

**Board of Health
Thursday, March 3rd, 2010
Penn Room**

Members Attending: E. Kimball, K. Rearden, J. Reber, J. Wong

Others Attending: T. Butler, J. Hassel, M. Loaiza

Call to Order

Dr. Kimball called the Board of Health meeting to order at 6 pm.

Elections

Dr. Hassel suggested the elections be held at the beginning of the meeting so the meeting could continue with the newly elected officials. The board agreed.

Ms. Butler inquired if there were any nominations for chair. Ms. Rearden nominated Dr. Kimball. Mr. Reber nominated Mr. Webb.

Dr. Wong arrived at the meeting at this time.

Ms. Butler repeated the nominations and inquired if the Board would like to have a secret ballot or open vote. The Board agreed on an open ballot.

The Board of Health's vote for chair was the following:

Dr. Kimball – Kimball, Rearden, Wong - 3

Mr. Webb – Reber – 1

Ms. Butler announced that Dr. Kimball is now the chair of the Board of Health.

Ms. Butler inquired if there are any nominations for vice chair. As no one made any nominations, the Board agreed to make Mr. Webb vice chair.

Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Kimball called the Board's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes from the November 12th meeting.

Mr. Reber moved, seconded by Dr. Wong, to approve the agenda and the November meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Health Officer's Report

Dr. Hassel distributed a copy of the annual report submitted to the State Department of Health. He expressed that the copy was for informational purposes and the board members' individual files. He directed members to numbers 14 and 14a. He stated that those numbers account for 500 food service inspections, every one was inspected twice and 25 extra inspections were done by complaint.

Dr. Hassel inquired what information the board wants delivered to them in the Health Officer's Report.

Dr. Kimball stated that she would like more than one page of information, although she was unsure of what could be provided.

Dr. Hassel explained the Hansen system and how he would not be able to provide individual names and problems. He distributed an example of the report worksheet that he receives from the Hansen

system. He stated that although the system is not the best, he does not believe that the City is in the financial position to provide a better system.

Dr. Hassel explained that Mr. Jaime Sanocki does all the physical inspections and re-inspections, which are approximately 1,000 a year. He stated that he only steps in when changes haven't been made.

Dr. Hassel proceeded to ask if the board would like a list of what food service establishments fail and if so, to please define "fail".

Dr. Kimball stated that this would not correct deficiencies.

Dr. Hassel inquired if any of the board members ever come into City Hall during daytime hours. Dr. Kimball replied negatively.

Dr. Hassel explained that as Health Officer he oversees food related businesses, lead reports, and employee immunization.

Ms. Rearden questioned what the procedure is for employee immunization. Dr. Hassel replied that the employee has the choice of whether to pursue or decline immunizations, but they are offered to all City employees. He added that he also provides minor clinic care as requested by employees.

Ms. Rearden expressed the belief that the minor clinic care should be stopped. She expressed the difficulties in stopping this now, as it has been an ongoing service, but believes that Dr. Hassel's successor should not allow this practice to continue. Dr. Kimball agreed.

Dr. Hassel asked for confirmation of the information the Board requested. His list consisted of the number of food inspections and lead inspections done, handicapped parking permit approvals, and employees that decline immunizations.

Dr. Kimball expressed her interest in a monthly spreadsheet of food and lead inspections done and the deficiencies found, immunizations done and declined by employees, number of handicapped parking permits done and tracking information of healthcare provided to City employees.

Dr. Kimball also added that she would like to see the following three (3) things occur.

- Maintain the Health Officer Position
- Maintain the physician requirement for the Health Officer Position
- Completely lax the City Charter resident rule for successor.

(Note: The City Charter does not require the Health Officer to be a resident. If the Charter would need to change, it must be done by voter referendum.)

Dr. Hassel stated that he will continue serving as the Health Officer until the end of Mayor McMahon's term. He also stated that his position also includes finding his successor and he is looking at Dr. Louis Mancano as a possibility.

Dr. Hassel discussed the County Health Ranking report released approximately 3-4 weeks prior. He shared that Berks County ranked 16th in the state. He expressed some concern with how the report arrived to some of the numbers, such as 1.4 liquor stores and 16% of children are living in poverty. He expressed the need to look back at it in subsequent years and compare reports.

Ms. Rearden shared her belief that this type of report should be done within the City parameters. She believes this would be helpful to see what issues are on the rise in the City. Dr. Hassel agreed and stated that he found a lot of the information in the report was vague.

Bernhart's Park

Dr. Kimball announced that Exide has been fined again by the PA Department of Environmental Protection for their air quality monitoring.

Ms. Loaiza announced that the meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled for March 16th in Senator Specter's Allentown Office. She added that Exide's workplan will also be delivered during this meeting.

Dr. Kimball shared her experience at the November 2009 Public Hearing. She expressed that the EPA believes that Exide has behaved and should have their license renewed. She noted the importance in telling Senator Specter that Exide has not behaved.

Dr. Wong shared that he is not after Exide, his focus is primarily Bernhart's Park.

Mr. Reber inquired if there has been any mention of the Dam. Dr. Kimball replied negatively.

Mr. Reber went on to explain the current condition of the Dam, i.e., rust, etc. Dr. Wong stated that this is not a pollution problem. Dr. Kimball added that the focus is on stopping the pollution of Bernhart's Park and remediating it.

New Business

Attendance

Ms. Butler explained the importance of attendance and timeliness of all members. She noted that if a quorum has not arrived 15 minutes passed the start time, the meeting will be cancelled as that is the maximum wait time.

Dr. Kimball inquired about Board member, Sonia Nina's attendance. Ms. Loaiza stated she would forward Dr. Kimball her exact attendance.

Dr. Hassel inquired if a monthly meeting is needed. Dr. Kimball replied that within the ordinance, it states that the Board of Health must meet monthly. Ms. Butler stated that the ordinance can be amended, if need be. Dr. Kimball stated that she would like to wait until next month's meeting to decide.

Ms. Loaiza reminded Board members that the Board of Health does not have any funding in place. She explained that this will affect activities that the Board normally does, such as flyers.

Dr. Kimball announced the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 6pm.

Dr. Wong moved, seconded by Mr. Reber, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Maritza Loaiza, Admin Assist to City Clerk