

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

**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 5:05 p.m.*

**Invited Guests:**

*Invited Guests Present: William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager*

*Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** 5 - Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means, DeWitt Walton and Sam DeMarco

**Members Absent:** 10 - Tom Baker, Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell and John DeFazio

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[9553-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on March 30, 2016.

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

[9554-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on March 31, 2016.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Appointments**

[9502-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Robert J. Lewis to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Lewis discussed the hiring of Christina Cassotis as the new Chief Executive Officer and her ability to grow business at the airport. Mr. Lewis explained the vision and challenges for Pittsburgh International to become an origin and destination airport. Mr. Lewis commented on the importance of the airport's branding identity, the possibility of installing slot machines at the airport, opening the Airmall to the public, and finding other ways to increase revenue. Councilman Walton commented on the significance of increasing passenger traffic. Mr. Lewis reported that the Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, New Jersey serves the catchment area (i.e. New York) and that is why it is so successful, however, for Allegheny County, increasing passenger traffic will continue to be a challenge. Councilman DeMarco mentioned diverting flights to Pittsburgh, and Mr. Lewis replied that this occurs now. Mr. Lewis told Councilwoman Means that he was first appointed when the Authority was established. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Mr. Lewis stated that as a result of 9/11 and increased security measures it would be difficult to take your kids out to watch the airplanes as was frequently done in the past, however, he imagined that they could conduct an educational aviation program to benefit students.*

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

[9531-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Barbara Parees to serve as a member of the Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Parees explained that Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. (AHCII) was formed in 1999 by Allegheny County to monitor the transition of Medicaid-funded behavioral health services to a managed care environment. She noted that the agency is led by Chief Executive Officer Brandi Phillips, and has a diverse board of directors. In response to a question from Councilwoman Means, Ms. Parees recommended raising awareness of the agency.*

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

[9532-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Councilman Michael Finnerty to serve as a member of the Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Councilman Finnerty discussed the Conservation District's progress to date and expressed his continued interest in serving on the board.*

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

**Members Yes:** 4 - Kress, Means, Walton and DeMarco

**Members Abstain:** 1 - Finnerty

**Members Absent:** 10 - Baker, Kirk, Palmiere, Futules, Martoni, Macey, Klein, Ellenbogen, Ranalli-Russell and DeFazio

[9533-16](#) Approving the appointment of Gregory Broujos to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[9534-16](#) Approving the appointment of Ruthann Omer to serve as a member of the Conservation District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Omer discussed her experience and interest in serving on the board. She spoke highly of the Conservation District Manager, Jan Lauer. Councilman DeMarco recognized Ms. Omer for her extensive knowledge and training she provided through the Local Government Academy.*

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

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.*