



# CITY COUNCIL

## Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, March 5, 2012  
Meeting Report

**Attendance:** S. Marmarou, R. Corcoran

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

### I. Interviews

#### **Chad Spohn (reappointment – Plumbing Board)**

Mr. Marmarou questioned how long Mr. Spohn has been involved with the Plumbing Board. Mr. Spohn stated that he has been a member of this board for seven (7) years.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Plumbing Board had any issues that needed to be addressed by Council. Mr. Spohn stated that they did not as Council supports the decisions of the Plumbing Board.

Mr. Marmarou asked Mr. Spohn to explain the focus of the Plumbing Board. Mr. Spohn stated that they hear complaints. He stated that they also review and decide whether new equipment or techniques are appropriate to be used in the City. He stated that their goal is to protect the public health. He stated that the City adopts and amends the International Plumbing Code.

Mr. Corcoran stated that copper pipe theft is a growing problem and questioned the use of PVC in City properties. Mr. Spohn stated that this is acceptable only for a complete rebuild of the plumbing and electrical system as many older homes use the copper piping as the ground for the electrical service.

Mr. Corcoran thanked Mr. Spohn for his service to the City.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Chad Spohn to the Plumbing Board.**

**Melvyn Jacobson (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)**

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained the work of the staff to transfer members of the Redistricting Committee to permanent BACs to keep them involved in City business.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he has gotten reports that the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) is not what members thought it would be. Mr. Jacobson stated that he has also heard those reports.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Council wants to hear from BAC members about issues they are encountering. Mr. Jacobson stated that it seems there is confusion regarding the purpose and focus of the CAB. He stated that he has reviewed the minutes available on the City's website.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that a meeting was recently held between the Administration and Council with select representatives of the CAB. She stated that the confusion was addressed and a Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted between the City and the CAB to establish their purpose and focus.

Mr. Marmarou stated that several members of the CAB were prepared to resign but that the chair has worked hard to eliminate the confusion and keep the membership. He noted the need for this board to begin its work and for Council to receive regular updates.

Mr. Corcoran expressed the belief that the issue has been addressed and that the CAB wants to do the right thing.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Melvyn Jacobson to the Citizens Advisory Board.**

**James Wong (reappointment – Board of Health)**

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Dr. Wong was interested in continuing to serve in this capacity. Dr. Wong stated that some meetings are more productive than others.

Ms. Reed arrived at this time.

Dr. Wong stated that the Board of Health assisted with the remediation of Bernhart Park and the City's emergency preparedness. He stated that they are currently examining safe tattoo establishments. He stated that the Board has been having problems reaching a quorum.

Mr. Marmarou stated that tattoo regulations in other states seem to be stricter than in Pennsylvania. Dr. Wong stated that PA law would trump local ordinance but that the State has not taken action on tattoo establishments. He stated that the City cannot issue licenses as that would require testing and a review board. He stated that they are leaning toward issuing a permit and having the establishment inspected. He noted the need for strict sanitation of instruments.

Mr. Corcoran questioned if Council would need to take action on establishing this permit and inspection. Dr. Wong stated that the Board of Health will forward their final draft to Council for their consideration. He stated that the City law office sends a representative to all meetings and that she is assisting with the drafting and research of the requirements.

Ms. Reed noted the need to address tattoo establishments. Dr. Wong noted that he is concerned with the spread of Hepatitis C.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of James Wong to the Board of Health.**

**Jeff George (reappointment – HVAC Board)**

Ms. Reed questioned how often this board meets. Mr. George stated that it meets quarterly and as needed to address issues.

Mr. Marmarou requested an update on this board. Mr. George stated that the board is doing well but that they are struggling to meet quorum.

Mr. Corcoran questioned the work of this board. Mr. George stated that they work to ensure that HVAC systems used in the City meet the Code standards. He stated that they work closely with the City's trades professionals.

Mr. Corcoran questioned the current issue being addressed. Mr. George stated that there have been fewer individuals interested in the trade and that the test is outdated in that concepts are no longer used in the field. He stated that those interested in the field learn and are tested on outdated material.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how this could be changed. Mr. George stated that the City could develop its own test but that it has not yet pursued administering its own test. He stated that those who participate in an apprenticeship program are much more likely to pass the test.

The Committee thanked Mr. George for his service to the City.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Jeff George to the HVAC Board.**

**Kent Wrobel (appointment – Citizens Advisory Board)**

Ms. Reed questioned why Mr. Wrobel was interested in serving in this capacity. Mr. Wrobel stated that he has lived in the City for 44 years. He stated that he is a real estate professional and wants to help improve the City.

Mr. Marmarou stated that another interview was held for this board earlier today where it was noted that there is confusion about the mission of this board. Mr. Corcoran expressed the belief that it was a miscommunication issue. Ms. Reed stated that she will begin attending CAB meetings to clarify issues. She noted the need for Mr. Wrobel to review the City's recovery plan. Mr. Wrobel requested that information on the recovery plan and the CAB be forwarded to him. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would provide this information.

Mr. Wrobel stated that he is also interested in redevelopment issues. Ms. Reed voiced her support of making this recommendation. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the Redevelopment Authority also needs the Mayor's recommendation.

Mr. Corcoran questioned why Mr. Wrobel was interested in the CAB. Mr. Wrobel stated that his interest was based on conversations he's had with others but that he is now unsure of this position due to the current confusion.

Ms. Reed suggested that Mr. Wrobel be appointed to the CAB at this time and reconsider moving to the Redevelopment Authority in the future if he is unhappy with this placement.

Mr. Corcoran stated that the Redevelopment Authority is a more logical location for Mr. Wrobel with his real estate background. He also suggested Mr. Wrobel be appointed to the CAB at this time and consider moving to the Redevelopment Authority in the future. Mr. Wrobel noted his preference to serve on the Redevelopment Authority.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Kent Wrobel to the Citizens Advisory Board.**

**Timothy Pelter (appointment – Electrician's Examining Board)**

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Pelter was interested in serving the City in this capacity. Mr. Pelter stated that he holds seven (7) masters licenses and has 20 years experience. He stated that in addition to electrical experience he also has experience as a general contractor. He stated that he has a vested interest in the City as he was born and raised here and now owns eight properties.

Mr. Marmarou explained that there are two applicants and one position. He questioned if Mr. Pelter would be interested in serving in another capacity. Mr. Pelter stated that he does not have a lot of time to invest at this time. He stated that he has recently purchased 520 Bingaman St and is contemplating moving to this location.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there are openings on the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals and the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals and explained their purpose and the frequency of their meetings. Mr. Pelter stated that he is currently interested in serving on the Electrical Examining Board at this time. He noted his interested in serving on the Quality of Life Appeals Board when he has more time and after this board has been established.

Mr. Corcoran thanked Mr. Pelter for this willingness to assist the City.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Timothy Pelter to the Electricians Examining Board.**

**Aaron Booth (reappointment – Historical Architectural Review Board)**

Mr. Booth noted his drive to move forward. He stated that the current board members are very level-headed and work to maintain the City's historical resources.

Mr. Marmarou noted his support of preservation and stated that he supports adding The Heights as a City historic district.

Mr. Booth stated that Council should expect to hear additional appeals due to the recent change in the HARB window policy. He noted that he likes to operate methodically and by the book. Ms. Reed stated that Council generally supports the decisions of HARB.

Mr. Booth noted his willingness to meet with Council on issues as needed. Ms. Reed requested that Council also be updated when residents become unruly at meetings or situations become volatile.

The Committee thanked Mr. Booth for his service to the City.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the reappointment of Aaron Booth to the Historical Architectural Review Board.**

**David Hollinger (appointment – Electrician's Examining Board)**

Mr. Corcoran questioned why Mr. Hollinger was interested in serving the City. Mr. Hollinger expressed his support of licensing and stated that it is crucial to ensure safe and reputable contractors. He noted his belief that licensing should be done state-wide and noted that it improves the work and qualifications of the contractor.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there are two applicants for one available seat on this board. He questioned if Mr. Hollinger was willing to serve in another capacity. Mr. Hollinger stated that he was.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there are openings on the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals and the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals and explained their purpose and the frequency of their meetings. Mr. Hollinger noted his willingness to serve on the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals.

Mr. Hollinger questioned who enforced the City's codes. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the City's trade inspectors enforce the trade codes.

**The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of David Hollinger to the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals.**

## **II. Water Authority**

This issue will be discussed at the Open Government and Rules Committee meeting later this evening.

## **III. Park and Recreation Advisory Committee/Recreation Commission**

This item was not discussed at this meeting.

## **IV. Consistent Meeting Date/Time**

The Committee agreed to meet the first Monday of each month at 3:30 pm.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer,*  
Deputy City Clerk