

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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 5:05 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: 5 - Ed Kress, John Palmiere, Bob Macey, Paul Klein and Patrick Catena

Members Absent: 10 - Tom Baker, Cindy Kirk, Sue Means, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, DeWitt Walton, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Sam DeMarco

III. Approval of Minutes

[10083-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on March 29, 2017.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[10098-17](#)

Approving the appointment of State Senator Randy Vulakovich to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Senator Vulakovich reported on the many challenges facing the aging population, the difficult choices that families sometimes have to make and the funding issues related to health care and aging in place. Senator Vulakovich discussed Governor Wolf's plan to consolidate four departments, including Human Services, Health, Aging, and Drug and Alcohol Departments, into a new Health and Human Services Department and his apprehension regarding the possible loss of monies towards aging concerns. He added that the transition to a one-stop shop will take some time. The Senator discussed waivers and waitlists and his support of prioritizing the list so that individuals with disabilities are provided with necessary services.

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

[10054-17](#) Approving the appointment of Jean Holland V. Dick to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[10055-17](#) Approving the appointment of Debra Smith to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Smith described her experience at Highmark and working for her prior employer, Humana. Chairman Kress and Ms. Smith discussed the problem of finding quality home health care to allow seniors to age in place and its cost-effectiveness. In response to a question from Councilman Catena, Ms. Smith reported on federal and state funding issues and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and her advocacy on Capitol Hill for lessening the restrictions found in the rules.

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

[10056-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Elayne Arrington to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Arrington expressed her interest in continuing to serve in order to further develop the college's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program. In response to a question from Councilman Klein, Dr. Arrington stated that President Bullock has demonstrated a commitment to the STEM program. Councilman Macey commented on the college's role in job training and attracting industry through the availability of qualified applicants.

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

[10057-17](#) Approving the reappointment of James Sacco to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.