



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, October 7, 2013
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

James Fegley (appointment – Charter Board)

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Fegley has the appropriate background needed to serve on this Board. He questioned why Mr. Fegley was interested in serving. Mr. Fegley stated that he grew up in Berks County and is a retired lawyer. He stated that he relocated out of the area for a time. He stated that when he and his wife returned, she wished to move into the City. He stated that he loves his neighbors and his neighborhood and that he has begun volunteering in the community. He stated that this is a way to give back to the City. He stated that he would like to use his professional skills as a lawyer and stated that his only municipal experience is with Zoning Hearing Boards and Planning Commissions. He expressed the belief that this would be interesting work and that he has begun attending Charter Review Commission meetings.

Mr. Marmarou stated that a former member of this Board who had a legal background did much research for the Board and helped to explain and clarify issues.

Ms. Reed questioned Mr. Fegley's feelings about the City's Charter. She questioned if he saw a need for change. Mr. Fegley stated that hearing the conversation of the Charter Review Commission has shown him that there are issues. He stated that those looking from the outside have a different perspective.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that Mr. Fegley would be an asset to the Board.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Mr. Fegley attended any of the Charter Board's executive sessions. Mr. Fegley stated that he has not.

Mr. Sterner stated that there are several Charter issues getting much publicity.

Ms. Reed stated that Council recently amended the Charter Board ordinance to remove some of the anonymity from the complaint process. Mr. Sterner agreed and stated that further changes have been recommended to Council.

Ms. Reed stated that the Charter Review Commission has begun meeting in Council districts to get additional public input. Mr. Fegley agreed with this approach and stated that Charter Board members must remain open-minded and be apolitical.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of James Fegley to the Charter Board.

Todd Rathman (reappointment – Electrician's Examining Board)

Mr. Marmarou questioned if this Board was busy. Mr. Rathman stated that it is.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Board received many complaints about unlicensed work being done in the City. Mr. Rathman stated that the Board members and the City Electrical Inspector work to stop as much of that as they can. He stated that the inspector is notified when unlicensed work is discovered and that he visits the sites. He stated that having only one inspector limits the number of incidences as he can't address them all alone.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the frequency of the meetings. Mr. Rathman stated that the Board meets quarterly and as needed as other issues arise. He stated that he hopes to stay involved as he has been serving for 15 years.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the Board work was time consuming. Mr. Rathman stated that it is not as meetings are approximately 90 minutes and are only quarterly.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Todd Rathman to the Electrician's Examining Board.

Barbara Coyle (appointment – Environmental Advisory Council)

Mr. Marmarou stated that Ms. Coyle does not reside in the City but owns property and a business in the City.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Coyle was interested in serving on the EAC. Ms. Coyle stated that she grew up in Berks County and has experience in the environmental field. She

stated that she performs work for the City and is an environmental advocate. She stated that Deb Hoag suggested that she apply. She stated that she is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is hoping to improve the City. She stated that sustainability is an important issue.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for qualified applicants.

Mr. Sterner noted Ms. Coyle's environmental knowledge. He noted that the City is always looking for new ideas. Ms. Coyle stated that she has made her business paperless and is investigating a new type of solar power installation (balls instead of panels). She stated that volunteering is a way to give back to the community.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Barbara Coyle to the Environmental Advisory Council.

II. Other Matters

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned the Committee's wishes with the application from Delphia Howze. She stated that no decision to appoint or deny was made at the last meeting.

Mr. Marmarou and Mr. Sterner stated that the Solicitor has opined that since she does not live in the City, own property in the City, or a business in the City she is disqualified per the City Charter.

Ms. Reed stated that she supports the appointment as Ms. Howze was recommended by the NAACP and that diversity and experience in these matters are needed on the Diversity Board. She stated that Ms. Howe's employer has a presence in the City even if she doesn't work at that facility.

Ms. Katzenmoyer suggested that she send Ms. Howe the "thank you for applying" letter. Ms. Reed suggested that she note that some members of Council supported her appointment.

Mr. Sterner suggested that Ms. Katzenmoyer contact Mr. Thompson from NAACP and suggest that he recruit City residents only.

Ms. Reed suggested that Ms. Katzenmoyer contact Mr. Toledo from the Hispanic Center to recruit for this Board as well.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk