRAC meeting. Senator Thatcher shared that it was a re-draft of HB 2431 from the 2019 session. The Council discussed the substance of this bill and determined that it was identical to HB 2431. Scott Forrester, member of the public, made a comment that SB 692 did not include cities, counties, or special districts and had concerns that leaving out local government did not solve the problem, from where he was sitting. Council members discussed their individual perspectives regarding whether local government entities should be subject to the survey requirement. The council voted unanimously to ask that the Chair testify on behalf of SB 692 should it receive a hearing, provided that it substantively similar to HB 2431. Emily Harris chimed in that the bill looks the same to her.

Stephanie introduced Tom Holt, representing the Society of Professional Journalists. Tom outlined a number of bills related to public records that his association is either supporting or tracking this session:

SB 500, HB 2485, HB 2486, HB 2487, SB 719, SB 722, SB 104, HB 2478, and SB 90.

The council discussed the nuances of HB 2485, which focuses on public records fees. The council and member of the public, Scott Forrester, debated at length the definition of “media” and how it relates to the first amendment. The Chair did not feel that there was a consensus or a mandate from the council to necessitate any action either in favor or in opposition of HB 2485 at that time, as it seemed there was plenty of further discussions that needed to happen before a vote was appropriate. Mark Landauer thanked the Chair for her leadership during the last 13 months.

Council meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.