

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 5, 2015

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: William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager; Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office; Amie Downs, Communications Director, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Erin Graney; Stacie Perez; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

- Members Present:** 8 - Rea, Tom Baker, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Sue Means
- Members Absent:** 6 - Barbara Danko, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Ed Kress, John Palmiere and William Robinson
- Members Phone:** 1 - Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[8750-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 15, 2015.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[8687-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of 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

Ms. Kotovsky provided members with a summary of her background.

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

[8700-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Jennifer Liptak to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the Chair's request, Ms. Liptak provided members with an overview of her skills and abilities. Ms. Liptak reported that there is approximately 7,000 acres of land yet to be developed and about 1,500 acres of property which has been developed. Ms. Liptak explained that her appointment would replace Dennis Davin's seat on the Authority.

Councilwoman Means stated that because of her philosophical belief that county employees should not be appointed to any authority, board, commission or committee, and as her past practice, she would vote against this appointment.

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 - Rea, DeFazio, Finnerty, Macey and Martoni

Members No: 1 - Means

Members Absent: 8 - Baker, Danko, Ellenbogen, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Palmiere and Robinson

Members Yes Phone: 1 - Futules

[8701-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Lynn Heckman to serve as a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[8702-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Melvin Pollard to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Pollard described how he lends a different perspective to the Committee. He added that since his sister has owned and operated a daycare facility for many years, he has gained insights to share with the Committee. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Pollard described the creation and purpose of Citizens Against Domestic Apartheid (CADA).

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

[8703-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Stanley Gorski to serve as a member of the Authority for the Improvements in Municipalities for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to Councilwoman Means request, Mr. Gorski provided members with the purpose of the Authority and explained how municipalities appreciate the convenience it offers. Councilwoman Means inquired about the amount of money that the Authority lends, and Mr. Gorski replied that it depends on the needs of municipalities. He added that the Authority has approximately \$2.1 million in reserves at this time.

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

[8704-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Stephan Broadus to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on

December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Broadus reported that prior to serving on the county's Commission, he served 8 years on the City of Pittsburgh's Human Relations Commission. In response to a question from Councilman Ellenbogen, Mr. Broadus stated that individuals may file a complaint with the state as well as with the county, but the City of Pittsburgh is separate. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Broadus explained that the majority of cases are LGBT, housing, employment, and sexual discrimination complaints. Councilwoman Means asked about the Commission's resources, and Mr. Broadus replied that while their resources are currently adequate, if their caseload increased significantly, the members would need to request additional resources. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Broadus described the creation and purpose of B-PEP.

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

[8705-15](#)

Approving the appointment of Nicola Henry-Taylor to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Henry-Taylor described her experience working for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and with the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA). In response to a question from Councilman Macey, Ms. Henry-Taylor described Allegheny County as a leader in terms of the creation of the Mental Health Court and ensuring there is a continuum of care for defendants. In response to a question from Councilman Ellenbogen pertaining to the ACBA, Ms. Henry-Taylor reported that the Board of Governors is reviewing the issue of appointing versus electing individuals.

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

[8706-15](#)

Approving the appointment of William Price to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Price described his background as an attorney and his interest in serving the community. Councilman Ellenbogen noted that because of his employment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue and Mr. Price's involvement in bankruptcy proceedings, he would abstain from voting. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Price explained his participation in the Ozanam Attorney Tournament which benefits at-risk youth in the Hill District.

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

Members Yes: 7 - Rea, Baker, DeFazio, Finnerty, Macey, Martoni and Means

Members Abstain: 1 - Ellenbogen

Members Absent: 6 - Danko, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Palmiere and Robinson

Members Yes Phone: 1 - Futules

[8707-15](#) Approving the appointment of Dennis Floyd Jones 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

In response to a question from Councilman Baker, Mr. Jones stated that he resides in McDonald, which is located in South Fayette. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Jones reported that Youth Enrichment Services provides a juvenile diversion program in Allegheny County which follows the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) philosophy.

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

[8708-15](#) Approving the appointment of Maria Silva 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

Ms. Silva reported that she was involved in the assessment of Shuman Juvenile Detention Center, and based on the report, Director Hill is in the process of implementing changes at Shuman. Councilwoman Means inquired about Prader-Willi Syndrome and Ms. Silva described the genetic disorder.

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

[8709-15](#) Approving the reappointment of John C. Brown to serve as a member of the following Authorities: Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority and the Residential Finance Authority, administered collectively through the Finance and Development Commission, for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Brown described his interest in continuing to serve on the Commission.

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

[8710-15](#) Approving the appointment of Mark Aloe to serve as a member of the following Authorities: Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority and the Residential Finance Authority, administered collectively through the Finance and Development Commission, for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Aloe described his background in finance and economic development. In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Mr. Aloe reported that Aloe Brothers redevelops undervalued assets. Councilman Finnerty inquired about the Aloe Brothers plans for the former Mayview State Hospital property. Mr. Aloe stated that a housing development is planned. Councilwoman Means asked Mr. Aloe if he was promised anything in exchange for a \$10,000 contribution he made to County Executive Rich Fitzgerald's campaign, and Mr. Aloe replied in the negative. He added that he was a contributor to Mark Flaherty and Mayor Bill Peduto's campaigns as well.

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

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

Members Abstain: 1 - Means

Members Absent: 6 - Danko, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Palmiere and Robinson

Members Not present: 3 - DeFazio, Ellenbogen and Futules

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.