

Allegheny County Council

*119 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

*Ed Kress, Chair
Committee of the Whole*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Ed Kress, Sue Means, John Palmiere and Sam DeMarco

Members Absent: 10 - Cindy Kirk, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Patrick Catena

Members Phone: 1 - Tom Baker

III. Approval of Minutes

[10067-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 15, 2017.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Appointments

[9999-17](#)

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 December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Harrison expressed his support of Dr. Hacker. In response to a question from Council Member Means, Dr. Harrison replied that he teaches at both the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and the School of Medicine. Council Members DeMarco and Means made an inquiry pertaining to lead poisoning. Dr. Harrison reported that data collection and analysis will identify elevated lead levels in children and then the goal is to mitigate the source. He added that public education on lead poisoning and lead sources will be key. In response to a question from Council Member Baker, Dr. Harrison stated that the Live Well Allegheny initiative will continue to monitor risk behaviors and promote the message of improving the health and wellness of county residents.

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

[10000-17](#) 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 December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Dr. Shapira reported that Dr. Hacker has done a tremendous job along with Chairman Dr. Harrison. Dr. Shapira noted that the lead regulations will be considered at the board's meeting in June. She added that screening will raise the level of awareness in schools, parents and in the community and then the children that are found to have elevated lead levels can be treated. In response to a question from Council Member Means, Dr. Shapira discussed how the medical community was disappointed that the HPV vaccine mandate was not pursued by the board. She added that in order to advance this initiative, improved communications and education will be critical. Members and Dr. Shapira discussed the relationship between Council and the Board and the different types of pressures that can be placed upon an appointed versus an elected official. In response to a question from Council Member Means, Dr. Shapira stated that while there's never enough funding to address public health issues, they have been successful with using grant monies to fund initiatives.

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

[10001-17](#) 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 December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[10003-17](#) Approving the appointment of Oliver Byrd to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[10004-17](#) Approving the appointment of Michelle Pepitone to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Pepitone described her background as a nurse, caretaker for her mother, and her interest in helping others navigate the system. Councilman Palmiere made remarks pertaining to his empathy for his shut-in clients. In response to a question from Council Member DeMarco, Ms. Pepitone stated that her retail background has helped her understand how to meet an individual's needs. Chairman Kress and Ms. Pepitone discussed the difficulty in obtaining quality, in-home care providers.

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

[10005-17](#) Approving the appointment of Lynn Helbling Sirinek to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[10006-17](#) Approving the appointment of Lisa M. Story to serve as a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.