



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, June 2, 2014
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner, C. Daubert

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Laura Cooper (appointment – Downtown Improvement District Authority)

There was a discussion of the high end retail that was available in the 100 block of N 5th St in the past.

Ms. Cooper stated that she moved to Reading last summer. She stated that she owns a law firm and had been involved in the corridor initiative. She stated that she has been involved with DID for several years as her firm was formerly located in the Stichter Hardware building. She noted her love of the City.

Ms. Cooper stated that many of her colleagues are moving their firms to Wyomissing but she remains committed to Reading. She stated that her building also houses a gallery and that she lives in the upper floors.

Ms. Cooper explained that she collects art and that she studied music at Julliard before going to law school. She expressed the belief that the arts will turn Reading around.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for more people like Ms. Cooper to become involved in the community. Ms. Cooper stated that many people she speaks with have become cynical after working for many years with no results. She stated that one person cannot make change alone.

Mr. Marmarou questioned who approached Ms. Cooper to apply for this position. Ms. Cooper stated that Mr. Broad approached her as she was already involved in the downtown community and attends meetings.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Ms. Cooper had any ideas for improvements. Ms. Cooper stated that she has ideas but understands that they must also be practical. She expressed the belief that Mr. Broad does a great job. She also expressed the belief that DID board members are very talented and knowledgeable and the meetings are run very efficiently

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Laura Cooper to the DID Authority.

Lisa Blount (reappointment – Human Relations Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Blount was interested in continuing to serve. Ms. Blount stated that she has been involved for several years. She stated that she enjoys this work and she has an interest in equality, justice and inclusion for all. She stated that there are many landlord/tenant issues and that she feels she advocates for all citizens.

Mr. Sterner questioned if Ms. Blount saw an improvement in the number of complaints over the years. Ms. Blount stated that Ms. Talbot and her staff do an excellent job. She stated that it seems the caseload grows during the winter months when heat becomes an issue but otherwise remains consistent. She stated that the Commission is fortunate to have Ms. Talbot and her ability to acquire grant funds.

Mr. Sterner noted the need for additional members and questioned the functionality of the HRC. Ms. Blount stated that a new member was recently named. She stated that there is good interest in serving but that there is no follow through by potential applicants. She stated that the current members are a good team but that they are open to additional members.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need to recruit additional members.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Lisa Blount to the Human Relations Commission.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk