

Allegheny County Council

*119 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

*Ed Kress, Chair
Committee of the Whole*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Ed Kress and Michael Finnerty

Members Absent: 12 - Tom Baker, Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Sam DeMarco

Members Phone: 1 - Sue Means

III. Approval of Minutes

[9634-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 13, 2016.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[9533-16](#)

Approving the appointment of Gregory Broujos to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Broujos told members that his father, the Honorable John Broujos served five terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was involved in the multi-state acid rain caucus which worked to curb emissions on sulphur dioxide. Mr. Broujos described his real estate background, his membership in the Urban Land Institute Pittsburgh and educating high school students in urban planning. Councilman Finnerty commented that Mr. Broujos' experience in real estate will be useful to the board.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9608-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Regina Jones to serve as a member of the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9609-16](#) Approving the appointment of Carey L. Cummings, Esq. to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Cummings reported that there are only 36 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that protect LGBT rights, so the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission is an important protection for LGBT persons. Ms. Cummings stated that in 2010, she married her partner in Massachusetts, a state that has authorized same-sex marriages since 2004, and they have a son which they are raising in Mt. Lebanon. In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Ms. Cummings replied that the Human Relations Commission may be the only redress available for some individuals. Councilwoman Means asked about the Pennsylvania Fairness Act and Ms. Cummings responded that for the past 10 years, her employer, Representative Dan Frankel, has worked to provide protections to all Pennsylvanians through the PA Fairness Act which, if passed, would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9610-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Richard Hrivnak to serve as a member of the Personnel Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9611-16](#) Approving the reappointment of Steven Silverman to serve as a member of the Personnel Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Silverman reported that this is his third year of serving on the Personnel Board, and he was originally appointed by former County Executive Dan Onorato. In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Mr. Silverman stated that the board has heard approximately 5 cases this year involving Jail personnel. During his tenure, Mr. Silverman said he has heard complaints from Shuman Center workers, Allegheny County Police applicants, and County Courthouse employees, all non-union positions. Councilwoman Means asked about resources, and Mr. Silverman reported that they do have a solicitor that drafts opinions and the Human Resources Department has been very helpful. Councilwoman Means asked about the increase in the number of cases to which Mr. Silverman replied that the Commission is well-known in the Jail and with police applicants that feel aggrieved. Mr. Silverman said the group looks for collaborative solutions, and sometimes they find in favor of the claimant and other times in favor of the County. Per Councilwoman Means request, Mr. Silverman explained the definition of discovery costs.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9612-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Eric French to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. French discussed the successful farm program, the re-establishment of local watershed authorities, improvement in the permit application process and land banking. Mr. French responded to Councilwoman Means questions and reported that this is his second time being appointed, and concerning resources, Mr. French said the group doesn't require additional funding from the County at this time, and in fact, the agency has saved the county monies. Councilman Kress and Mr. French discussed the success of a rain garden in Shaler Township.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.