

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

Jan Rea - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call to Order

Councilman Finnerty announced that he would serve as the Chair of the meeting at the request of Councilwoman Rea. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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: 8 - John DeFazio, Michael Finnerty, Heather Heidelbaugh, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 5 - Rea, Tom Baker, Barbara Danko, Amanda Green Hawkins and William Robinson

Members Phone: 2 - Jim Ellenbogen and Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[8854-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 12, 2015.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[8834-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Reverend Dr. Darryl Canady to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Members thanked Rev. Canady for his presentation at the Public Hearing concerning violence in the community, and Councilman Martoni invited him to appear before Council to give all members the opportunity to hear his presentation. In response to a question from Councilman Macey, Rev. Canady recommended a proactive approach towards rehabilitating young men. Rev. Canady, in response to a question from Councilman Kress, stated that education and job opportunities are critical to rehabilitation and giving young men hope. Councilwoman Means commented that Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Cheryl Lynn Allen gave Rev. Canady her highest recommendation. Councilwoman Means inquired about B.O.S.S. (Building on Spiritual Substance) The Movement, and Rev. Canady explained the purpose of the program. Councilwoman Means asked about his plans to establish a school, and Rev. Canady confirmed that he has plans to open a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) academy in Wilkins Township. Councilman Ellenbogen thanked Rev. Canady for his work in the community.

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

[8830-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Robert Macey to serve as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Councilman Macey described the purpose and organizational structure of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC). Councilwoman Means inquired about Councilman Macey's employment and he replied that he's employed by the Pennsylvania State Senate. Councilwoman Means commented that she would not support his reappointment. In response to a question from Councilman Kress, Councilman Macey noted that SPC transportation projects may include trails, sidewalks, traffic signals, parks and other amenities in an effort to enhance our region. Council Members DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, and Martoni stated they would support Councilman Macey's reappointment. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh stated that because of Councilman Macey's poor attendance record at the SPC meetings, she would be a no vote.

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

Members Yes: 5 - DeFazio, Finnerty, Kress, Martoni and Palmiere

Members No: 2 - Heidelbaugh and Means

Members Abstain: 1 - Macey

Members Absent: 5 - Rea, Baker, Danko, Green Hawkins and Robinson

Members Yes Phone: 2 - Ellenbogen and Futules

[8831-15](#) Approving the appointment of Paul Barkowitz 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

Mr. Barkowitz told members that he has 26 years of experience parenting a special needs child. Mr. Barkowitz explained his work with the Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery and his role as co-chair of the Youth and Family subcommittee. Councilman Palmiere discussed his experience working with special needs children and their parents in his barber shop. Mr. Barkowitz stated that there is still a stigma about mental illness but early intervention is key. The members thanked Mr. Barkowitz for volunteering to serve on the board. Councilwoman Means thanked him for sharing his personal story. Councilman Finnerty, a former reading specialist in the Chartiers Valley School District, described how the district implemented testing children in Kindergarten for early identification of learning disabilities.

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

[8832-15](#) Approving the appointment of Jaimie Kopicko 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

Ms. Kopicko described her experience with mental illness, her recovery and her desire to help others that are suffering from mental health problems. Councilwoman Means thanked Ms. Kopicko for sharing her personal story. Councilman Kress stated that he is supportive of younger people serving on boards. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh commended Ms. Kopicko for her courage and for her ability to help numerous people in crises. Ms. Kopicko credited her family and service providers for helping her get well, and told members she currently works for UPMC re: solve Crisis Network. Councilman Palmiere noted that Allegheny County's mental health programs serve as a model on a national scale, and stated Ms. Kopicko is a shining example of why people visit our region for exceptional mental health care. Councilman Martoni recognized Ms. Kopicko for attending the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). Ms. Kopicko remarked that she will graduate this May from CCAC and will enter the University of Pittsburgh's Applied Psychology program in the fall. The members thanked Ms. Kopicko for volunteering to serve.

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

[8833-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Alice Paylor-Dais to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

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