

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 3, 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 5:01 p.m.

Invited Guests:

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress, John Palmiere, Paul Klein, Sam DeMarco and Patrick Catena

Members Absent: 9 - Tom Baker, Sue Means, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell and John DeFazio

III. Approval of Minutes

[10134-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 12, 2017.

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

IV. Agenda Items

[10099-17](#)

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

[10100-17](#)

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

[10107-17](#)

Approving the reappointment of Carey L. Cummings, Esq. to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

[10108-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Thomas Headley to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Headley provided members with a comprehensive overview of the Agricultural Land Preservation program. Mr. Headley explained that farms must be in a designated Agricultural Security Area (ASA) in order to be eligible for the program. Enrollment in an ASA provides limited protection against municipal regulations, eminent domain, and allows the landowner to participate in Pennsylvania's agricultural conservation easement program. Mr. Headley and the members discussed specialty appraisals and property tax rate adjustments for landowners enrolled in the program. Mr. Headley provided members with statistics related to farmland preservation in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania.

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

[10109-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Thomas Weaver to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Weaver reported that Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms and acres permanently preserved for agricultural production. He added that a portion of the state's cigarette tax goes towards farmland preservation. Mr. Weaver stated that in addition to generating a quality food supply, the program assists with water conservation efforts.

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

[10110-17](#) Approving the reappointment of William Sray to serve as a member of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.