

CITY COUNCIL

Nominations and Appointments

Committee

Monday, July 18, 2022
4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

The Nominations and Appointments Committee meets to address nominations and appointments to the City's boards, authorities and commissions.

Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually. Public comment will be accepted in writing through an email to michelle.smith@readingpa.gov. Public comment must be submitted by 3:00 pm on the day of the meeting to allow time to distribute the comment submitted. The comment received will be read into the record. Those wishing to make comment at the meeting must register by 3:00 pm the day of the meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://readingpa.zoom.us/j/4192926522?pwd=M0dBTXh6SnNvOHppU1paMm9zUW0xZz09>

Meeting ID: 419 292 6522

Passcode: 972205

Dial by your location

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 419 292 6522

Passcode: 972205

I. Interviews

4:00 - Michael Gombar - reappointment - Berks County Convention Center Authority

4:15 - Heminton Candelario Urena - reappointment - Blighted Property Review Committee

4:30 - Stephan Thompson - appointment - Environmental Advisory Council

- II. Appointment Recommendations**
- III. Review Pending Applications Memo (see page 6), BAC Openings (see page 8) & Board, Authority, Commission Membership**
- IV. Diversity Training for Board, Authority and Commission members**
- V. Adjourn**

Convention Center Authority Facts

The Convention Center Authority was formed by Bill No. 16-1996 to build and then manage the Santander Convention Center and the SPAC. This is a 7 member joint authority formed with the County Commissioners with 3 members appointed by the City, 3 members appointed by the County, and a 7th member who is appointed alternatively by City & County. The Authority is responsible for attracting, stimulating, developing and expanding business, industry, commerce and tourism in the county seat, the surrounding counties and the Commonwealth as a whole.

The Authority oversees the management of the Santander Convention Center and the SPAC which includes repayment of debt service, capital maintenance and management, along with promoting the convention center to make sure that it serves the needs of the community and is financially stable.

Authority Questions for New Applicants

1. What is the purpose of Convention Center Authority?
2. The Convention Center Authority currently meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 am. Will you be able to regularly attend the meetings?
3. Why are you interested in serving on the Convention Center Authority?
4. What issues would you like the Authority to address?
5. Do you have any experience with the management of facilities, finances or in the entertainment business?

Authority Questions for Reappointments

1. Are you able to regularly attend meetings?
2. What does the Authority do well?
3. In what areas or ways does the Authority need to improve?
4. Are there any issues that the City could assist with?
5. In what direction will the Authority go over the next five years?

Blighted Property Review Committee Facts

The City created the Vacant Property Review Committee at some point around 1970; however, by the end of the 1980's the Committee was no longer functioning. This Committee was composed of City officials and employees. In 2006 City Council drafted and enacted legislation to eliminate the Vacant Property Review Committee and replace it with the Blighted Property Review Committee (BPRC) composed of a combination of public officials and citizens at large to implement provisions of the Urban Redevelopment Law of 1945, as amended, and the City of Reading Blighted Property Review Committee Ordinance as amended by Bill #108-2010. To qualify for the BPRC process a property must meet the legal definition of "blight" by exhibiting one or more of the twelve conditions listed in the Ordinance and the property can be certified as blighted by the hearing process, which leaves the property subject to eminent domain or some other acquisition strategy.

Blighted Property Review Committee Questions for New Applicants

1. What is the purpose of the BPRC?
2. Why are you interested in serving on the BPRC?
3. The BPRC currently meets on the 3rd Thursday at 6 pm when hearings are scheduled. Will you be able to regularly attend those hearings?
4. What do you believe is the ultimate goal of the BPRC?
5. Have you ever been through the BPRC process?
6. What do you think would improve the quality of Reading's housing stock?

Blighted Property Review Committee Questions for Reappointments

1. Are you able to regularly attend hearings?
2. What has the BPRC done well and what could be improved?
3. Do you have any ideas to improve the process used by the BPRC?
4. Are there any issues that the City could assist with?
5. What is the ultimate goal of the BPRC?

Reading Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Facts

The EAC was formed by Bill No. 25-2007 to study environmental and sustainability issues at the request of City Council and make recommendations to Council on those issues. The EAC will work with City Council in an advisory capacity in an effort to help Council analyze environmental and sustainability issues and, when appropriate, issue recommendations on courses of action necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Berks County.

The EAC may advise and make recommendations to City Council, City Administration, and City boards, authorities and commissions on policies and programs that infuse the work of City government with an operating philosophy based on environmental protection and sustainability, make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas within the City of Reading, and promote community environmental awareness programs.

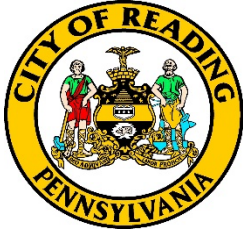
EAC Questions for New Applicants

1. What is the purpose of the EAC?
2. The EAC currently meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at noon. Will you be able to regularly attend those meetings?
3. Why are you interested in serving on the EAC?
4. What environmental issues would you like to have addressed?
5. Do you have experience with environmental issues or projects?

EAC Questions for Reappointments

1. Are you able to regularly attend meetings?
2. What does the EAC do well?
3. In what areas or ways does the EAC need to improve?
4. Are there any issues that the City could assist with?
5. Describe an initiative the EAC has worked on within the past year.
6. In what ways could the EAC improve the way it operates?

M E M O R A N D U M



TO: Nominations and Appointments Committee
FROM: Shelly Smith, Deputy City Clerk
DATE: July 18, 2022
SUBJECT: Pending Applications

The following persons have applications for Boards, Authorities, and Commissions pending:

Citizens Initiative Commission – 11 open seats (1 per Council District; 3 at large)

- **Tonya Butler** – appointment – District 4 - has Mayoral approval

Planning Commission – 2 term expirations, 1 open seat (7 members)

- **Ann Woodward** – appointment – sent to Mayor Jan 2022
- **Wayne Bealer** – reappointment – sent to Mayor March 2022
- **Lee Olsen** – reappointment – has Mayoral approval
- **Rodney Ridley** - appointment

Environmental Advisory Council – 1 term expiration, 2 open seats (7 members)

- **Stephan Thompson** – appointment – has Mayoral approval
- **James Cole** – appointment
- **Cathy Myers** - reappointment

Charter Board – 2 open seats (5 members)

- **Stephen Yarnell** – appointment

Blighted Property Review Committee – 3 term expirations (7 members)

- **Heminton Candelario Urena** – reappointment – has Mayoral approval

Youth Commission – 7 open seats (15 members)

- **Freddy Pizano** – appointment - Council District 5 – needs background clearances

HARB – 4 open seats, 2 term expirations (9 members)

- **Aaron Booth** – reappointment – has Mayoral approval

Convention Center Authority – 1 term expiration (3 City seats, 7 members)

- **Michael Gombar** – reappointment – has Mayoral approval

Conversion Therapy Mental Health Services Board – 3 open seats (5 members, 3 residents)

- **Jordan Henning** – appointment

BOARDS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

OPEN SEATS

JULY 18, 2022

Board, Authority & Commission	Mayor appointment w/ Council approval	Mayor appointment	Council appointment
BOARDS			
Electrician's Examining Board Must be master Electrician	Board full		
Plumbing Board of Examiners Must be master Plumber	2 openings		
Reading HVAC Board Must have master license	4 openings		
Zoning Hearing Board			1 alternate opening
Police Civil Service Board			Board full
Fire Civil Service Board			1 opening
Board of Historical Architectural Review			6 openings Historic District Openings & Trades Professional 1 application pending
Board of Trustees of the Reading Public Library			City positions filled

Board of Health	1 alternate opening		
Board of Ethics	2 openings		
Building/Fire Code Board of Appeals	2 alternate openings		
Animal Control Board			
	2 openings		
Charter Board			
	2 openings		
	1 application pending		
Code & License Appeals Board		1 opening	
		1 alternate opening	2 alternate openings
Equal Business Opportunity Advisory Board	3 openings		
Diversity Board			
			Board full
Pagoda Foundation			
		Mayoral Appointments filled	2 openings
Conversion Therapy Mental Health Services Appeals Board	3 openings		
	1 application pending		

AUTHORITIES			
Reading Area Water Authority			
			Board full
Reading Redevelopment Authority			
		4 openings	
		8 applications pending	
Reading Housing Authority			
	Board full		
Reading Parking Authority			
		1 opening	
Convention Center Authority			1 City opening
			1 application pending
COMMISSIONS			
Planning Commission			
	3 openings		
	4 applications pending		
Shade Tree Commission			
	1 opening		
Stadium Commission			
	Board full		
Reading Human Relations Commission			
		1 opening	
Blighted Property Review Committee			
	3 openings		
	1 application pending		

Environmental Advisory Council			3 openings
			3 applications pending
Recreation Commission	City positions filled		
Audit Committee			Board full
Citizens Initiative Commission		3 openings	6 openings – 1 per City Council District
			1 application pending
Youth Commission		2 openings	7 openings – 2 District 3; 1 District 4; 1 District 5; 1 District 6
			1 application pending
Downtown Revitalization P3		Positions full	1 alternate opening