

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 13, 2014

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

Jan Rea - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4 PM

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present:

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Lori Sicard

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present: 4 - Rea, Finnerty, Futules and Means

Council Members Absent: 11 - Baker, Daly Danko, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and Russell Robinson

III. Approval of Minutes

[8129-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 27, 2014.

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

[7990-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Susan Davis to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Withdrawn

[7992-14](#)

Approving the appointment of Denise Macarelli to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair invited Ms. Macarelli to the table to answer questions. The Chair inquired why the proposed appointee would like to serve on the Mental/Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board.

Ms. Macerelli expressed her interest in the field and her desire to influence policy and make a difference.

Ms. Means inquired regarding areas of improvement in the field. Ms. Macerelli stated that breaking down barriers and promoting cooperation in the industry and the need for greater communication and education on the issues of disability and taking care of more needs with less resources.

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

[8054-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Chester Babst, Esq. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair invited Mr. Babst to the table for questions and thanked him for his years of service and inquired why Mr. Babst would like to retain his seat on the Board.

Mr. Babst stated his experience in Environmental Law and his experience with industry regulations.

Ms. Means made note of the balance that Mr. Babst has through his experience with industry and the environment.

Mr. Finnerty inquired about coke ovens. Mr. Babst stated that Clairton Steel has mediated the environmental impact as much as they can and have been an asset to the community.

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

[8055-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Daniel K. Bricmont, Esq. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair invited Mr. Bricmont to the table for questions and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Bricmont stated his experience as the chair of this Board and expressed his desire to continue to serve.

Ms. Means asked about new EPA standards for sulfur dioxide emissions. Mr. Bricmont stated that he couldn't directly comment on how that may impact industry, however that would be a topic of discussion and hopefully the improvement in technology would help balance the burden on the industry. Mr. Bricmont mentioned his upbringing in Avalon and the issues they have had with local pollution but stated that there has been positive improvement over time.

Mr. Finnerty made a comment about Neville Island and inquired about local air quality standards. Mr. Bricmont stated that generally, local restrictions do not exceed the State's standards.

Mr. Finnerty inquired why there is a push for local regulation of gas above State regulations. Mr. Bricmont stated that this was a new issue which has developed.

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

[8056-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of David Cannon to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair invited Mr. Cannon to the table and thanked him for his years of service.

Mr. Cannon stated his background in Environmental Law and his experience working with local industry. He stated that he has a balanced dealing with NGOs and industry.

Ms. Means inquired as to areas of improvement that Mr. Cannon sees. Mr. Cannon stated that one issue that there is harmonization between local, state and federal regulations that this requires constant vigilance and retaining technical expertise in air quality staff.

Mr. Finnerty inquired as to the "Air Toxicity Group" which recently gathered at local universities. Mr. Cannon stated that there is much regulation on the federal level and that there is some concern regarding how the new laws are defined and how that may impact local industry.

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

[8058-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dr. Michael Finewood to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

The Chair invited Dr. Finewood to the table to discuss his service and to thank him.

Dr. Finewood stated his experience and his love for the Pittsburgh region.

Ms. Means asked for his definition of "sustainability". Dr. Finewood stated that the definition is contingent on the local idea of what sustainability means and rests on what the people are willing to do.

Mr. Finnerty stated how well qualified all the candidates are.

Mr. Futules inquired on Dr. Finewood's book on "Fracking" which he edited. Dr. Finewood gave an overview on what the book covers and how it presents how communities are affected by the industry.

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

[8061-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of David P. Mazzocco to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Withdrawn

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26.