



MINUTES

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Saturday, January 22, 2011

9 – 11 AM

PCC Cascade Campus, Terrell Hall Room 124
705 N Killingsworth St., Portland

Attendees

Chair: Clifford Walker
Commissioners: Lorraine Wilson, Rep. Lew Frederick, Carlos Richard, Phyllis Rand, Samaura Stone, Willie Woolfolk (phone), Phyllis Harris-John (phone)
Absent: Mariahm Stephenson, Jennifer Duncan, Sen. Rod Monroe
Speakers: Everette Rice
Guests: Jordan Hawry, Antwuan Flemons
Staff: Lucy Baker, Joy Howard

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Walker at 9:08 a.m.

II. Review and approval of agenda

Revisions: Commissioner Rand – would like to be added to discuss Health Care. Lucy - would like 5 minutes to discuss OACO budget and internships.

Motion (Frederick/Rand): To approve agenda with these revisions. **Carried.**

III. Review and approval of minutes

Revisions: 1) add Commissioner Wilson to attendance, 2) Section VII. Describe the split in the House as 30/30 not 50/50, 3) Section V. reflect that it was not decided
Commissioner Wilson would chair bylaw committee

Motion (Rand/Stone): To approve as corrected. **Carried.**

IV. Committee Updates/Reports-Bylaws Committee, Agenda Committee

1) Budget - Lucy requested OACO's CPA do an analysis and discovered we will have around \$27,000 left at the end of the biennium based on the current rate of expenditure. Money comes as a result of one staff opting out of healthcare, the absence of an administrator for a few months, and the moving the office to Portland. The Chairs of the Commissions reviewed the figures and have approved adding \$2,000 for each Commission to further its mission. Allowable expenditures include: hiring facilitators, renting group transportation for legislative days, lunches for Commissions' legislative day events, additional travel for Commissioners, designing and printing of Commission booklets and brochures, membership dues with key partner associations, registrations for Commissioners to attend key partner events, and other supports. The other \$19,000 will used for the commissions on ways to improve effectiveness of the OACO in supporting their work (eg., work study student, modest sized contract to improve websites, etc.). Lucy will prepare a draft budget for these

improvements and it will be reviewed and approved by the Chairs. The funds must be expended by 6/30/11.

- 2) Internships – The PSU Hatfield School of government has 2 master students interested in internship concepts that have been introduced by OCBA (brown fields and clean slate). Have also put in paperwork at PSU for a work study student for OACO. Funding will come from funds the chairs approved to be used for the remainder of the biennium.

V. **Proposed Agenda, Meeting and Facilitator discussion**

Commissioners had an open discussion on ways to improve the structure and flow of the meetings. Suggestions included:

- Send names and contact information of invited guests to Commissioner Stone so she can gather and disseminate information to commissioners prior to the meetings
- Limit testimonies to 3-5 minutes
- At the end of a discussion in a meeting, create action items and within a week send an email of the action items to commissioners.
- Appoint a commissioner to be a facilitator to keep meetings on task. Person would also help commissioners to create strategies and outcomes. Discussion followed.

VOTES:

- 1) Agenda

Motion (Rand/Frederick): Adopt new format of agenda presented by Commissioner Stone. **Carried.**

- 2) Public Comments/Testimony

Motion (Frederick/Richard): At meetings, public comments/testimony will be limited to 5 minutes per person. **Carried.**

Action: Commissioner Stone will draft up procedure and send to commissioners for review. It is realized that some guests will need additional time.

- 3) Facilitator

Motion (Richard/Stone): The OCBA chair will continue to serve as the facilitator at meetings. In the chair's absence, the vice-chair will serve as facilitator. As part of leadership development on OCBA, commissioners interested in facilitating a portion of the meeting shall do so with the respectful agreement of the Chair. **Carried.**

- 4) Time Keeper

OACO staff will continue to serve as time keepers. No vote necessary.

VI. **New Commissioner's Orientation (handout)**

Commissioner Wilson created a New Commissioner Orientation packet that she would like to be used by the OCBA. She walked the commission through the handout and opened the floor for review and discussion. Commissioners also gave permission for packet to be used as a model for other small boards and commissions.

Action: Commissioner Wilson would like to set aside a meeting, possibly in the spring, to conduct a OCBA New Commissioner Orientation.

VII. Health Care

Commissioner Rand gave an update on the status of Health Care nationally and statewide. She indicated that many changes are taking place right now. The House is willing to go against the Health Reform bill and republicans have not come up with a plan to show what they recommend. There are enough votes in the senate that will allow the Health care bill to still progress. Part of the problem is that it's still too early to identify how it's going to help us because the issues don't come up until years down the road.

Discussion:

- Chair Walker asked that Commissioner Rand also bring issues that particularly affect the African American community in Oregon to the commission
- Commissioner Richard stated that Governor Kitzhaber also has items on his agenda to work on health care. Recommended looking at access to health care.

VIII. OCBA Unfinished Business

Commissioner Richard used minutes from October 2009-November 2010 to compile a list of identified issues that need resolutions. Discussion followed. Some suggestions included:

- Establish partnerships with other African American groups on the similar issues.
- Get back to being on the forefront and effecting legislation and get information back to the community.
 - Lucy offered to work with Rep. Frederick to identify bills of potential interest to commissioners and generate a legislative bill summary report so commissioners can make a more informed decision on where to focus.
- Draft a letter similar to the Oregon Commission for Women's to legislators introducing themselves and offering to assist wherever possible.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Action:** Commissioners and staff review the document and if there are items that have been completed, identify it and send it to the group.
- **Action:** At the February meeting talk about what platform OCBA is going to adopt as a unified commission
- **Action:** Commissioner Richard will draft the letter to legislators on Sunday and send to commissioners for review. Once finalized, OACO will send to each legislator.

IX. Everette Rice, Past OCBA Executive Director, Chair, and Vice-Chair

The Commission welcomed the speaker. Mr. Rice served as the last Executive Director of OCBA before they were defunded. He walked commissioners through his experience as both a staff member and commissioner for OCBA.

Suggestions for OCBA:

- Use ability and understanding of the community during this legislative sessions. You know your community better than the average lawmaker
- Develop relationships with your legislators
- Use ability to mobilize community members on issues the commission has decided to back
- Hold legislators, governor, and law makers accountable

- Use the commission as a way of getting information into the hands of the people. A letter to a legislator from a community member makes a bigger impact than one from a commissioner.
- Back up legislators on the commission.

Discussion:

- Chair Walker encouraged commissioners to work with state and local agencies to get information that can be disseminated to the community. Expect a response when working with these agencies and hold them accountable. That’s part of your role as a commissioner.
- Representative Frederick stated that if you’re going to send 50 letters to legislators on a topic, make them 50 different letters.
- Use your power as a private citizen and be aware of ethics laws. Use your voice and get to know your community and what issues are important to them.

Successes during his tenure:

- Helped to set up requirements (written/spoken) for medical health interpreters
- Environmental Justice Taskforce – made it so commissioners from Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and Asian Affairs are by statute to be a part of the EJTF
- Bullying and Racism complaints – directed parents to dept of Justice and National department of justice.
- **Action:** Mr. Rice will send email to Joy of accomplishments during his time period

Chair Walker thanked Mr. Rice for sharing his experiences. OCBA will be working to get past commissioners together and would like Mr. Rice’s assistance to get that done.

X. Public remarks/testimonies

Mr. Antwuan Flemons presented a handout and gave a detailed account of his experience with the Oregon legal system regarding spousal abuse. Discussion followed.

Chair Walker has taken an interest with this case and will be speaking with the commander of the Marion County Corrections and Parole Department in Salem to inquire about the case. Will share findings with the commission.

XI. Good of the Order

- Commissioner Woolfolk would like the commission to take a closer look at the Affirmative Action Summary Report in a future meeting.
- Chair Walker inquired with commissioners about changing the meetings to every other month. Commissioners said not at this time.

XII. Adjournment at 12:10 p.m.