

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

4:00 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 4:00 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Chief Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Aaron Pittman; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Rea, Barbara Danko, Michael Finnerty and Sue Means

Members Absent: 11 - Tom Baker, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, John Palmiere and William Robinson

III. Approval of Minutes

[8637-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on October 23, 2014.

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

[8665-14](#)

Motion to amend the agenda to add the reappointments of Senator Matt Smith and Dennis Davin to the Allegheny County Airport Authority, and Paul D'Alesandro to the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[8621-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Ms. Avis Kotovsky to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[8622-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Ms. Georgia Hernandez to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[8623-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Ms. Susan Gove to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Gove described her background and experience serving on the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

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

[8624-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Mr. Ward Garner to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Garner expressed his interest in continuing to serve on the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee.

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

[8625-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Helen Cahalane to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Cahalane responded to a question from Councilwoman Means pertaining to challenges, and Dr. Cahalane remarked that supporting the workforce to deliver quality services to children, youth and families is critical. Councilwoman Danko and Dr. Cahalane discussed the use of psychotropic medications in residential treatment settings.

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

[8626-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Ms. Linda Andrews Ehrlich to serve as a member of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Ehrlich and Councilman Finnerty discussed the importance of Pre-K, as well as interaction between infants and their parents/caregivers. Councilwoman Means noted that Ms. Ehrlich's art background would be useful in a therapeutic sense. Ms. Ehrlich reported that through private donations, murals with hidden objects can now be found in each visitation room which has resulted in parents and their children bonding.

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

[8653-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Senator Matt Smith to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December

31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Danko, Senator Smith stated the Authority is focused on air service development and aggressively courting carriers to the area. Senator Smith added that the airport is perfectly positioned to capture much of the Northeast traffic. Senator Smith reported that the Authority has been working with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to permit non-ticketed individuals to shop at the AirMall at Pittsburgh International Airport. Councilwoman Means inquired about expenditures, and Senator Smith replied that over the past ten years, the Authority has focused on operations.

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

[8654-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Dennis Davin to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Davin described the successful transition of Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) from a hub to an origin & destination airport. Mr. Davin stated that in 2018 the Authority will need to decide if PIT will use a residual cost approach or the compensatory approach. He explained that the residual cost approach involves the airlines paying the costs of running the airport that are not offset by other revenues, while the compensatory approach calls for airlines to pay only for what they use. Mr. Davin added that in 2018, PIT's long-term debt will be paid off and there will be incredible opportunity for growth, especially since the facility can handle the East Coast traffic congestion. Mr. Davin told members that the Authority's search for a new CEO is down to a few candidates and this person will be charged with taking the airport to the next level. Per Councilwoman Means request, Mr. Davin provided members with an overview of his education and work experience. Mr. Davin explained that no county tax dollars are used to fund the Authorities, and they do not have a staff, but rather they purchase staff time from the Economic Development Department. Councilwoman Means remarked that while she appreciates Mr. Davin's expertise in the development of our region, philosophically she disagrees with an at-will employee of the county sitting as a member of a county authority. Mr. Davin responded to Councilwoman Means, stating that he was chosen to serve because of his background in economic development and from that perspective he has been, for the past ten years he has served, well received at the Authority. He added that decisions are made by the Authority without prior approval from the Chief Executive. Chairwoman Rea commented that Mr. Davin has a great wealth of knowledge pertaining to companies looking to relocate to our area and this proves advantageous for the Authority.

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

Members Yes: 3 - Rea, Danko and Finnerty

Members Abstain: 1 - Means

Members Absent: 11 - Baker, DeFazio, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and Robinson

[8652-14](#)

Approving the reappointment of Paul D'Alesandro to serve as a member of

the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. D'Alesandro discussed the importance of keeping the Allegheny County Housing Authority's properties up to date and in compliance with Federal regulations, i.e. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. D'Alesandro and Councilwoman Danko discussed the Housing Voucher Program and the three housing authorities in Allegheny County (City of McKeesport, City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County). Mr. D'Alesandro explained to Councilwoman Means that a person would need to pay one-third of their monthly income towards rent for affordable housing.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.