

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

4:45 PM

Committee on Education

Michael Finnerty-Chair

*Members: Council Members Baker, DeFazio, Futules, Klein, Martoni, and Ranalli
Russell*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:45.

Invited Guests:**William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)**

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms. Stanley was present from the Department of Administrative Services.

Mr. Strauss and Mr. Pelley were present from the Heinz History Center.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Michael Finnerty, Chuck Martoni, Sam DeMarco and Sue Means

Members Absent: 4 - John DeFazio, Nick Futules, Denise Ranalli-Russell and Paul Klein

Members Phone: 1 - Tom Baker

Members 1 - Ed Kress

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9850-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2015 meeting of the Committee on Education.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

[9844-16](#)

Ordinance of the County of Allegheny authorizing the transfer of custody of certain County photographs to the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania to allow for their maintenance and preservation at no cost to the County under preservation guidelines established by the Society of American Archivists and for public access to these records at the Senator John Heinz History Center

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, Mr. McKain provided a summary of the ordinance, noting that it is similar to the transfer of the old minute books which was completed in 2015 insofar as the photographs will still be owned by the County, that the transfer and maintenance of the photographs will be at no cost to the County, and that no fee would need to be paid to the Heinz History Center in order to gain access to the photographs. Mr. McKain noted that the term of the transfer would be identical to that for the minute books, to end in April of 2025.

Mr. Pelley discussed the photographs involved and noted that they are often found stored with multiple negatives in an envelope. Mr. Pelley noted that the subject matter is variable, from architectural and aerial photos to sports team celebrations, parades, County fairs, and the like.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Pelley indicated that the idea would be to develop a cataloguing system, determining what exactly exists, and then deriving a conservation plan based on the form and content of the photographs.

Ms. Stanley noted that the best way of maintaining the photographs would be to keep them in a stable, controlled environment.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Strauss noted that the archives are on the 5th and 6th floor of the History Center, so flooding is not a particularly pronounced concern. Mr. Pelley noted that the images depicted in the photographs are in the public domain, and that the History Center would work cooperatively with the County regarding any display or publication of the photographs. Mr. Pelley also stressed that the County would retain ownership of the photographs.

Mr. DeMarco suggested the placement of a link to the History Center's online archive, once created, on the County's website.

Mr. Pelley noted that the History Center is only obtaining analog photos and negatives, and not digital photographs.

Mr. Baker discussed his experience with the History Center and expressed his support for the transfer, and agreed with Mr. DeMarco's suggestion.

In response to a question from Mr. Baker, Mr. Pelley indicated that his goal is to have a publicly accessible, searchable catalog of as many of the images as can be conserved, together with a repository of digitized images.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02.