

**Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Regular Public Meeting
December 10, 2021, 11:00 a.m.
Meeting held via Zoom**

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

Staff Present: Ed Ferguson, Amy Nicholson and Pam Hebenstreit

Public Present: As logged in

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

On December 10, 2021, Chairperson Sue Scholer called to order the Public Meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission at approximately 11:00 a.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

Minutes of the ILRC Executive Session of June 25, 2021, were unanimously approved upon motion made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Micon. Minutes of the ILRC Regular Public Meeting of June 25, 2021, were unanimously approved upon motion made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Gard.

Report on Late Fees and Appeals Filed Since June 25, 2021

It was reported that late fees received and appeals filed were lower than usual, in part because Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Hebenstreit called and emailed potential late filers to help them complete their filings on a timely basis. Commissioner White commented on the entry from Emily Wood, who stated that she had not been told that she needed to do the reports.

Staff Report on Audits for Lobby Year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

Mr. Ferguson reported that in compliance with the Commission’s directive, audits had been split between Lobby Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 (2.5% of the total number each year). Staff has received most of the audit materials from Lobby Year 2018-2019,

and will be sending out audit letters for those selected for audit for Lobby Year 2019-2020. Audits are in progress.

Staff Report on Lobbyist Activity Report and Registration Non-filers

Ms. Nicholson reported that there were 20 lobbyists that had not filed 2019-2020 activity reports, and 36 lobbyists that had not completed registrations as of the date of this meeting.

Staff Report on Registrations and Second Period Activity Report Filings

Ms. Nicholson reported that the number of Lobbyists registered for Lobby Year 2021 were the highest we have seen. Registrations for 2022 have declined slightly; however, many registrations are still expected.

Staff Report on FYTD Revenues and Expenditures

Ms. Nicholson reported no unexpected expenditures, and that the FY 2021-2022 budget is tracking as expected. Although there has been some difficulty getting current numbers from the state auditor's office, our expenses are relatively static from month to month (mainly contracted expenses such as rent, parking, office supplies, postage, copier equipment lease, etc.). Ms. Nicholson also reported on a continuing improper billing issue with AT&T. After escalating the matter to the President of the company, it is hoped that it will soon be resolved.

Conflicting Reporting Advice

Mr. Ferguson reported on an instance of an apparent conflict between advice found in the Lobbyist Handbook and that found on the ILRC website. He will prepare a memorandum to correct the misinformation for the Commission's review and approval at a future meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business brought before the Commission.

Comments from Commissioners and Public Comments

Commissioner and current Commission Chairperson Sue Scholer will be retiring from her position at the end of the year. Each of the commissioners expressed their gratitude for her leadership and for her dedicated service to the Commission and to the State of Indiana since 2009.

Selection of Next Meeting Date

Mr. Ferguson said that he would be in contact with the Commissioners regarding the Commission's next meeting date, which will likely take place in April, 2022, following the conclusion of the Indiana General Assembly session.

Adjourn

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m., upon unanimous approval of a motion made by Commissioner Micon and seconded by Commissioner White.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Ferguson

Executive Director and General Counsel