



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs
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MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

December 7, 2013

9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

Terrell Hall, Room 112

705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland, OR 97217

Attendees:

Chair:

James I. Manning Jr.

Vice Chair:

James Morris

Commissioners:

Robin Morris Collin, Karol Collymore, Julie Grey, Kayse Jama, Gwen Trice, Representative Frederick, Senator Monroe

Absent:

Dr. Isaac E. Dixon

Guests:

Lawanda Manning; Christine Svetkovich, Nina DeConcini, Sarah Armitage, DEQ; Michael Alexander, Executive Director, and Midge Purcell, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Urban League of Portland

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am. A quorum was established part-way through the meeting.

II. Review and approval of agenda, OCBA 8/17/13 Minutes and OCBA 10/19/13 Notes

MOTION (Monroe/Morris): To approve the 8/17/13 Minutes as written. (Collymore abstention). CARRIED

MOTION (Monroe/Morris): To approve the 10/19/13 Notes as written. (Frederick and Collymore abstention). CARRIED

III. Guest presentations

A. Sarah Armitage, Air Toxics Specialist, Air Quality Planning, Nina DeConcini, Northwest Region Administrator, and Christine Svetkovich, DEQ

The guests introduced themselves. The Air Quality Planning division monitors the Portland area, which is the most populous area of Oregon but also the smallest geographic region.

The commissioners of the Environmental Quality Commission, the governing board for this department, are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Commission is December 11 and 12, 2013. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions are always welcome to attend these meetings and/or submit agenda items.

Air toxics are substances associated with cancer risk in humans. The federal government sets standards for the Clean Air Act, but levels for air toxics do not have standards. The Oregon DEQ developed its own health-based benchmarks for air toxics, and then examined data from the 2010 census to answer the question: Are there disparate impacts from air toxics on minorities in the Portland area?

Sarah Armitage gave an overview on the Portland Air Toxics Solutions (PATS) project, which modelled 19 pollutants, all of which were over the benchmark. Some were 10 times over the benchmark, and others were between 1 and 10 times over the benchmark.

Her team developed an emission reduction plan and how to reduce the risk from air toxics and also looked at where the larger minority populations of Portland live, using 2010 census data. Sarah walked the group through their process of analysis and implementation of strategies for change.

They have shared their approach with county officials and other government entities. Their risk data has not been compared to actual data on cancer in the area. Oregon Health Authority may be able to provide this data.

Representative Frederick encouraged the team to include the Native population in the analysis. The map of communities of color in the Portland area is overlaid with the data on toxics emissions and can be viewed here:

www.deq.state.or.us/aq/toxics/patsmaps.htm

The DEQ considered this meeting to be a first step for the OCBA and the DEQ to partner. Representative Frederick requested more air monitoring stations, and also that they monitor water pollution at educational institutions in the area. He also noted that a corporation's emissions limit for toxins for the year may be met in one or two days, resulting in unbreathable air for those one or two days. He suggested measurements of air toxins be done daily or weekly, not annually.

Commissioner Morris acknowledged the excellent job the DEQ has accomplished in this area of environmental justice.

The DEQ is invited to return to the OCBA's February 2014 meeting. The Commission thanked Nina, Sarah, and Christine for their presentation.

- B. Gary Sims, Administrator, and Erin Solomon, Executive Assistant for Diversity & Inclusion Division of the Oregon Department of Corrections – POSTPONED to February 2014

V. Unfinished Business:

A. Committee Reports -

1. November Legislative Committee - Commissioner Collin

Commissioner Collin briefly touched on the topics covered at the November Legislative Committee meeting:

An intern is researching disparities in school discipline.

There is concern about the possibility of privatized liquor stores in Oregon because of the stores being disproportionately sited in communities of color, which has historically led to public health consequences for the residents.

It was noted that the Oregon liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has new appointees who will have a different perspective about privatizing alcohol sales than their predecessors. It was noted that the new OLCC Commissioners' info is available on the website. Senator Monroe asked that the OCBA continue to monitor this situation.

Representative Frederick stated his appreciation for Kendall Clawson, Director of Executive Appointments, for her efforts at diversifying the state's boards and commissions.

The growing presence of hate groups in southern Oregon – Representative Frederick noted that there has been a breakdown in police enforcement due to Josephine County and other counties in southern Oregon being on the brink of bankruptcy. Vigilante justice groups are taking matters into their own hands where there is a lack of law enforcement. Friction is expected to grow in these areas.

Commissioner Collin requested a meeting with Attorney General Rosenblum to discuss the growing lawlessness in Southern Oregon. The office reached out to the AG's office and is waiting for a response. Chair Manning requested that there be follow-up on this. Lucy added that the OCBA may wish to encourage the importance of keeping the Department of Justice Civil Rights Unit staffed. Commissioner Collin added that there was at one time no Civil Rights Unit, for many years. Diane Schwartz-Sykes, who reinvigorated this unit has moved on, as has her successor, Fred Ruby.

Chair Manning said that the Chairs & Vice Chairs of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions requested a meeting with the Governor before the start of the 2014 Legislative session. Chair Manning will ask that the DOJ Civil Rights unit remain staffed and funded, request that the alcohol sales continue to be regulated by the OLCC, and commend Kendall Clawson for the excellent work she is doing in diversifying boards and commissions.

Chair Manning requested that the OCBA send a letter of thanks to the Governor in appreciation of his commitment to diversifying the state boards and commissions. Lucy will draft the letter and send to the OCBA for review.

Nancy will re-send the most recent Advocacy and Legislative Committee notes to the Commissioners of the OCBA.

B. OCBA Retreat follow-up

1. Chair Manning asked that the Advocacy Committee and the Legislative Committee each set quarterly goals, and report back to the OCBA. This will be an agenda item.
2. The Chair and Vice Chair will discuss inviting the OCBA's Strategic Planning facilitator Serena Stoudamire Wesley to follow up on the OCBA's progress.

VI. New Business

A. State of Black Oregon report - Midge Purcell, Urban League of Portland

Chair Manning acknowledged Urban League's recent trip to Eugene to connect with the Black Oregonians in that area.

Midge thanked the OCBA for their collaboration on the first State of Black Oregon report in 2009. She noted that Urban League (UL) has also partnered with OCBA on lobbying days.

The 2009 State of Black Oregon report looked at socioeconomic indicators, environmental justice, housing, and education, and developed an analysis from experts in the black community. It set forward some recommendations and a pathway for success. UL had one of most successful legislative sessions ever.

The next report will be issued in the fall of 2014 and UL is looking to make a greater impact. Some segments of the population were missed, such as urban older adults and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth and adult populations. She has also been in contact with Commissioner Kayse Jama regarding the growing African immigrant population. They plan to form an Advisory Council that will include members from the entire state. The UL's Civic Engagement committee confirmed that there are Black Oregonians in all 36 counties of Oregon. Midge also

thanked Commissioner Robin Morris Collin who has shared her advice on the upcoming report.

Midge would like feedback on their plan to use the following lenses to view the community:

- Lens of childhood and youth
- Lens of adults
- Lens of community as a whole

UL is launching a fundraising campaign on Indiegogo (<http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/2014-state-of-black-oregon>) to cover the costs of the report. Mike Alexander acknowledged the good work of Midge Purcell and her team. Commissioner Collymore suggested presenting at Grantmakers of Oregon to help fund this project.

Chair Manning congratulated the Urban League on their past successes, and would like to partner on this project. The OCBA can help identify black Oregonians in other parts of the state and encouraged Midge to connect with the OCBA Commissioners outside of Portland. He noted that OCBA shares this vision of making things better for all Oregonians.

Representative Frederick asked that Urban League include in their report the specifics of how they have been successful. He also congratulated UL on their success. He is now the Vice Chair of the Rural Communities Committee in the House, and will be on a 4-day tour of eastern Oregon the second week of December 2013.

Commissioner Collymore also suggested tracking African American leadership in Oregon. Midge added that they will also present the information learned from an asset model (versus a deficit model). Midge will send the vision statement to Lucy to be distributed to OCBA Commissioners.

The Commission thanked Midge Purcell and Michael Alexander for their presentation.

Representative Frederick noted that the number of people in Oregon who have first-hand information on freedom riders during the Civil Rights movement is diminishing.

B. Black History Month Proclamation signing 2014

The OCBA's Executive Committee is interested in organizing an event for Black History Month, in February 2014. Representative Frederick plans to have 2 opening ceremonies each week during session in recognition of Black History Month, which will include guest speakers.

Staff was asked to submit a request for a proclamation signing event with the Governor. Senator Monroe would like to start the Senate's session with a prayer and recognition of African Americans in Oregon.

Chair Manning proposed holding an additional OCBA meeting in January 2014, to plan OCBA's strategy for the 2014 short session, and lay groundwork for the 2015 long session. Staff were asked to poll Commissioners on their availability in January 2014. Representative Frederick is submitting bills on brownfields and student privacy.

- C. Universal Declaration of Human Rights event 12/10/13 in Portland, 6pm – 7:30pm, presented by United Nations chapter, Portland - Chair Manning asked if anyone could attend.

VII. OACO Administrator's Report

- A. Upcoming Staffing of the OACs - Chairs and VC have info on adding 3 new staff. By mid-December OAC Leadership will be done with review. Need to beef up budget.
- B. The Oregon Commission for Women's annual Women of Achievement awards nomination deadline is December 15th, 2013. Commissioners were asked to send nominations to Chair Manning and to copy Nancy and Lucy.

It was agreed by common consent to table the remaining agenda items until the February 2014 OCBA meeting.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Next meeting February 15, 2014.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09am.

Mtg of the OCBA Legislative Committee
January 17, 2014, 9 am
Attending: Robin Morris Collin, Karol Collymore
Staff: Lucy Baker

Commissioner Morris Collin convened the meeting at 9:10.

Lucy and Commissioner Collin reviewed with Karol the meetings OCBA has had with BOLI Commissioner Avakian, and AG Rosenblum. Robin also reviewed the outcome of her follow up meeting with Lisa Udland, the Director of the Civil Division in DOJ. Lisa let Robin know that they are excited about DOJ's hiring of the Director of the Civil Rights Office. This is a position that Lisa expects will be important for DOJ community outreach. Robin stressed that it will be important to have equity discussions with communities and avoid talking down to community members.

Robin reviewed the policy work that the OCBA is doing through its internships with ODE and BOLI. OCBA will be submitting its apprenticeship internship to the Oregon State Bar for a paid summer intern via its Public Honors Fellow.

The quarterly goals for the OCBA Legislative Committee was discussed. After discussion the committee members felt that it would be helpful to have a facilitator to help the Commission prepare its quarterly goals. Lucy will share OCHA's recent goal setting work with all the Commissions once it is approved by that Commission as a potentially helpful model.

There being no further business before the committee it was adjourned at 9:35.