

**Minutes
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission
Public Meeting
January 9, 2018, 2:30 p.m.
Market Tower Conference Room
10 West Market Street, Suite 2070
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

Members Present in person: Commissioners Beverly Gard, Sue Scholer and Joe Micon

Member Present by phone: Commissioner Terry White

Staff Present: Edward Ferguson, Executive Director and General Counsel; Amy Nicholson, Director of Operations; and Kaytie Barrett, Senior Customer Service Representative

Signed-in Attendees: Jenny Knox, Patrick Stone, Mindy Westrick, Robin Beck, Christi Heiney and Charma Budney

Call to Order

On January 9, 2018, the Public Meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission was called to order at approximately 2:40 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Commission, Beverly Gard. Before proceeding to the first item on the agenda, Chairperson Gard made 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

Commissioner White moved for approval of the minutes of the Commission’s executive session held on October 23, 2017. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Scholer and was unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. Commissioner Scholer moved for approval of the minutes of the Commission’s public meeting, also held on October 23, 2017. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon and was unanimously approved by voice vote of the Commissioners.

Late Fee Appeals

Mr. Ferguson said that between November 8, 2017, and January 5, 2018, the Commission received 10 late fee appeals. He indicated that staff had been able to administratively resolve 9 of those appeals and had collected \$3,300 in late fees from the lobbyists who filed the appeals. The remaining late fee appeal payment in the amount of \$500 is due on January 19, 2018. If it is not received by this time, the appeal will be placed on the agenda for the next public meeting of the ILRC.

Report on Audits for 2016

Mr. Ferguson reported that work on audits for 2016 continues. Preliminary work has been completed on all activity reports for the period, but a number of them will require further information and in some cases, in-person conferences before they can be closed. No Commission action was required for this agenda item.

Report on Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Mr. Ferguson reported on the status of the Commission's budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. He said that as of December 30, 2017, the Commission had expended or obligated \$149,393.20 of its \$337,153 appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, leaving a balance of \$187,759.80. There were no unanticipated or unusual expenses during the period. No Commission action was required for this agenda item.

Report Concerning Office Relocation and Building Move

Mr. Ferguson commended Ms. Nicholson and Ms. Barrett for their exemplary work before, during and after the early-December move. Ms. Nicholson met on a regular basis with building management and the contractors, and was able to identify and head off potential problems. The move itself went smoothly, although there are a few items of construction that remain unfinished. Construction is expected to be completed later this month (January). No Commission action was required for this agenda item.

Discussion of New Parent Leave Policy

Chairperson Gard stated that she did not intend for the Commission to take action regarding the proposed New Parent Leave policy at this meeting. Mr. Ferguson noted that in December, Governor Holcomb, by Executive Order, issued a New Parent Leave policy for executive branch employees. However, the policy does not extend to employees of the legislative branch, of which the ILRC is a part, nor do the ILRC's own personnel rules adopt the executive branch's policy by reference. Chairperson Gard and other commissioners expressed the opinion that they might be interested in adopting such a policy for the ILRC, but that they preferred to wait to see what action, if any, the General Assembly and the Legislative Council might take for their own employees and those of the Legislative Services Agency. They agreed to have conversations with their appointing authorities, but recognized that the busy legislative session calendar would mean that those conversations would necessarily be held later. Commissioners also expressed the hope that if adopted, the policy effective date could be made retroactive to

coincide with that of the executive branch (January 1, 2018). Commissioners took no action on the proposed policy.

Staff Reports

Mr. Ferguson reported that he had made a presentation on ethics at the December 2017 Bingham Greenebaum Doll Legislative Conference. He also reported that all of the state college and university reports had been submitted and approved, with the exception of the report of Vincennes University. A revised VU report is expected at any time. Finally, Mr. Ferguson reported that there had been one introduced bill, SB 95 (Senator Delph), that would materially affect the operation and budget of the ILRC. That bill has not yet been scheduled for a hearing, but Mr. Ferguson will monitor the hearing schedule and will testify, if necessary, regarding it.

The ILRC Director of Operations, Amy Nicholson, gave an oral report on two matters. First, she reported that 1575 lobbyists have registered for the 2017-2018 reporting year. Second, she reported that lobbyist expenditures were \$24,988,757 for the period of November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017, as compared with \$21,412,449 for the preceding year, an increase attributable partly due to the long session of the General Assembly. No Commission action was required for this agenda item.

Comments from Commissioners and Public Comments

Chairperson Gard asked if there were any comments or questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Micon asked Mr. Ferguson whether or not Ferguson thought there was a need for additional help currently or in the foreseeable future. Mr. Ferguson responded that the workload would increase for Ms. Nicholson during Ms. Barrett's absence, but that we had arranged for a part-time temporary person to fill in. He said that while it was difficult to determine staffing needs going forward (as there might be unforeseen legislative action which would require additional personnel), he would monitor the workload and inform the commissioners at a later date if that was his recommendation.

Chairperson Gard then thanked the members of the public for their attendance, and asked if they had any comments or questions. There were none.

Adjourn

There being no further business of the Commission, Commissioner White then moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Micon, and passed unanimously at approximately 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward E. Ferguson
Executive Director and General Counsel