



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Melvyn Jacobson (appointment – Redistricting Committee)

Mr. Marmarou stated that he is familiar with Mr. Jacobson and his experience and interest in serving the City in this capacity. He stated that he has been involved and assisted the City in the past.

Ms. Reed expressed her support of Mr. Jacobson and stated that she is also familiar with Mr. Jacobson's experience. She stated that working with this Committee will be a short term commitment.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Melvyn Jacobson to the Redistricting Committee.

Geraldine Westley (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)

Mr. Marmarou noted that Ms. Westley was involved with the Historical Society for ten years. Ms. Westley stated that she worked as a receptionist.

Mr. Marmarou explained the work of this Committee and questioned why Ms. Westley was interested in serving.

Ms. Reed explained that this Board will review the City's Act 47 Recovery Plan and consider the initiatives and advocate adherence to the Plan.

Mr. Marmarou stated that this Board will be a great asset to the City.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Geraldine Westley to the Citizens Advisory Board.

Barbara D'Agostino (appointment – Redistricting Committee)

Mr. Marmarou explained the need for this Committee and expressed his belief that Reading's population didn't make much of a shift.

Ms. Reed noted the need for the Committee to review the demographics to determine if Council Districts need to be adjusted. She expressed her belief that little, if any, change is needed and stated that the work of this Committee needs to be complete by the end of 2011.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Barbara D'Agostino to the Redistricting Committee.

Mr. Denbowski arrived at this time.

Pamela Cianciosi (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Cianciosi was interested in serving on this Board. Ms. Cianciosi stated that she wished to get involved and hoped to assist the City on its way to recovery.

Ms. Reed stated that Ms. Cianciosi worked at City Hall in the past and knows the issues that the City is facing. She stated that Ms. Cianciosi often coordinates issues in Riverdale.

Ms. Cianciosi questioned the meetings of this Board. Mr. Denbowski stated that the first meeting will be held in Council Chambers and that after that the Committee will decide when and where to meet.

Ms. Reed suggested that meetings be held at City schools and be as accessible by the public as necessary.

Mr. Denbowski explained that members will receive a copy of the City's Recovery Plan and meeting information after eleven members have been seated as this is necessary for a quorum.

Mr. Acosta arrived at this time.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Pamela Cianciosi to the Citizens Advisory Board.

Otis Smith (appointment – Recreation Commission)

Mr. Acosta explained the need for this additional interview. He noted the need for potential members to understand the fundraising aspect of this Commission. Mr. Smith stated that he was aware of this component of the Committee and stated that it will be a key to its success. He supports the need for independent fundraising.

Mr. Acosta explained that the Committee will interview all candidates for the Commission and then chose the top three for appointment.

Mr. Denbowski explained that the appointments are joint between the Mayor and Council.

Mr. Smith noted the urgency of this Commission to begin its work. Mr. Denbowski stated that the first meeting will be held on October 4.

Candice Mayton (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)

Mr. Acosta explained that Ms. Mayton is the chair of the South of Penn neighborhood group and stated that he suggested that she serve in this capacity. He noted the benefit this Board will bring to the City.

Ms. Reed noted the importance of having neighborhood leaders involved in these types of Boards.

Mr. Acosta noted his respect for Ms. Mayton and the job she has done with the South of Penn group.

Mr. Denbowski explained that the first meeting will be at the end of September in Council Chambers. He stated that the Recovery Plan coordinators will be in attendance.

Ms. Mayton questioned if the Plan was working. The Committee stated that it was. Mr. Acosta stated that the Plan forced the City to take control of its finances. Ms. Reed stated that it has provided the City with a clearer focus. The Committee noted the excellent work being done by the new financial team.

Ms. Mayton questioned if the election would affect this Board. The Committee stated that it would not. Mr. Acosta explained that the legislators would remain the same and that this will allow the City to stay on track and allow consistency in adhering to the Plan. He noted that Council will continue to hold the Administration accountable.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Candice Mayton to the Citizens Advisory Board.

Eddie Moran (appointment – Recreation Commission)

Mr. Marmarou explained that Mr. Moran was asked to return to discuss a specific aspect of the Commission.

Mr. Acosta stated that he reviewed the meeting summary at which Mr. Moran was interviewed and was impressed. He noted the need to address fundraising by the Commission. He stated that the Committee would be interviewing all candidates before appointing the top three.

Mr. Moran expressed appreciation for consideration to serve on the Commission. He encouraged the Committee to proceed to get the Commission members named. He stated that he supports fundraising and noted that the Commission can be very productive. He noted that he is a marketing professional which enables him to communicate well and have corporate relationships. He stated that he has many ideas for recreational opportunities and that he is involved in Reading American Little League and has some experience fundraising.

Michael Fiucci (reappointment – Berks County Convention Center Authority)

Ms. Reed noted that Mr. Fiucci was on this Authority since its inception.

Mr. Marmarou noted that the Authority is doing a great job. He questioned why Mr. Fiucci was interested in continuing to serve. Mr. Fiucci stated that there is still much to accomplish. He noted that the purchase of the Reading Royals will assist financially and that the Authority is also working on other items.

Mr. Marmarou questioned attendance at meetings. Mr. Fiucci stated that there is little public participation because of the meeting time. He noted that he has tried several times to change the meeting time but has been unsuccessful.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if quorums were reached. Mr. Fiucci stated they are.

Mr. Acosta complimented the Authority on the anniversary event. Mr. Fiucci stated that the Authority is working well together. He noted his pleasure that the parking rate has been reduced for events. He stated that the parking rate in Reading was one of the highest in the ECHL.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Michael Fiucci to the Berks County Convention Center Authority.

Kevin Devera (reappointment – Stadium Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned how the Commission was functioning. Mr. Devera stated that the Reading Phillies have done well this season and have advanced to the playoffs. He stated that in two years Reading will host the northeast regional games for Baseballtown and the Olivet league. He stated that this will be a great showcase for Reading and that the tournament winners will play at a major league stadium.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how many youth were served. Mr. Devera stated that 220 youth were involved this summer and stated that Baseballtown has been very supportive of the program. He stated that the Stadium Commission has also been supportive and Commission members have now been helping at the stadium events more since many youth have returned to school. He stated that the Commission participates in the Labor Day and Memorial Day parades. He described events that will be held at the plaza after baseball season has ended.

Ms. Reed suggested holding Christmas events at the plaza. Mr. Devera stated that he will discuss this with Mr. Huntzinger.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Commission members are welcoming ambassadors.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Kevin Devera to the Stadium Commission.

Kelly Christman (appointment – Shade Tree Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Christman was interested in serving. Ms. Christman stated that she takes pride in her City and that she worked as a temp in the Public Works Department. She stated that she uses the trail system and sees many trees in need of assistance. She stated that she learned of the need for members and stated that the Shade Tree Commission is currently working on a trail project near Baer Park.

Ms. Reed noted that the Shade Tree Commission will now have a working budget. She stated that this should have been for several years but will now be reality. Mr. Denbowski stated that the budget problem was discovered and has been corrected.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Kelly Christman to the Shade Tree Commission.

II. Reading Area Transportation Study Appointment

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Mr. Rothermel and Mr. McGough have not returned her calls. She stated that the Mayor intends to appoint himself to this position.

Ms. Reed suggested that he wait until the end of his term to serve in this position.

III. Application & Background Check Procedure

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if the procedure she uses to process applications needs to be changed. The Committee supported the procedure currently used and stated that it should continue.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk