

MINUTES
South Carolina Auctioneers' Commission
Meeting

10:00 a.m., August 13, 2024
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive
Kingtree Building
Columbia, SC 29210
Via Webex

1. Meeting Called to Order

Rafe Dixon, Chairperson called the regular meeting of the South Carolina Auctioneers' Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum noted as present.

Commission Members Present:

Julian R. Dixon, Jr., Chairperson
Matthew Holiday
Gwen Bryant
Lisa Davey
Bryan Hope

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Laura Smith - Board Executive
Cory Griffin - Admin Coordinator
Otis Richardson - Admin Assistant
Carolyn Sutherland-OAC
Byron Ray-OIE
Robert Dean-IRC
Alexus Bell-ODC
Tori Smith-OIE

Members of the Public:

Tina Behles - Court Reporter

A. Public Notice

Mr. Dixon announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Auctioneers' Commission office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon called for a motion to approve the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Holiday made the motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Davey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Introduction of Commission Members

The Commission members introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Excused Absences

All present

5. Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting

The Commission members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Dixon called for a motion.

MOTION: Ms. Davey made a motion to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes. Ms. Bryant seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. Chairperson’s Remarks – Rafe Dixon

Mr. Dixon welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

7. Board Executive Remarks – Laura Smith

A. Financial Report

Ms. Smith informed the Commission that the cash balance on June 30, 2024 was \$505,289.38 and the Recovery Fund balance was \$126,079.31.

Matthew Holiday questioned the laws around the Recovery Fund Balance. Carolyn Sutherland explained this is governed by 40-6-330 (C) – Commission may use contents of the fund in excess of 100k to promote education and research in the auctioneer profession in order to benefit persons licensed under this chapter and to improve efficiency of the profession; Ms. Sutherland also explained that funds in excess of \$125k will go back to the state general fund.

B. Licensing Numbers

	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>INACTIVE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
APPRENTICE	3	2	5
AUCTIONEER	720	53	773
FIRMS	182	0	182

8. Reports

A. Investigative Review Committee (IRC) – Robert Dean

Mr. Dean presented the IRC report. Mr. Holiday made a motion to approve the IRC report. Ms. Davey seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Office of Investigation and Enforcement (OIE) – Robert Dean

Mr. Dean presented the OIE report as information only. The Commission accepted this report as information.

C. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC) – Alexis Bell

Mrs. Bell presented the ODC Report as information only.

How did this case get to us? – Presented by Alexis Bell

Bryan Hope asked Ms. Bell how Commissioners can determine why ODC case was dismissed and inquired about the possibility of trends in complaints received. Ms. Bell explained that the Commission can ask general questions about cases on the IRC report, but the information investigators or ODC can disclose is limited. Ms. Bell also explained some complaints are dismissed because they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission and/or have insufficient evidence to support bringing a formal complaint.

Commissioners questioned “good cause” requests. Ms. Sutherland noted the process of determining good cause requests are governed by 40-1-80 and. Ms. Sutherland explained what constitutes “good cause” and provided examples. Ultimately the Chair determines if a good cause request should be granted or denied.

Matthew Holiday stated that Ms. Bell’s presentation was the best explanation and presentation he has received about the complaint process since joining the Commission. Mr. Holiday noted this information and presentation would be helpful for all licensees and he inquired about the possibility of Mr. Dean, Ms. Bell and Ms. Sutherland presenting at a future Continuing Education event.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Mr. Dixon advised he received a memo from the National Association of Auctioneer’s (NAA) noting their annual conference will be in Chicago of next year, possibly in July. Additionally, South Carolina Association of Auctioneer’s (SCAA) annual conference will be in Hilton Head. Mr. Holiday noted of the 700+ licensees only about 100 are members of SCAA, 230+ licensees are out of state.

Mr. Dixon would like to explore the possibility of using the excess recovery funds to promote a CE, see if they are able to cover venue and food. Mr. Dixon nominated Gwen Bryant and Bryan Hope to put together ideas for the Commission to explore at the next meeting.

11. Public Comments

None

12. Executive Session

None

13. Adjournment

Mr. Dixon called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Holiday made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hope seconded the motion,

which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dixon, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the **August 13, 2024** meeting of the South Carolina Auctioneers' Commission at 11:34 a.m.