

Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Public Meeting
April 14, 2011 11:30 a.m.
10 W. Market Street, Conference Room 304
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Members Present: Sue Scholer, Scott Mellinger, John Whikehart, and Jan Abbs

Members Unable to Attend: None

Staff Present: Charles Harris, Executive Director & General Counsel, and Amy Moore, Compliance Manager

Call to Order

On April 14, 2011, the public meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission was called to order at approximately 11:33 a.m. by the Chairperson of the Commission, Sue Scholer.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed and approved by separate motions the minutes of the following meetings:

- 1) The Commission's Public Meeting held on February 10, 2011.
- 2) The Commission's Executive Session held on February 10, 2011.
- 3) The Commission's Executive Session held on January 7, 2011.
- 4) The Commission's Executive Session held on December 10, 2010.

Each motion was made by Commissioner Abbs, seconded by Commissioner Mellinger, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Appointment of Executive Director & General Counsel

Commissioner Whikehart moved that Charles Harris be appointed to serve as the Commission's Executive Director & General Counsel with his status being that of an employee at will. Commissioner Whikehart pointed out Mr. Harris has been serving as Acting Director of the Commission under a contract with the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abbs and unanimously approved by the Commissioners. Mr. Harris expressed his appreciation for the support that he has received from the Commissioners and all that Amy Moore has done in helping address and overcome some rather significant challenges. Amy also expressed her appreciation for all the support that she has received from the Commissioners. Chairperson Scholer said that she has received positive comments from lobbyists about the recent work of the Commission.

Staff Report

Mr. Harris informed the Commission that all of the open audits for the period of May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008 have been closed out and that only four audits from the period of May 1, 2008

through April 30, 2009 are still open. He also informed the Commission that 124 lobbyist are registered for the May 12th training session and that the registrations for the May 19th session are at 28 and growing. Amy Moore reviewed the various new forms included in the Commissioners' packets, including revised conflict of interest statement, the form to appeal a late filing fee, the new gift report, the new purchase report form, and the revised activity report form. Ms. Moore also discussed the effort being made to get all of the new forms available on line, with the new activity report form having first priority. She pointed out that a vastly revised Lobbyist Handbook was included in their packets. Next, Mr. Harris provided a brief update on possible efforts to amend the lobbyist law and on the current flat lined funding for the Commission for the 2011-13 biennium. Mr. Harris pledged to keep the Commissioners informed of any changes in the lobby law and to respond to changes in a timely manner. Some Commissioners commented on steps that they have taken to request the assistance of their appointing authorities in securing adequate funding for the Commission.

The Commission discussed the status of its budget for fiscal year 2010-2011, including the need for the \$40,791 currently held in reserve. Commissioner Abbs then made a motion that the Commission request the release of that portion of its budget held in reserve to meet the needs of the Commission and that Chairperson Scholer and Executive Director Harris work together to secure the release of those funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mellinger and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Chairperson Scholer asked for any public comments. There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairperson Scholer adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20 p.m.