



Meeting Minutes
Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
Government Center South
Conference Room 5 Wabash Hall
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Friday, May 19, 2023

Call to Order: A meeting of the Indiana Commission for the Social Status of Black Males (ICSSBM) was held on Friday, May 19, 2023, in person at the Government South Building Conference Room 5, and virtually via WebEx. The meeting was called to order at 10:32am.

Roll call - Commissioners in attendance: Commissioner William Durham (Proxy Dept. of Education), Commissioner Damien Jones (Proxy FSSA), Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones (Proxy Div. of Mental Health and Addiction), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Senator Bray), Commissioner Richard Okello (Proxy ICRC), Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Dave Rozzell (Senator Bray), and Commissioner Tori Williams (Proxy Dept. of Corrections).

Via Conference Phone: Commissioner Kesha Rich (Proxy to IDOA), and Commissioner Greg Taylor (Senator).

Commissioners absent: Commissioner Kenneth Allen (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Vaneta Becker, Commissioner Shanel Poole (Speaker Huston), Commissioner Dwayne Sawyer (Senator Bray), Commissioner Vernon Smith, Commissioner David Stewart (Proxy to Lt. Governor), Commissioner Larry Stribling Jr. (Proxy to Dept. of Health), Commissioner Lamar Sykes (Speaker Huston), and Commissioner Ann Vermilion.

Commissioner (Chair) Kari Jones stated a quorum was established.

Others in attendance: Meredith Lizza

Chair's Report: Chair Jones informed everyone regarding the Commission's purpose and five-areas of focus. In addition, Chair Jones stated that she appreciates the Director's work and making things easier for the Commission. Vice Chair Rozzell mentioned as well that he is pleased with the Director's work and how he has represented himself in his new role. Chair Jones encouraged Commission members to make connections with organizations that align with the five-key focus areas so that we will have a list of agencies to send grant information when it is time to request for proposals. Chair Jones commented, her goal is to conduct an efficient and productive meeting.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chair Jones moved forward with the adoption of the minutes from the April 2023, meeting. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the April 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richard Okello. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damien Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Review and Approval of the Financial Reports: Commissioner William Durham motioned to approve the April 2023, financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Elijah Neal. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damien Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Director's Report: Director Giles provided a detailed overview of the 2023 – 2024 operating budget that was passed by the General Assembly. In addition, the Director informed the Commission that \$54,000 in funding was reverted because of non-spending. The Director provided financial figures that the other cultural commissions received over the previous year in the new budget cycle due to their active programming. Following the Director's budget report Commissioner Neal said, he thought the Commission allocated the \$54,000 for future conferences so we would not lose the funding. Senator Taylor supported the Director's report and confirmed the Commission lost \$54,000 due to no programming in 2022- 2023 and suggested to the Commissioners that they come together and plan productive programming. Commissioner Rozzell followed with a question, "how much of the \$54,000 could have been allocated for the conference if used for the event?" Commissioner Rozzell was informed that the cost for spending had no certain amount. Commissioner Rozzell then asked, "how much did the Commission spend on the conference for the previous year?" Chair Jones replied, "\$35,000."

Director Giles provided an update on the career fair scheduled for later this year in October 2023. He informed the Commission that he is still waiting on confirmation for the three dates from Ivy Tech so that the marketing vendor can create the "run sheet" for the marketing proposal. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to extend the career fare marketing proposal to the June 2023 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damien Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

For the last item on the Director Giles report he requested the approval of Commission to purchase up to \$5,000 in promotional items (SWAG products, clothing and table-clothe) to use when attending outreach events. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the purchase of promotional items up to \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Damian Jones. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damien Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Sub-Committee Reports: Commissioner Richard Okello provided an overview of the grant program and items that were discussed at May subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Dave Rozzell motioned to approve the Commission allocating \$13,000 to fund the grant program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner William Durham. Roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner William Durham (Y), Commissioner Damien Jones (Y), Commissioner Elijah Neal (Y), Commissioner Richard Okello (Y), Commissioner Kesha Rich (Y), Commissioner Dave Rozzell (Y), Commissioner Tori Williams (Y) and Commissioner/Chair Kari Jones (Y).

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Announcement for the Good of the Order: Senator Taylor mentioned how young Black males from across the state would come to the statehouse for the day and learn about the legislative process. He requested that the Commission look at reinstating the program for Black History Month in February 2024. Director Giles agreed to meet with Senator Taylor to discuss the planning of the event and update Commission members on the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the ICSSBM May Commission meeting concluded at 11:25am.