

Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Regular Public Meeting
June 25, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom software

Members Present: Chairperson Sue Scholer; Commissioners Beverly Gard, Joe Micon and Terry White

Staff Present: Ed Ferguson and Amy Nicholson

Public Present: Unknown, as logged in

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

On June 25, 2021, Chairperson Sue Scholer called to order the Regular Public Meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission at approximately 2:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom meeting software. Before proceeding to the first item on the agenda, Chairperson Scholer read the following statement:

“The Indiana Lobby Registration Commission met in executive session immediately before this public meeting to discuss job performance evaluations of employees as permitted under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (9). No other subject matter was discussed during the executive session, and the Commission took no action during the executive session.”

Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Gard to approve the minutes of the executive session and public meeting of December 11, 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of late fees and appeals filed since June 25, 2021

Mr. Ferguson reported on the number of appeals filed and late fees received. Appeals and late fees received continue to be lower than normal due to staff intervention and assistance. No action was taken.

Staff report on audits, and discussion of audits for Lobby Years 2018-2019 and 2020-2021

Mr. Ferguson discussed with the Commissioners the problems associated with collecting and receiving documentation for audits. The commissioners reiterated their desire that staff conduct audits of 2.5% of employer lobbyists for each lobby year. Motion to that effect made by Commissioner Micon, seconded by Commissioner White. Motion approved.

Staff report on lobbyist expenditures and lobbyist registrations

Ms. Nicholson reported on lobbyist expenditures and registrations, a summary of which was given to Commissioners in advance of the meeting and is on file in the Commission offices. No action was taken.

Final Commission approval of FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-23 budgets as approved by the Indiana General Assembly during its 2021 Regular Session.

The Commission received the budgets for each fiscal year; they were not changed from the proposal submitted to the IGA in December, 2020. Copies of the budget are on file in the Commission offices. No action was taken.

Staff Salary Adjustments

Based on staff merit evaluations, Commissioner White moved approval of 5% salary increases for Director of Operations Amy Nicholson, Customer Service Representative Pam Hebenstreit and Executive Director/General Counsel Ed Ferguson. In addition, the motion included a \$1000 one-time adjustment for Ms. Nicholson. Commissioner Scholer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Other Business

It was announced that Ms. Nicholson has been invited to be a panelist for a session on Grassroots Lobbying at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), held in Denver, CO in December. The Commissioners recognized the honor.

Lobbyist Jeffrey Phillips described an issue regarding late filings based on filings made after the 11:59 p.m. deadline, even though his office operates on CDT rather than EDT. After discussion, upon motion made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Micon, the Commissioners agreed to waive the late fee and asked staff to work with the state's IT staff to account for the anomaly prior to the November 30, 2021 deadline. Motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Commissioners and public comments

There were none.

Selection of next meeting date

The Commission agreed to meet in December, 2021, a definite date to be set later.

Adjourn

Commissioner Gard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner White.
The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S/

Edward Ferguson
Executive Director and General Counsel