American Council of the Blind of Indiana Board Meeting Minutes July 30, 2022 Amended on Oct. 28 per request.

Call to Order:

Rita Kersh called the ACBI Board meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. on July 30, 2022.

To the Good of the Order:

Rita Kersh noted two additions to the agenda requested by Mary Stores and Rita Kersh.

Roll Call:

Michelle Hahn called the roll. The following ACBI Board members were in attendance: Rita Kersh, Kari Goodman, Michelle Hahn, Cindy Brooking, Barbara Salisbury, Regina Vonderhaar, Mellissa Wobschal, Mary Stores, Deanna Austin, Dee Ann Hart, Gerry Koors, David Rosenkoetter, Ted Boardman, Dolly Sowder, Don Koors The following ACBI Board members were absent: Vicky Western The following guests were in attendance: Katrina Anderson, Pat Tusing, Rhett Salisbury, Earlene Hughes.

Approval of Minutes:

Michelle Hahn shared the minutes of the 2nd Quarter ACBI Board meeting held April 30, 2022 via email prior to the meeting. Don Koors noted the references on page four to the July meeting were incorrectly labeled as the 2nd quarter and should be the 3rd quarter. Michelle Hahn will amend the minutes. Mary Stores moved to approve the April 30, 2022 minutes as amended. David Rosenkoetter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as amended.

Approval of Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Cindy Brooking shared the treasurer's report for the 2nd quarter via email prior to the meeting. Mellissa Wobschal moved to approve the treasurer’s report for the 2nd quarter. Regina Vonderhaar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the report was approved.

Old Business:

Rita Kersh noted the difficulty of the length of the virtual convention. Mary Stores was thankful for the accommodation made by the length for attendees who work to participate in voting, and noted her enjoyment of the closing speaker, Judy Heumann. Don Koors mentioned that ACB will continue to hold its conventions in a hybrid format, and that the process for voting will continue to require longer conventions. Dolly Sowder asked about the vendors. Don Koors noted that there were fewer vendors than usual, and Mary Stores noted that their availability online allowed for her to get prompt responses. Dolly Sowder was appreciative of the ability to vote via phone.

New Business and Committee Reports:

Don Koors requested that the Board consider its insurance options before discussing the budget. Instead, the meeting moved forward with a budget discussion first.

Michelle Hahn shared the amended version of the Budget Committee’s recommended budget via email prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued to add certain line items and update others. Barbara Salisbury moved to approve the recommended budget as amended. David Rosenkoetter seconded the motion. The budget was approved with thirteen in favor and two opposed.

Rita suggested that moving forward, the organization create and follow a two-year budget. A short discussion took place that showed most were not in favor for a variety of practical, financial, and legal reasons. Rita Kersh shared insurance quotes from Cincinnati Insurance / German America, Thomas Insurance, and Farm Bureau via email before the meeting. Don Koors moved to accept the Thomas Insurance policy that covers general liability and liability for the directors & officers directly. Dolly Sowder seconded the motion. Discussion about the merits of the quotes and the needs of the organization followed. Everyone approved Thomas Insurance’s coverage.

Barbara Salisbury introduced the new Hoosier All State Chapter, the virtual chapter available to anyone in the state, and especially those who are not near any of the three existing chapters. Mary moved to accept the Hoosier All State Chapter as a new ACBI chapter. Cindy Brooking seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Rita Kersh noted that Vicky Western has been absent from all ACBI meetings and she has been unable to get a hold of her via any means. Her status is unknown at this time. Dee Ann Hart moved to remove Vicky from the Board of Directors. Regina Vonderhaar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Rita proposed that Earlene Hughes fill Vicky’s vacant position until the next election cycle. Barbara Salisbury moved to appoint Earlene to fill the vacant Board position until the next election cycle. Mellissa Wobschall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Stores requested that the 3rd quarter ACBI Board meetings move to a different date to accommodate the annual ADA celebrations around the state. Barbara Salisbury moved to hold the 3rd quarter ACBI Board meetings on the first Saturday in August. Dee Ann Hart seconded the motion. A discussion about the potential conflict with the Circle City Chapter’s annual picnic. The Circle City Chapter will move their picnic to accommodate. The motion passed unanimously.

Rita Kersh noted that she has been looking at options for acquiring or renting assistive listening devices for the upcoming Indiana and Ohio convention. She has found some options, and learned of more options during a discussion. Barbara Salisbury provided an update on the progress for planning the convention. Barbara praised Dolly Sowder for her work with the vendors, and listed some of the speakers and presentation topics. David Rosenkoetter asked whether there would be sighted guides like there are at the ACB convention, and whether restaurants near the convention have braille and large print menus. Barbara confirmed the guides and that the Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility has made efforts on the menus. David then asked whether there will be a football game at Indiana University that weekend. Barbara confirmed there was not, and Deanna Austin noted other activities scheduled in Bloomington that weekend. Deanna also noted progress on the auction and that there will be more communication soon to continue collecting items.

Dee Ann Hart provided an update on legislation and advocacy at the national level. David Rosenkoetter added additional details. Dee Ann noted that there is little progress on accessible voting as we wait for movement on the legal front.

Rita Kersh requested that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee review the documents before the 4th quarter meeting. Rita also noted that she will appoint a Nominating Committee to do their work before that meeting as well. Rita also asked that folks send her nominations for ACBI awards, and will gather an Awards Committee to review the nominations and recommend recipients.

Adjournment:

Rita Kersh accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting from Dee Ann Hart. The motion was seconded by Mary Stores. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.