



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, September 9, 2013
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, R. Corcoran

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

There was discussion about Ms. Howze not being a City resident or having a business interest in the City.

Delphia Howze (appointment – Diversity Board)

Mr. Corcoran questioned how long Ms. Howze has been employed by Penske. Ms. Howze stated that she has been with Penske for five years.

Mr. Marmarou questioned which building she worked in. Ms. Howze stated that she works in the building on Route 10.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how Ms. Howze learned of this opportunity. Ms. Howze stated that the United Way has a “Blueprint for Leadership” program which encourages business professionals to be involved in the community and that she was also invited to apply by Mr. Thompson from the local chapter of the NAACP.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Howze was a member of any other City board. Ms. Howze stated that she was not.

Mr. Corcoran questioned the duties of Ms. Howze’s position at Penske. Ms. Howze stated that she oversees the EEOC, diversity, and inclusion issues for HR. She stated that she works on

strategies and training for Penske and looks for mentoring opportunities. She stated that she also monitors demographics for new opportunities.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how many employees work for Penske. Ms. Howze stated that it is 1,800 locally and 17,000 corporate-wide.

Mr. Corcoran questioned what Ms. Howze would bring to this Board. Ms. Howze stated that she has a huge interest in this issue and that she would bring great understanding and experience to the Board. She stated that she has the background and experience needed to do the job and would bring a new point of view as she is originally from Pittsburgh. She stated that she would bring passion to her service and believes this is an integral issue for the City.

Mr. Corcoran thanked Ms. Howze for coming forward. Ms. Howze noted her hope that she be appointed.

After Ms. Howze left the meeting, Mr. Marmarou noted his objection to this appointment as Ms. Howze is not a City resident and does not have a business interest in the City. He noted that he has personal difficulty with Council continuing to name non-residents to BACs.

Mr. Corcoran stated that Council has that option if the candidate has the qualifications needed.

Mr. Marmarou suggested putting Ms. Howze on the agenda for the full vote of Council.

Mr. Corcoran recommends the appointment of Delphia Howze to the Diversity Board.

James McDevitt (appointment – Human Relations Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. McDevitt was related to former Mayor McDevitt. Mr. McDevitt stated that he is originally from Philadelphia and has lived in Reading since October 2012. He stated that he is not related to former Mayor McDevitt.

Mr. Corcoran questioned why Mr. McDevitt was interested in serving on this Commission. Mr. McDevitt stated that he was involved in the Mayor's LGBT Council in Philadelphia. He stated that he has many personal experiences with this issue and that it is close to his heart. He noted his hope that he can assist others.

Mr. Marmarou questioned which Mayor was in office during his service on the LGBT Council. Mr. McDevitt stated that it was Mayor Nutter.

Mr. Corcoran stated that Mr. McDevitt has a great background and experience to serve in this capacity. Mr. McDevitt stated that he looks forward to serving.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of James McDevitt to the Human Relations Commission.

Daniel Laws Jr (appointment – Downtown Improvement District Authority)

Mr. Corcoran questioned why Mr. Laws was interested in serving. Mr. Laws stated that he is currently a member of the promotional committee but wants to serve at a higher level. He stated that some issues being considered by DID are not in the best interest of the City and this will increase his ability to impact change. He stated that his business is located at 5th & Penn Sts and DID regulations directly affect him and his business.

Mr. Marmarou noted the excellent background of Mr. Laws.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Daniel Laws Jr to the Downtown Improvement District Authority.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk