



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs  
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## MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs  
September 17, 2011  
PCC Cascade Campus  
705 N. Killingsworth, Portland 97217 Terrell Hall Rm 112

### Attendees

**Chair:** Carlos Jermaine Richard  
**Vice Chair:** Samaura Stone  
**Commissioners:** Karol Collymore, Isaac Dixon, Phyllis Rand, Clifford Walker (phone),  
Lorraine Wilson (phone), Willie Woolfolk (phone)  
**Staff:** Lucy Baker, Nancy Kramer

### **I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Chair Richard at 9:12 a.m. A quorum was established.

### **II. Review and approval of agenda**

**Motion (Rand/Collymore): To adopt the agenda. Carried.**

### **III. Review and approval of minutes**

The Commissioners discussed a Motion made in the August meeting, "To support the housing discrimination plan". Commissioner Woolfolk said when the Motion was made the word used was "dialogue", not "plan". Commissioner Woolfolk did not support the plan. It was ultimately decided to strike the Motion from those Minutes.

**Motion (Dixon/Kemp): To approve the minutes as amended. Carried.**

### **IV. Old Business**

There were no hard copies of the Unfinished Business document available so this portion of the meeting was tabled.

### **V. New Business**

#### Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Chair Richard, Vice Chair Stone, Administrator Baker): This Committee has not yet met to discuss the budget. The Committee will meet once a month to review the budget and then report out to the Commissioners. Openness and transparency concerning the budget and financial matters is a goal.

**BY-LAW COMMITTEE (Commissioner Dixon):** The By-Law Committee did a preliminary review of the By-Laws and there is some updating to be done.

**Action:** Lucy Baker will send Commissioner Dixon the changes made to the OCBA By-Laws some time ago by Commissioner Wilson.

Once the By-Laws are revised they will be posted on the OCBA website by Executive Assistant Nancy Kramer in an easily accessible place. Nancy Kramer offered to post the current By-Laws and was told to hold off until the revisions are completed.

**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (Chair Richard, Vice Chair Stone, Commissioner Collymore):**

There was much discussion concerning the Fair Housing Plan, and the Chair's most recent meeting with Commissioner Nick Fish. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how OCBA can work with the City to end housing discrimination. Some points included:

Chair Richard reported that testing conducted by the Fair Housing Commission (FHC) provided a snapshot of existing housing discrimination in Oregon. The information gained by conducting this particular type of testing does not provide the concrete evidence needed to establish a case of housing discrimination.

Commissioner Fish committed to continue working with the FHC, and to help FHC do effective, reliable testing.

Commissioner Avakian of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, will continue to work with the FHC to help them provide concrete and conclusive charges against housing discrimination.

Employees of the FHC are willing to attend an OCBA meeting and explain their methodology.

The FHC invited the OCBA to undergo their housing discrimination training testing, so Commissioners can be testers.

The question was raised that if the old techniques of testing used by the FHC do not lead to prosecution what is the point in continuing to use the same techniques?

Commissioner Wilson asked, What is the threshold required to prove housing discrimination has occurred?

A request has been made of Commissioners Fish and Avakian to put emphasis on educating people about how to recognize discrimination and about knowing

where to go to file a complaint if they feel housing discrimination has occurred. The community's awareness of the complaint process needs to be raised, statewide.

Chair Richard said the Attorney General can process and prosecute criminal activities. Chair Richard also reported that Commissioner Avakian believes the OCBA would have an arduous time getting the Attorney General and District Attorney to prosecute housing discrimination criminally on a charge of hate crime.

**Action:** Lucy Baker will send the hate crime statute (ORS 165.155) to all Commissioners and highlight the word "inconvenienced".

**Action:** Lucy Baker will contact the Governor's Office to determine whether use of the term "partnering" with any other organization would be in violation of the OCBA's statute. She will copy all Commissioners on her email to Frank Garcia, Jr., of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Chair Richard explained that there is a process in place for citizens' to make a complaint about discrimination, and it is important to document people's complaints. Administrator Lucy Baker said there is a complaint form available on the OCBA website.

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE** (Chair Richard, Commissioners Dixon and Collymore): Commissioner Dixon was appointed Chair.

The Women's Commission is putting together the Status of Oregon Women Report, and will be adding other categories, one of which is the Status of Women of Color in Oregon. The Women's Commission will be speaking with the Joint Chairs about this and are aware that the OCBA is interested in this topic. The Women's Commission is seeking an intern to research this topic.

**Action:** Lucy Baker will send Commissioner Dixon a reminder about internships with the OCBA, as he is meeting with Mary Clare, a Professor at the Lewis & Clark Graduate School, on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** (Commissioner Wilson, Vice Chair Stone): Senator Monroe has been unavailable for consultation; Commissioner Wilson will continue to reach out to him.

**Motion (Rand/Dixon): Add Commissioner Mariahm Stephenson of the Women's Commission to be an ad hoc member to the Legislative Committee. Carried.**

Three Commissioners phoned in to the meeting, and Commissioner Walker had some difficulty hearing that a vote was taken on the Motion regarding adding Commissioner Mariahm Stephenson to the Legislative Committee. A past proposal to record the names of those Commissioners who voted for the motion, against the motion and those who abstained from the vote was brought up again.

A Roll Call vote, which records each person's name and their vote, and a Tally Vote, which counts only yeas, nays and abstentions, were discussed.

**Motion (Walker/Wilson): To take all votes by roll call vote beginning immediately. Carried.**

Yea: Wilson, Walker, Woolfolk, Kemp, Rand

Nay: Stone, Dixon, Richard

Abstention: None

The Office staff will bring roll call sheets for future voting.

**Action:** Commissioner Wilson will make another attempt to reach Senator Monroe on Monday.

Chair Richard spoke about the process of Committees, and suggested that, when representing the Commission, a Chair of a Committee always bring another Commissioner along to better capture what was said in the meeting. It is not necessary to do this, but is recommended.

A point of clarification was made: after Commissioner Wilson speaks with Senator Monroe, she will set up a meeting with the other Legislative Committee members as soon as possible.

**OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY COMMITTEE** (Commissioner Kemp, Vice Chair Stone): The Committee's first meeting is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Committee members and Chair Richard and Commissioner Collymore will meet to develop a plan.

It was announced that Carla Gary, Assistant Vice President at the University of Oregon, has invited the entire OCBA to the Portland Area African American Community Luncheon at the White Stag Building (70 NW Couch St., Portland) on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

Lucy Baker noted that a number of Commissioners on the OCBA and the three other sister commissions are well-connected, and if Commissioners are interested in attending any other events let Lucy know and she will see if she can come up with a pre-paid ticket from another organization.

## **VI. Administrator Update**

Lucy Baker discussed the current status of the 2011-2013 Budget. Seventeen percent of the requested budget was cut. She received a line item budget form the Controller's Office, and was not consulted about any of these cuts.

The Travel Budget was cut by 87% in the current biennium. This leaves \$632 per Commission for the biennium.

Stipends were cut and now cover nine Commissioners meeting every other month. This equals approximately \$3,200.

Other cuts already taken are:

Personnel cut by \$13,000

Supplies cut by \$5,000

An additional \$22,000 cut in Personnel and Supplies (\$17,000 in Personnel, \$4,600 in Services and Supplies)

An additional cut of \$50,000 was sustained in Statewide personnel.

**Action:** Lucy Baker will send an email update about the budget cuts the week of September 19<sup>th</sup> to the Commissioners.

It was suggested that the Commissioners use their portion of the General Fund flexibly. For example, the stipend line item can be used for travel. Alternative options, such as video conferencing, using State vehicles or a Zipcar for travel were discussed. Video conferencing exists at PCC and may be available for use.

## **VII. Chair's Report**

Chair Richard talked about a monthly meeting being set with the other Commission Chairs to work on collaborative efforts and leverage the strength of the Commissions. There is also discussion underway to reintroduce the Joint Commission meetings.

**Action:** Chair Richard will ask the other Chairs at the next Joint Chair meeting if minutes will be taken at these meetings.

**Action:** A request was made that updated contact information be sent out to the Commissioners.

## **VIII. Other Business**

Commissioner Dixon reported that he was approached this morning, September 17<sup>th</sup>, by an employee of the Urban League of Portland and asked to go to the Willamette Week with a letter. The employee mentioned being accosted in the street by community members about calls going unanswered and misappropriation of funds. There have been two Multnomah County audits and more than \$20,000 in credit card expenses.

Commissioner Dixon will contact one of the former Chairs of the Urban League to address these issues. Then he will go back to the employee with an update and send the letter to the Willamette Week.

Commissioner Dixon clarified that he was not asked to do this as a Commissioner, but as a past Board Member of the Urban League.

Concern was expressed that questionable activities by the Urban League make it harder for other African American advocacy groups to request funding.

**Action:** Nancy Kramer will email the Unfinished Business documents to all Commissioners and this item will be first on the agenda of the October OCBA meeting.

Commissioner Wilson once again expressed that the monthly OCBA meeting notice was not being sent out 10 days in advance of the meeting, and a request made that the Minutes be sent out sooner.

**IX. Motion (Richard/Kemp): Adjourn the meeting. Carried.**

Yea: Kemp, Richard, Rand, Stone, Dixon, Wilson, Walker

Nay: None

Abstention: None

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.