

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2015

5:00 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 5:00 p.m.

Invited Guests:

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

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

- Members Present:** 7 - Rea, Michael Finnerty, Terri Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Sue Means
- Members Absent:** 6 - Tom Baker, Jim Ellenbogen, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, John Palmiere and William Robinson
- Members Phone:** 2 - John DeFazio and Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[9142-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on June 24, 2015.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[9104-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Chester Babst to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Babst described his 42 years of practicing environmental law and his approach to resolving air quality problems. In response to a question from Councilman Kress, Mr. Babst stated the advisory committee consists of representatives from environmental, industry, government and academia. He added that for the past three years, he has been unanimously voted to serve as vice-chair of the committee. Mr. Babst responded to Councilman Macey's question concerning the negative reports about air quality in Allegheny County. Mr. Babst replied that the county's topography poses a challenge, however, our standards surpass federal standards, and from a historical perspective, there has been significant improvement in meeting those standards. Councilman Finnerty noted Mr. Babst's credentials. Councilwoman Klein reported that she has received many calls from constituents concerned about this appointment since Mr. Babst represented Shenango Coke in a case, and therefore, would be an advocate for the industry. Mr. Babst replied that he had a case involving Shenango, and he argued that Allegheny County was diligently enforcing the requirements and the Court agreed. Mr. Babst added that if the county wants a balanced board then they need people representing industry as well as the environment. He provided a list of references and stated there are only four attorneys in Allegheny County that practice this type of law. Councilwoman Means stated

that her constituents have approached her concerning this appointment because Mr. Babst represented Shenango in a case. Mr. Babst responded that he does not have a conflict with the county, he serves in an advisory capacity, the committee meetings are open to the public, and no one has ever questioned his character. Councilmen Finnerty and Macey stated that they did not receive one e-mail or letter disputing Mr. Babst's appointment. Mr. Babst remarked that his job is not to find ways for people to pollute, but rather to tell people how to comply with the regulations.

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

Members Yes: 5 - Rea, Finnerty, Kress, Macey and Martoni

Members Abstain: 2 - Klein and Means

Members Absent: 6 - Baker, Ellenbogen, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Palmiere and Robinson

Members Yes Phone: 2 - DeFazio and Futules

[9105-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Janet Craig to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9106-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Deborah Lange to serve as a member of the Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Lange greeted the members and stated that the board's goal is to add value and improve the state of the environment. Dr. Lange mentioned that she serves on the Headwaters Resource Committee at Carnegie Mellon University to ensure that the sources and uses of water in the headwaters of the Ohio River are adequately considered. Councilwoman Means asked Dr. Lange about brownfields. Dr. Lange stated that we are leaders in Western Pennsylvania in terms of community revitalization and the assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties. She added that our region has demonstrated how public-private partnerships work, and is a testament to our ability to work together.

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

[9107-15](#) Approving the appointment of Anthony J. Ross to serve as a member of the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Ross told members that he is the President and CEO of Ross Development Company, an Officer and Shareholder of the Kenny Ross Automotive Group, and a member of the Board of Trustees of Shady Side Academy. He added that he is a former member of the Sports & Exhibition Authority. Councilman Kress discussed his interest in the formula used to allocate funds and the comparison of regional assets found in

suburban communities versus the City of Pittsburgh. Councilmen Kress and Macey discussed the use of RAD funds to support volunteer firefighters, and Mr. Ross indicated that he would consider such a proposal.

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

[9108-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Keith Kaufold to serve as a member of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Kaufold described his personal experience with addiction and recovery. Councilman Macey noted that there are many programs available to help people and families struggling with addiction. Councilman Finnerty asked Mr. Kaufold to share his thoughts on the needle exchange program. Mr. Kaufold replied that he is amenable to the program.

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

[9109-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Jason Snyder to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9110-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Carmen Burrell to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Burrell discussed her personal loss and her desire to give back to the community. Councilman Kress noted that he is working with the Area Agency on Aging to help keep senior citizens in their own home.

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

[9111-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Floyd Cephas to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Cephas provided members with an overview of his background, his recent retirement as the Executive Director of the North Side Christian Health Center, and his belief that he had a personal obligation to the patients he served. Councilman Kress asked Mr. Cephas to share his thoughts on Governor Wolf's proposal to shift assets towards trying to keep seniors in their own home. Mr. Cephas replied that if an individual is able to live in their home, then they should remain in that environment. He added that it's important that the services provided by the Area Agency on Aging are broadcast to the public. Councilman Kress discussed the problem the elderly face when requesting health care in the home.

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

[9112-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Ward Garner to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[9113-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Mary Ann Sander to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Sander described her experience working with the elderly. In response to a question from Councilman Kress, Ms. Sander indicated that she favors less institutional care, however, that service is too costly for many individuals. She said there are creative solutions and waivers that can help with cost. Ms. Sander stated that Allegheny County has surpassed Dade County, Florida in the population of senior citizens. Councilman Macey commented that programs must show a need in order to get funding. Councilman Finnerty provided a book recommendation entitled, How to Survive Your Aging Parents...So you and they can enjoy life, by Berman and Shulman. Councilwoman Means asked Ms. Sander to name some of the UPMC senior communities, and Ms. Sander included Cumberland Woods Village, Vanadium Woods Village, Beatty Pointe Village, Canterbury Place, Cranberry Place, Heritage Place and Seneca Place. At the request of Councilwoman Means, Ms. Sander described her involvement with the UPMC Center for Inclusion.

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

[9114-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Dr. Fengyan Tang to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Tang discussed her research into productive aging and her interest in connecting her research with practice. In response to a question from Councilman Kress, Dr. Tang replied that information is essential, and through a social network the elderly can learn about services.

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

[9115-15](#)

Approving the appointment of M. Francesca Chervenak to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Chervenak described her work as a senior attorney with the Pennsylvania Health Law Project. Councilwoman Means asked Ms. Chervenak if she worked with the Veterans

Administration, and Ms. Chervenak replied that she has handled unemployment, disability and pension benefits for veterans. She added that while working for Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, she successfully litigated a class action suit on behalf of veterans. Councilman Kress asked Ms. Chervenak to share her thoughts on aging in place. Ms. Chervenak reported that the state is moving toward a rebalancing, allowing the frail elderly to receive care in their homes rather than in nursing homes. The Department of Human Services AAA Aging Waiver Service Coordination program provides eligible adults with assistance in navigating, selecting and coordinating services that are needed to keep an individual in his or her home. Ms. Chervenak's agency is working to change the financial requirements for eligibility for the Aging Waiver Service Coordination program, and she would like to see the county and state put forth additional resources towards helping older adults and their families find the services needed to help them stay in their homes.

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

9116-15

Approving the appointment of James Fawcett to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Fawcett described his experience of 28 years in the health insurance industry at Highmark, along with his personal experience of caring for his aging father. He said in Delaware, Highmark offers long term care (Diamond State Health Plan Plus) which integrates nursing facility services and, home and community based services for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities into the existing managed care delivery system. In response to Councilman Kress' question regarding insurance companies, Mr. Fawcett responded that the health care delivery system is changing with a focus on chronic illness and he advocates for communication between insurance companies and federal, state and county services.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.