



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

Monday, February 6, 2012
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Heather Hanna (appointment – Library Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Hanna was interested in serving in this capacity. Ms. Hanna stated that she has always felt connected to the library as she lives very nearby and that she currently participates in security meetings at the library. She stated that she is active in the South of Penn neighborhood group and that she visits the library several times per week. She stated that she regularly uses the library's services and promotes those services to others. She stated that she believes in the services provided by the library and noted her hope to assist in a more meaningful way.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there are already very good people on the Library Board. He stated that the City has had to decrease its funding of the library. Ms. Hanna stated that she has written letters to the editor to support the library and their services. She stated that she noticed a correlation that when the library decreased its hours of operation there was an increase in crime in the neighborhood. She again noted the vital services provided by the library.

Mr. Marmarou stated that many in the public feel that non-City residents don't use the City libraries. He stated that there is documentation that more County residents use the City library system than City residents. Mr. Marmarou expressed his belief that Ms. Hanna would be a great asset to the Board.

Ms. Reed questioned how Ms. Hanna would work to develop the library to become self sustaining. Ms. Hanna stated that she has been speaking with others for feedback on this issue.

She stated that she doesn't agree with all their ideas but that she is willing to listen and consider all options. She noted her hope to become a member of the Board and find her best fit.

Ms. Reed stated that the library can no longer depend on public funding. She stated that the services provided by the library are critical but that the current board members do not seem to devote much energy to fundraising. Ms. Hanna noted her plan to remain in the neighborhood over the long term. She stated as a neighbor she is passionate that the library remains and that everything must be looked at in a new light. She noted her hope that her work ensure that the library remain beyond her lifetime.

Ms. Reed noted the need for a strategic plan and fundraising goals. She noted that Crime Alert Berks does not have any professional staff and does a tremendous amount of fundraising. Ms. Hanna noted the need for professional librarians and library staff.

Ms. Reed agreed with the need for professional library staff. She stated that professional fundraisers are not needed. Ms. Hanna noted her desire to contribute and not just become a member of the board.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he donated his 2011 Council salary to the library. He stated that more individuals should make donations. Ms. Hanna stated that the planters and landscaping are funded and cared for by the neighborhood. She noted the need for additional partnerships at other branches.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Heather Hanna to the Library Board.

Barrie Pease (reappointment – Animal Control Board)

Mr. Marmarou explained that he and Ms. Katzenmoyer discussed the amendment to the ordinance adding two members to the Board and eliminating the alternate positions with Mr. Pease. Mr. Pease noted his agreement with the change.

Mr. Pease noted his hope that the Animal Control Board examines the pet limitation again in 2012. He stated that the City has changed since the last time it was examined. He noted the need to carefully word the ordinance amendment so that it is clear that it relates only to cats and dogs.

Mr. Marmarou stated that many residents spoke against the pet limitation in the past. He noted the need for the Animal Control Board to campaign in support of the limitation.

Mr. Pease noted the problem with feral cat colonies in the City. He stated that another Board member, Mr. Straub, has been working on an ordinance to address this issue but that the ordinance is not practical. He stated that there is a new organization in Muhlenberg Township which he will be approaching to assist with this issue. He stated that there must be some trap,

neuter, release and some euthanization but all at no cost to the City. He noted that feral cat colonies are very unhealthy to the community.

Ms. Reed thanked Mr. Pease for his work on this Board.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Barrie Pease to the Animal Control Board.

John Dethoff (appointment – Board of Health)

Mr. Marmarou stated that he is glad that professionals step forward to assist the City. Dr. Dethoff stated that he has been asked to serve in this capacity and has attended a meeting. He stated that he has spoken with Ms. Loaiza regarding decreasing the frequency of meetings.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of John Dethoff to the Board of Health.

II. Water Authority

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the situation with Mr. Lloyd currently serving on the Water Authority remains. Ms. Reed and Mr. Marmarou stated that they do not support Mr. Lloyd continuing in this position.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that City Council makes appointments to the Water Authority. She stated that Council has the option to name a member to replace Mr. Lloyd. She explained that Ms. Kelleher has been speaking with members of the Redistricting Committee to keep them involved on another board.

Ms. Reed expressed her belief that Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Brancadora would serve the City well on the Water Authority. She suggested that Mr. Gallagher serve on the Charter Board since there has been a recent vacancy and he has experience with the Ethics Board.

Ms. Reed questioned if the ordinance regarding the Water Authority could be amended to note that members cannot be City employees. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this would need to be a Charter amendment.

Ms. Reed questioned if the Administrative Code could be amended to include this change. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would need to research this issue. *Note: Authorities are created under the PA Municipal Authorities Act.*

Park and Recreation Advisory Committee/Recreation Commission

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has spoken with the School Board chair and she was receptive to the possibility of adding more members to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if any members of the School Board who were serving as members of the Recreation Commission had terms expire. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she did not believe this was the case as Ms. Stroman and Mr. Washington were appointed to the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Marisol Torres was appointed to the Recreation Commission by the School District but is now a City employee. She stated that the agreement does not allow members to be employees of the School District, the City or the Recreation Commission.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk