

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 1, 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 5:00 p.m.*

### Invited Guests:

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

*Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 5 - Tom Baker, Ed Kress, Sue Means, Paul Klein and Sam DeMarco

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

## III. Approval of Minutes

[9996-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 18, 2017.

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

## IV. Agenda Items

### Appointments

[9960-17](#)

Approving the reappointment of the Honorable Jan Rea to the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Rea expressed her interest in continuing to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority. She noted that she was part of the search committee that hired the new Chief Executive Officer, Christina Cassotis, and under Ms. Cassotis leadership, nonstop flights departing from Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) has increased more than 80 percent over the past two years (from 37 to 68). Ms. Rea invited members to the "State of the Airport" event to be held on February 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fairmont Pittsburgh, and she also invited members to take a tour of PIT. Ms. Rea replied to a question from Councilman DeMarco, stating that it's an exciting time to be involved in the development of a strategic long-term plan for PIT. Ms. Rea discussed the oil and gas development at PIT and the revenue it has realized since the drilling began in July 2016. Ms. Rea confirmed that Pittsburgh International Airport was named "Airport of the Year" by Air Transport World Magazine; it is the first American airport to win this prestigious award, and as a result, PIT has received national recognition.*

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

[9955-17](#) Approving the reappointment of M. Gayle Moss to the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9965-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Ashley Henry Shook to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9966-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Mary E. Gibson, 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**

[9967-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Daniel Styche to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Styche told members that the commission will be visiting a local middle school to speak about diversity. In response to a question from Councilman Klein, Mr. Styche said the commission hears about 10 complaints a year, so outreach would be useful. Councilman Baker made an inquiry regarding the nature of the complaints, to which Mr. Styche replied LGBT community complaints and complaints against county departments. He added that they are looking for a solicitor to handle the complaints against county departments because it would be a conflict of interest for the county's law department. Mr. Styche responded to Councilman DeMarco's question, stating that he served two years in the U.S. Navy. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Styche discussed the importance of annual diversity training, which includes sexual harassment, in the workplace. He added that active shooter training should also be conducted on an annual basis.*

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

[9968-17](#)

Approving the reappointment of Donald Smith to serve as a member of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Smith and Chairman Kress discussed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the types of projects which are eligible based on seven standards of blight. Mr. Smith stated that TIFs are a useful redevelopment tool, and mixed use development is favorable because it builds a sustainable tax base. Councilman Klein made an inquiry concerning opportunities and challenges, to which Mr. Smith replied that the airport area and our universities are adding value, however, under the Onorato administration, the Economic Development Fund was substantially depleted to pay off debt, our transfer tax is the highest in the state, and the county has a shortage of pad-ready sites. Council Members Baker and DeMarco discussed various projects including the Tech21 development in Marshall Township, the Almono site, the possibility of Foxconn Technology Group building a manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania, and the importance of attracting businesses to our region. Councilwoman Means asked Mr. Smith to address the issue of gentrification in Allegheny County, and Mr. Smith stated that some developers would agree to dedicating up to ten percent of housing to low-income, but his recommendation was to increase the supply of available units in a feasible way.*

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

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.*