

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6495
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 6, 2006

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

John DeFazio - Chair; Committee of the Whole

REVISED

I. Call To Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Shawn Fox, Executive Assistant

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Mr. Flynn*

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Council Member Burn, Council Member DeFazio, Council Member Cleary, Council Member Finnerty, Council Member Fitzgerald, Council Member Frazier, Council Member Gastgeb, Council Member Martoni, Council Member Macey, and Council Member Macey
Absent: Council Member Caldwell, Council Member Fawcett, Council Member Nerone, and Council Member Robinson
Phone: Council Member Drozd, and Council Member Rea

III. Approval of Minutes

2677-06 Motion to approve the Minutes of May 10, 2006 Appointment Review Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Frazier, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items

Proposed Appointments

2671-06 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Senator Jay Costa to serve as a Member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Costa provided the committee with a summary of his background and a history of his term on the board. He also provided the committee with a list of his future goals for the board.*

Mr. Drozd said that he was concerned that there were a lot of negative issues that surfaced during his term on the board and said that Mr. Costa should have made sure that did not happen. He said that he would like to change the make up of the board.

Ms. Cleary spoke in favor of Mr. Costa.

Ms. Rea thanked Mr. Costa for his past service on the board but said that his decision to vote yes on the State Senate pay raise was a concern to her.

Mr. Gastgeb said that the Republicans on Council respect Mr. Costa. He said that they believe that a certain standard should be set and by accepting the pay raise he did not meet that standard. He said that it was nothing personal regarding his service. He said that he believes that standard should apply to all nominees of all boards, and that he did not believe they should confirm anyone who accepted the pay raise.

Mr. Costa said that he did not see the connection between his service on the CCAC board and his vote on the pay raise. He said that he brings things to the board separate and apart from his vote on the pay raise. He said that he agrees that there were issues that needed to be addressed during his tenure on the board, and that they are addressing them. He said that he is on record as not being comfortable with the proposed tuition increase. He said that he has been supportive of Council's standard of not being wasteful. He said despite his vote on the Senate pay raise, he has always worked diligently as a member of the CCAC board.

Mr. Finnerty mentioned that Representative Stevenson also voted for the pay raise but when he was interviewed for appointment to a county board nothing was said about it. He said that he believes that Mr. Gastgeb's motives were political.

Mr. Drozd asked Mr. Costa to list issues that are important to him on the board. Mr. Costa said that tuition increases is important and that they needed to be creative at the state level to develop specific programs. He went on to discuss some of the issues facing the board and how they are addressing these issues.

Mr. Costa also said that his intention was never to accept the pay raise. He said that he created scholarship funds and he returned every penny of the raise.

Brenda asked Mr. Costa about diversity on the board. Mr. Costa said that the current administration at CCAC has taken positive steps towards that and have added many minorities in higher positions. He acknowledged that they need to do a better job regarding that. He said that he feels confident that the administration is addressing the needs of minorities.

Mr. DeFazio asked Mr. Gastgeb why they did not bring up the issue of the pay raise with Representatives Stevenson or Kotik when they were up for appointment. Mr. Gastgeb said that it did not occur to them at that time.

Mr. Gastgeb said that he was glad that they interviewed Mr. Costa because he can see that Mr. Costa does adhere to a certain standard. He said that he took offense that some of his colleagues thought that his line of questioning was political.

Mr. Costa said he believed that there was an implication that his vote on the pay raise caused him to be perceived at a lessor standard.

Mr. Burn said that Mr. Costa's vote on the pay raise in no way affects his ability to perform well on the CCAC board.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he believed that they were getting into issues that they should not be getting into. He said that they should focus on what Mr. Costa did as a board member and not on how he voted on a pay raise.

Mr. Drozd said that he was impressed by Mr. Costa's responses and that he was going to give him his support.

Mr. Macey spoke in favor of Mr. Costa.

Action: **A motion was made by Fitzgerald, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 7 - Burn, Chair DeFazio, Cleary, Drozd, Finnerty, Fitzgerald and Frazier
 Abstain: 2 - Gastgeb and Martoni
 Absent: 4 - Caldwell, Fawcett, Nerone and Robinson
 Not present: 1 - Rea

2587-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Joyce L. Murray to serve as a Member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Joyce provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and her intended goals as a future member of the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2589-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Thomas G. Bigley to serve as a Member of the Plumbing Advisory Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Bigley provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and his intended goals as a future member of the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2665-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Jacques L. Moyer, Sr. to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Moyer provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and his intended goals as a future member of the board.*

Mr. Gastgeb said that he would like to point out for the record that the Chief Executive that he believes that the Chief Executive has been recommending numerous members of his staff for appointments.

Mr. Moyer pointed out that he was no longer employed by the Chief Executive.

Mr. Drozd said that he has issues with regard to federal mandates involving funding streams for sewer improvements. Mr. Moyer said that he was aware of that and will exercise his duty to perform adequate research to deal with these issues.

Action: A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Council Member Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2666-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Hugh Pollock to serve as a Member of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23, 2009.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: The Chair indicated that because Mr. Pollack was unable to attend the meeting, he will request the Chief Executive to withdraw his name and resubmit it at a later date.

Action: A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Returned Without Recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

2667-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Dusty Elias Kirk to serve as a Member of the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2007.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: Ms. Kirk provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and her intended goals as a future member of the board.

Mr. Gastgeb asked Ms. Kirk what groups she thought were assets to the community. Ms. Kirk said that libraries were important to the development of communities and that some people believe that sports teams are a regional asset.

Mr. Drozd said that he believed that volunteer fire fighters should be eligible for Regional Asset funding. He asked Ms. Kirk if she would be willing to explore that. She said she would but would have to examine statutory authority to be able to do that.

Action: A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2668-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Derek E. Uber to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: Mr. Uber provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and his intended goals as a future member of the board.

Ms. Frazier asked Mr. Uber if he sees any major problems within the Housing Authority. Mr. Uber said that he did not perceive any specific problems but he said that some budget issues do exist.

Action: A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

2669-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Dr. James H. McLemore to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. McLemore provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and his intended goals as a future member of the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Council Member Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2670-06

Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Charles J. Martoni to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Port Authority Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Burn said that he respected Mr. Martoni as a person and for his work on the board.*

Mr. Martoni abstained from the vote.

Action: **A motion was made by Frazier, seconded by Cleary, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 6:15*