



# CITY COUNCIL

## Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, October 19, 2015  
Meeting Report

**Attendance:** S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

### I. Interview

#### Steven Belinski (reappointment – Housing Authority)

Mr. Belinski stated that he has served on the Housing Authority for 27 years.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Belinski regularly attends meetings and if a quorum is reached. Rev. Belinski stated that he attends most meetings and that a quorum is regularly attained. He stated that it is becoming a bit more difficult to reach a quorum since the passing of Mr. Giddens.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Housing Authority had alternate members. Rev. Belinski stated that it does not. He stated that the Housing Authority has five seats and all four remaining members are very faithful.

Mr. Marmarou questioned what the Housing Authority does. Rev. Belinski stated that it provides safe, decent, affordable housing to the City's most needy. He stated that they also manage other middle income facilities and these funds are used to subsidize other programs. He stated that they recently purchased the former Easter Seals facility to open a medical clinic.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz praised the Housing Authority for this project and stated that it should reduce the number of emergency room visits. Rev. Belinski agreed and stated that it was also difficult for Oakbrook residents to get to the downtown medical clinic as it required three different bus transfers.

Rev. Belinski stated that the Housing Authority has begun working with the IRS to verify income since rent is income based. He stated that when residents are caught misrepresenting income they move out. He stated that the Housing Authority is at 97% occupancy levels.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the Housing Authority's involvement with ReDesign Reading. Rev. Belinski stated that the Executive Director attends meetings. He stated that the Housing Authority does contribute financially to ReDesign Reading.

Rev. Belinski described how safe the Housing Authority's properties are.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if there were any issues that the City could assist with. Rev. Belinski praised the Police Department for their work with the Housing Authority properties. He stated that they walk and bike the areas and know the residents and that they provide monthly activity reports. He stated that their presence will often times diffuse difficult situations before they become problematic. He noted the need for more housing as they have an approximate two year waiting list.

Mr. Marmarou stated that this type of police presence used to be City-wide.

Rev. Belinski noted the need for additional board members to become trained and certified. He stated that he is currently the only certified commissioner and that this will be his last term. He stated that his goal is to have another commissioner certified before this next term ends. He recommended that Mr. Pawling pursue certification as he has been a dedicated member since joining the Authority. He stated that Mr. Pawling attends meetings and participates in events with residents.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the Authority managed any downtown properties. Rev. Belinski stated that they manage several downtown properties in partnership with Our City Reading including the Goggleworks Apartments. He stated that the Bookbindery project was not financially feasible and that they are currently talking with Berks Women in Crisis about the 3<sup>rd</sup> & Chestnut property.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how the Authority could improve its operations. Rev. Belinski noted the need for better communication between the administrative areas.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that guidelines and operating procedures can assist with this issue. Rev. Belinski agreed.

Rev. Belinski stated that the Authority board will be passing a resolution at its next meeting which will require the Authority board to approve all spending over \$10,000.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the function of the Community Development Corporation. Rev. Belinski stated that Mr. Luckey attends the meetings and that the Authority contributes \$20,000 annually.

**The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Steven Belinski to the Housing Authority.**

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

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