

Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Regular Public Meeting
June 14, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Market Tower Conference Room
Market Tower, 10 West Market Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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

Staff Present: Edward Ferguson, Executive Director and General Counsel; Amy Nicholson, Director of Operations; and Pamela Hebenstreit, Customer Service Representative

Signed-in Attendees: Jenny Knox, Indiana Petroleum Council; Mindy Westrick, Faegre Baker Daniels; Elizabeth Woodruff, John Frick and Associates; Brenda Kirch, Bose Public Affairs Group; and Charma Budney, Bose Public Affairs Group

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

On June 14, 2019, Chairperson Scholer called to order the Public Meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission at approximately 11:15 a.m. 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.”

**Approval of Minutes of Executive Session and
Regular Public Meeting**

Commissioner White moved approval of the minutes of the Commission’s executive session held on March 15, 2019. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon and was unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. Commissioner Gard moved approval of the minutes of the Commission’s public meeting, also held on March 15, 2019. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner White and was unanimously approved by voice vote of the Commissioners.

Late Fee Appeals

Mr. Ferguson said that between March 15 and June 11, 2019, the Commission recorded 33 late fee appeals. He indicated that staff had been able to administratively resolve 13 of those appeals and had collected \$5,700 in late fees from the lobbyists who filed the appeals. The remaining appeals (20), in the aggregate amount of \$6,500, are due on varying dates extending through June 25, 2019. The report was received by the Commission, but no action was taken.

Commissioner Gard commented that she agreed with staff's suggestion of a special training for new legislators, especially with regard to gifts and gift reports. She also agreed with the suggestion that a training session be conducted for new lobbyists.

Report on Audit Preparations for Lobby Year 2017-2018

Mr. Ferguson reported that preparations were under way for the Audits for the Lobby Year 2017-2018. Under the law, 5% of lobbyists' activity reports and registrations are to be conducted each year. The lobbyists selected for audit are done via a random selection process.

Staff Report on Legislative Activities, 2019 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

Mr. Ferguson reported that other than the ILRC budget, there were no laws enacted by the General Assembly that would impact the Commission. He reported that the ILRC biennial budget that was submitted in December, 2018 was incorporated in the state's biennial budget without any changes made to it.

Personnel Matters

A. Consulting Contract. Mr. Ferguson distributed a copy of a proposed contract for consulting services with Mr. Charles W. Harris, the Commission's prior Executive Director and General Counsel. The contract is for services performed on an hourly basis, with the total cost not to exceed \$6,000. The contract will terminate at the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Commissioner White moved approval of the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon, and passed unanimously.

B. Proposed Salary Adjustments. A motion was made by Commissioner Gard, seconded by Commissioner White, that the salary of Ms. Nicholson be increased by \$3,640; that the salary of Mr. Ferguson be increased by \$3,635; and the salary of Ms. Hebenstreit be increased by \$930 annually, effective the first full pay period of the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. It was also noted that Ms. Hebenstreit's salary should be further increased on her anniversary date of August 27, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Report on Lobbying Investigation

Mr. Ferguson reported that the staff investigation into possible lobbying by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, KHI Solutions, Inc., and Mr. Allen Paul was still ongoing. He proposed sending certified letters to the three entities directing them to register and file activity reports for the lobby years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 within ten business days of receipt of the letter. Commissioner White moved that the Commission supports and agrees with the proposed actions recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon, and passed unanimously.

Staff Report on ILRC Expenditures, 2019 Registrations and 2019 First Period Activity Reports

Ms. Nicholson reported that through May 31, 2019, expenditures to date were well within budget, and that there were no unanticipated expenditures expected before the end of the fiscal year. She also reported that registrations were up about 100 so far for 2019, and that the deadline for filing first period activity reports had passed (May 31, 2019).

Other Business, Comments from Commissioners and Public Comments

Ms. Kirch of Bose Public Affairs Group commented that she likes the new online reporting system, and that in her opinion it is a substantial improvement over the old one.

There were no comments from Commissioners.

Next Meeting Date

The Commissioners agreed that the next Executive Session and Regular Public Meeting of the Commission would be held on September 13, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Market Tower Building.

Adjournment

Commissioner Gard moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner White, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward E. Ferguson
Executive Director and General Counsel