



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, October 6, 2014
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Lori Knockstead (reappointment – Stadium Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Knockstead was interested in continuing to serve. Ms. Knockstead stated that she has not completed her work organizing the Commission and completing their policies and procedures.

Mr. Sterner questioned how long Ms. Knockstead has served on the Stadium Commission. Ms. Knockstead stated that she was appointed in 2009 and has completed her first five year term.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Commission had access to a room at the stadium for their meetings. Ms. Knockstead stated that they did.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Knockstead felt the Commission should have its own space at the stadium rather than sharing the room. Ms. Knockstead stated that there is no space available for the Commission's exclusive use.

Mr. Denbowski arrived at this time.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he has heard from others that there are problems with the meeting space. Ms. Knockstead expressed the belief that there is not a problem and that they were relocated two times because the heating system had malfunctioned. She explained that after the

passing of former chair Greg Geiger, she and Mr. DeVera stepped forward into leadership positions.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the amount of money the Commission had remaining. Ms. Knockstead stated that it is just over \$900.

Ms. Knockstead explained that there is open communication between the Phils and the Commission. She stated that the Commission is involved at the stadium.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there is a group of residents in the northwest section of the City that object to the fireworks. Ms. Knockstead stated that the displays are only 20 minutes long. She stated that the facility is part of the community. Mr. Sterner agreed and stated that fireworks are a big attraction to visitors.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if there was a rotating duty schedule for commissioners. Ms. Knockstead stated that there is not. She stated that this changed while Mr. Geiger was chair and that the Phils do not believe the commissioners need to act as greeters. She stated that they have other responsibilities.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Knockstead felt it was important for commissioners to serve as greeters. Ms. Knockstead again stated that the Phils spoke with Mr. Geiger in the past and stated that they did not feel it was necessary for commissioners to act as greeters.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that greeting is an important part of being a commissioner as they serve as the link between the fans and the Phils. Ms. Knockstead stated that operations are different now but she stated that she is willing to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that the public should see the commissioners when they arrive. Ms. Knockstead again stated that she was willing to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that it is a good idea to have commissioners as greeters.

Mr. Sterner questioned who made the public relations decisions. Ms. Knockstead stated that it is the chair.

Mr. Sterner questioned if there was an operational relationship between the Phils and RBI. Ms. Knockstead expressed the belief that there was not.

Ms. Knockstead stated that she has been working to get the Commission organized. She stated that policy and procedure are being set and she is tracking volunteer hours.

Mr. Marmarou requested that if the Commission needs anything that they let him know.

Ms. Knockstead stated that the Commission should have nine members and currently has seven. Mr. Denbowski agreed. He stated that he attended the last Commission meeting. He stated that there is an amendment before Council to change the GPU Stadium Commission to the First Energy Stadium Commission. He stated that the Commission should follow the Sunshine Law and provide for public comment. He stated that Mr. Ruyak will be the staff liaison to the Stadium Commission. He stated that this will serve as a bridge between the Phils and the Commission in regards to capital projects.

Ms. Knockstead stated that the City coordinates the capital projects with the Phils and uses the Commission's \$5000 annual budget. Mr. Denbowski noted his hope that Mr. Ruyak's presence will give the Commission input into the capital projects.

Ms. Knockstead stated that the Commission spent most of the last year working on rules and procedures. She stated that the rules and procedures were adopted at the Commission's last meeting. She noted the need to establish standards.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the Commission kept any proceeds from fundraising. Ms. Knockstead stated that they did not.

Mr. Sterner questioned the \$900. Ms. Knockstead noted her understanding that these are the remaining beer sales proceeds.

Mr. Sterner questioned how these funds will be used. Ms. Knockstead stated that in the past they were used to purchase items to hand out at the Labor Day Parade. She stated that it is unclear how the funds can be used and so they are not being used at this time. She noted the need for a policy on the issue.

Mr. Sterner questioned if the Commission ever needs funds. Ms. Knockstead stated that they do not need funds at this time. Mr. Denbowski stated that the \$5000 allocation for the Commission is used by the Phils for capital projects. He noted the need for a more formal process.

Mr. Marmarou stated that in the past the funds were used for parties, shirts, etc. He stated that they received funds annually through the proceeds of beer sales.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Lori Knockstead to the Stadium Commission.

Troy Stricker (reappointment – Stadium Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Stricker had anything to add to Ms. Knockstead's comments. Mr. Stricker stated that he did not. He stated that he agreed with Ms. Knockstead that the Commission spent much time working on procedures. He stated that Mr. Geiger's passing caught them off-guard and that no one else knew his procedures at the time.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Stricker felt the Commission should have its own meeting space at the stadium. Mr. Sterner stated that according to Ms. Knockstead, they have a meeting space in the stadium. Mr. Stricker stated that the meetings were moved several times.

Mr. Marmarou noted that different members have different opinions. He stated that other members also feel the Commission should have its own meeting space. He stated that when he left the Commission to serve on Council the Commission had over \$9000. He again noted that the commissioners should continue to act as greeters. Mr. Stricker stated that the Commission acts as greeters when the summer interns have returned to school.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Stricker had any recommendations. Mr. Stricker stated that the Commission is organizing and moving forward. He stated that they communicate well and are moving in the right direction. He suggested that the Commission have more input on the use of the \$5000 annual contribution.

Mr. Marmarou suggested that the Commission determine how to spend the allocation, not the Phils.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the Commission reported to Council in the past. Mr. Stricker stated that Mr. DeVera and Ms. Knockstead will be reporting to Council each January.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Troy Stricker to the Stadium Commission.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the Mayor's office is working on two more members for the Commission who have backgrounds in baseball.

II. Other

Mr. Marmarou stated that an applicant for the Water Authority has falsified his application. He stated that the applicant owes over \$40,000 in water/sewer fees and is behind on his payment plan.

Mr. Sterner questioned if this applicant should be considered to serve on the Authority.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the mayor does not support this candidate as he did not bring the name forward. He stated that the City Solicitor has opined that the mayor makes appointments to the Authority with Council confirmation. *Note: Stevens and Lee provided an opinion stating that Council makes RAWA appointments solely.*

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that in the past the mayor did not make recommendations to the Water Authority - that members were appointed by Council only. She stated that there are differing

opinions on this issue. She stated that Mr. Acosta requested waiting before moving this applicant forward.

Mr. Sterner expressed the belief that this would become another political issue.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk