

## OCBA

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A look through the OCBA's minutes, posted online, show ongoing disagreements between Walker and Woolfolk, and the paid OAC administrative staff.

On March 17, 2012, the minutes reflect that Baker had issue with "maintaining a professional workplace," including Woolfolk's "tone and manner."

On the other side, Woolfolk's concerns, listed in the "Agenda Items for Discussion," included the timeliness of typing up the meeting minutes, action items and agendas relating to the board's work; the minutes show that OCBA Chair Isaac Dixon directed staff to work on a more effective process for "disseminating Action Alerts," and a 10-day timeline for producing the minutes.

*The Oregonian* first broke the story late Thursday night that Walker and Woolfolk had been fired by Gov. Kitzhaber, but that his office was not revealing why.

"The funny thing is, the letter fired me — and then thanked me for my service," Walker said. "Why would you fire someone and then also thank them for their service?"

Current Commissioner Lorraine Wilson

called the firings "unprecedented," and expressed deep concern that Walker and Woolfolk were working on important initiatives on hate crime enforcement and racial disparities in contracting and hiring at the Oregon Department of Transportation, including how federal stimulus money was spent by ODOT.

She said the two commissioners' work in pushing the state to speak out and take action on these issues appears to be in limbo.

"I'm trying to understand what it is from the governor's actions — why he put himself out there like that," Wilson said. "These two commissioners have been working diligently."

Kitzhaber's spokesman confirmed Friday that he could not comment on the case.

Walker and Woolfolk told *The Skanner News* that they had each received a phone call Thursday from a state employee who said they could either quit or be fired; both confirmed that within an hour they received emailed termination notices.

## OSU

say." Obama covered a lot of ground. She talked about her upbringing in South Chicago, about letting people know how you feel and about living according to your values. "Don't hold grudges," she said.

She praised the university for its cutting edge research and its sustainable campus.

"I'm not here today just because Craig has turned the Obamas into a family of Beaver Believers," she said.

"I'm also here because I'm proud of everything this university is doing for this country. You've built one of the most sus-

tainable campuses in America. You're conducting groundbreaking research on every-

— tutoring children, joining our armed forces, fighting hunger and disease here in

### Clifford Walker and Willie Woolfolk offered 'chance to clear their names' — they ask, of what?

thing from agriculture, to nanotechnology, to childhood obesity.

"You're serving others in so many ways

America and around the world. So I can see why Craig feels so at home here at OSU. Because in so many ways, the values

you all embody are the values that he and I were raised with."

Oregon State President Ed Ray awarded Obama an honorary doctorate in Public Health. In her role as First Lady, she has championed children's health and fitness. As part of that campaign she has focused on healthy living, planting the first White House kitchen garden since WWII.

"Michelle Obama was the best part of it all," said Jordan Carey, who received a master's degree in health administration at the ceremony. "Her speech made the whole thing mean a lot."

## Wolley

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populations of prey and predators.

His appointment adds another honor to his long list of services in the area of environmental education. Throughout his career, Wolley has worked to engage the Black community in outdoor activities and the natural world.

"People of color are so underrepresented in natural resources," he says. "It has changed slowly."

Wolley's fascination with nature began as a child in California.

"I was always looking under rocks and bringing critters home," he says.

This led to extensive reading about nature and, eventually, enrollment at the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied wildlife and took a number of ecology courses.

Afterwards, Wolley taught environmental education to kids in urban areas of Southern California such as Watts and East Los Angeles.

As a part of a small nonprofit called Outward Bound Adventures, Wolley exposed senior and middle high school students to the outdoors through activities like backpacking in the Mojave Desert.

He also worked on outdoor projects as part of the California Conservation Corp.

After spending years in urban California, Wolley's travels took him to Ashland, Ore., where he continued his education at Southern Oregon University. There, he earned a Masters of Science in Environmental Education.

Now it's 32 years later, and Wolley has been working in Portland ever since.

At first he taught at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI). As a way to reach out to kids in inner Northeast Portland, he worked with a program called Alberta Science for Kids (ASK).

"At the time, OMSI was located by the World Forestry Center," says Wolley. "It was criticized for being out of reach of youth from Northeast Portland."

He later spent 7 1/2 yrs. working for the US Forest Service, a federal agency that manages public lands in National Forests and Grasslands. His youth outreach continued with the Forest Service through teaching forest ecology and forest management at Portland Public Schools, including Grant, Madison and Roosevelt High Schools, and Beaumont Middle School.

During this time he was also trained to become an In-Service Trainer for the Peace Corps, and had the opportunity to teach environmental education in Africa to Peace Corps volunteers in Swaziland and to education administrators from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Keeping busy, Wolley followed the Forest Service with a position as a regional planner with Metro Regional Parks and Green-spaces, where he managed open space properties throughout the three-county Portland Metro Area. Following Metro, he became part of the community relations group for Tri-Met's Interstate MAX project. At TriMet he coordinated communication between the surrounding community, local businesses, and the construction team. At

this time Wolley was also trained by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to teach a comprehensive environmental justice training course.

Wolley's career then brought him to the City of Portland, where he served on the River Renaissance Committee that developed Willamette River planning guidelines for Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. He also coordinates business development for minority, women and emerging small businesses.

Throughout his career, Wolley says people of color in authoritative positions have

### Students of color are not seeing images of people in natural resources that look like them — they don't have role models

been rare.

To address this problem while focusing on health, Wolley founded the African American Outdoor Association (AAOA) in 2005. The mission of AAOA is, "To address the health disparity issues in African American communities by engaging participants in vigorous physical activity that brings them into the natural environment." Some of these activities include hiking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. AAOA exposes both adults and kids to the natural world, and helps them to expand their physical boundaries, says Wolley.

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AAOA provides exposure to both adults and kids and helps expand their physical boundaries, says Wolley.

ODFW wants to reach out as well, which factored into his appointment.

Gov. John Kitzhaber made a commitment to diversify state boards and commissions in various areas, including age, race and sexual orientation, according to Wolley.

There was some initial controversy in his appointment because the forestry, ranching and agriculture communities didn't know him, despite his extensive outdoors work.

However, Kitzhaber eventually shoved Wolley and two other candidate's appointments forward.

He emphasizes that he is available for any questions.

"I encourage people to go on the website and learn more about what the department does," says Wolley. "Feel free to contact me if you want to get more involved in the outdoors or learn more about the environment."

To learn more about the work of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, go to [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us). For information about AAOA, see [www.africanamericanoutdoors.com](http://www.africanamericanoutdoors.com), send email to [urbanhikers@hotmail.com](mailto:urbanhikers@hotmail.com), or sign in on Facebook.

## Gay Pride 2012



PHOTO BY LIS LOVING

Many thousands turned out in Old Town and the Pearl District last Sunday for Portland's Pride NW parade. The Grand Marshalls were Oregon's black Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays chapter — the first of its kind in the nation. Participants included elected officials, local corporations and government bureaus — and many new marchers representing ethnic and racially diverse communities. For more information go to [www.PrideNW.org](http://www.PrideNW.org).