

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 12, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 2

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: Katie Breen, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - Rea, Michael Finnerty, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey and Sue Means

Members Absent: 10 - Tom Baker, Barbara Danko, John DeFazio, Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Amanda Green Hawkins, Ed Kress, Chuck Martoni, John Palmiere and William Robinson

III. Approval of Minutes

[8781-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 5, 2015.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[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

In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Heckman described her involvement with the Port Authority's Downtown Pittsburgh-to-Oakland Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Plan. Ms. Heckman described Cleveland, Ohio's HealthLine BRT system, in particular, how it linked their central business district with the university and medical center and attracted over \$4.2 billion in real estate investments. Ms. Heckman explained the funding process involved with establishing a BRT system and discussed the Upper Hill and Allegheny Monongahela Ohio (Almono) sites. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh made an inquiry regarding Ms. Heckman's association with Allegheny County, and Ms. Heckman said she worked in the Economic Development Department for 35 years, retired in 2012 and now works as a consultant for CDR Maguire.

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

[8751-15](#)

Approving the reappointment of Eva Bednar 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

[8752-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Kurt Kondrich 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

[8753-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Theresa Edwards 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

Councilwoman Heidelbaugh asked Ms. Edwards to explain the purpose of the Council. Ms. Edwards stated that the group of professionals advises drug and alcohol addiction and counseling service providers and provides information on treatment programs. Councilman Finnerty asked Ms. Edwards how long she has served on the Council, and Ms. Edwards replied three years. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Edwards reported that she holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies and a master's degree in social work. Councilwoman Means commented that while there are currently 5 individuals serving on the Council, the requirement is a minimum of 7, appointed by the County Executive. In addition, Ms. Means noted that the gender requirement has not been met. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Edwards remarked that she is not employed by Allegheny County, nor does she have any contract with the county.

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

[8754-15](#) Approving the reappointment of Valerie J. Ketter 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

Ms. Ketter reported that she is a Supervisor with the Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department, Drug and Alcohol Unit. In response to a question from Chairwoman Rea, Ms. Ketter explained that she filled the seat of Ron Seyko, Director of Adult Probation Services. Councilwoman Heidelbaugh explained that she would vote in the negative because of her philosophical belief that county employees should not be appointed to county boards, authorities, councils, commissions or committees. Councilwoman Means described some of the member requirements of the Drug and Alcohol Planning Council. In response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Ms. Ketter stated that she supervises 6 Probation Officers and is responsible for implementing drug and alcohol assessments/treatment for youth. Councilman Finnerty asked about the client population, and Ms. Ketter reported that the majority of cases involve heroin addiction, and most clients are sent to Auberle's Hartman Shelter, rather than Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. Councilwoman Means asked Ms. Ketter about the unit's success rate, and Ms. Ketter said the program allows for healthy brain development up until the age of 21, most clients obtain a high school diploma or GED, through the Parent group the health of the family improves, and clients learn how to reach out for help when they need

to return to treatment.

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

Members Yes: 2 - Rea and Finnerty

Members No: 1 - Heidelbaugh

Members Abstain: 1 - Means

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.