

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 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: William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee

Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Joe Catanese; Walt Szymanski; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

- Council Members Present:** 8 - Rea, DeFazio, Finnerty, Heidelbaugh, Kress, Macey, Martoni and Means
- Council Members Absent:** 6 - Daly Danko, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Palmiere and Russell Robinson
- Council Members Phone:** 1 - Baker

III. Approval of Minutes

[7979-14](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on October 24, 2013.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[7949-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Victor Diaz to serve as a member of the 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, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Diaz provided members a summary of his background and qualifications.

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

[7950-14](#) Approving the reappointment of State Senator Wayne Fontana to serve as a member of the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Heidelbaugh, Senator Fontana reported that the SEA remain in negotiations with the Pittsburgh Steelers concerning the cost to add 3,000 seats to Heinz Field. Senator Fontana answered an additional question from Ms. Heidelbaugh concerning the effectiveness of the current executive director.

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

[7951-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Ellen Stewart to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health, for a term to expire on January 12, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Heidelbaugh, Dr. Stewart described the Live Well Allegheny campaign encouraging residents to lead a healthy lifestyle. Dr. Stewart explained the purpose of the Upjohn Award for Community Service in response to a question from Councilman Finnerty. Dr. Stewart answered questions from Councilwoman Means related to articles in the Post-Gazette concerning air quality in Allegheny County.

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

[7952-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Mr. Anthony Ferraro to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health, for a term to expire on January 12, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Ferraro reported that a new restaurant rating system will most likely be considered in March, and the board's goal is to ensure the process is transparent and fair.

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

[7953-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Edith Shapira to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health, for a term to expire on January 12, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[7954-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Dr. Lee Harrison to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Board of Health, for a term to expire on January 12, 2017.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[7955-14](#) Approving the appointment of Dr. Elayne Arrington to serve as a member of the Community College of Allegheny County Board of Trustees, for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

In response to a question from Councilwoman Heidelbaugh, Dr. Arrington noted that CCAC is "The first choice for faster results" and the school does strike a balance between providing affordable education and supporting students, which they strive to accomplish through their mission. Dr. Arrington added that she is interested in the 2 to 4-year college transfer process. Councilman Macey described CCAC's Aviation and FireVEST programs and encouraged Dr. Arrington to consider their importance.

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

[7956-14](#) Approving the reappointment of Jack Shea to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Shea reported that the Consent Decree is the board's priority. Mr. Shea indicated that the unfunded mandate is in the billions and includes extensive new infrastructure. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh asked Mr. Shea if the board has to determine how to fund this mandate and Mr. Shea responded in the affirmative. In response to another question from Councilwoman Heidelbaugh, Mr. Shea reported that, to his knowledge, ALCOSAN is involved with two unions, the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) Local 443 and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 249. He added that the Allegheny County Labor Council represents approximately 189 local unions with 100,000 members, and does include the trades. Ms. Heidelbaugh asked Mr. Shea how he would handle a situation in which the board had to vote on various contracts where labor is involved. Mr. Shea reported that if he felt he had to recuse himself he would do so, but he has never been put in that situation. Ms. Heidelbaugh reported that she would not affirmatively recommend this reappointment.

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

Council Members Yes: 6 - Rea, DeFazio, Finnerty, Kress, Macey and Martoni

Council Members No: 2 - Heidelbaugh and Means

Council Members Absent: 6 - Daly Danko, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Palmiere and Russell Robinson

Council Members Yes Phone: 1 - Baker

[7957-14](#) Approving the reappointment of David Minnotte to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Councilman Finnerty mentioned the negative impact the decline of US Airways had on our region. Mr. Minnotte added that with the merger of US Airways and American Airlines, approximately 600 jobs at the maintenance center will be lost. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh suggested that someone representing aviation management be appointed to this board, since the board is lacking this type of representation. In response to a question from Ms. Heidelbaugh, Mr. Minnotte stated that any monies accrued from drilling must be used according to FAA restrictions, i.e. improving airport infrastructure and development, and thus far \$400 million has been accrued from drilling.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.