



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, April 4, 2016
Meeting Report

Attendance: S. Marmarou, J. Slifko, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Michel Micozzi (appointment – Library Board)

Mr. Marmarou noted that Mr. Micozzi is not a City resident and does not own property or a business in Reading. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she has confirmed with the City Solicitor that Mr. Micozzi is eligible to serve.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Micozzi was interested in serving on the Library Board. Mr. Micozzi stated that he would like to give back to the community. He stated that he has experience managing facilities and that he was approached by a member of the Library Board to assist with facilities.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Mr. Micozzi was familiar with the library's facilities. Mr. Micozzi stated that he was given a tour of the facilities by Ms. Dietrich. He noted the excellent work done during the recent renovations but noted that aging facilities always need work.

Mr. Slifko questioned if Mr. Micozzi had experience with Reading facilities. Mr. Micozzi stated that his business has performed much work in Reading.

Mr. Slifko questioned if the Library Board recruited him specifically. Mr. Micozzi stated that they approached Mr. Burkey who was unable to serve. He stated that Mr. Burkey recommended that he serve. He stated that his office is located near Alvernia University.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Micozzi believes there should be a Library Tax. Mr. Micozzi stated that taxes are always debatable. He stated that Reading's library is a free public library.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Library Tax is a dedicated portion of the City's real estate taxes and will provide a consistent funding stream for library operations. Mr. Micozzi noted the need for consistent funding as the endowments are running out.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Micozzi would be able to attend Board meetings. Mr. Micozzi stated that he would. He stated that Reading is a great City and that he would like to help make it greater.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if Mr. Micozzi was a member of the library. Mr. Micozzi stated that he is not currently but that he would become one if appointed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the main branch is a Carnegie library. She stated that libraries are changing. Mr. Micozzi agreed and stated that the library also helps with educating residents and assisting with employment searches.

Mr. Marmarou stressed the importance of education. He noted the need for residents to understand that the library is free and open to the public.

Mr. Slifko stated that he is impressed with the services provided by the Reading Public Library.

The Committee noted its pleasure that Mr. Micozzi is willing to serve the City by becoming a member of the Library Board.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Michel Micozzi to the Library Board.

Wesley Zimmerman (appointment – Audit Committee)

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned why Mr. Zimmerman was interested in serving on the Audit Committee. Mr. Zimmerman stated that it is a good fit with his background and experience.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned why Mr. Zimmerman thought the Audit Committee is needed. Mr. Zimmerman noted the need for checks and balances with financial operations.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz explained that the City has a Finance office, the Council has a Finance Committee and that there is an elected Auditor. She questioned if Mr. Zimmerman was familiar with the recent Baker Tilly report. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he is only aware of what has appeared in the newspaper. He stated that he is not interested in serving for fame or fortune. He

noted his attention to detail and willingness to coordinate all parties. He stated that he would bring a fresh perspective.

Mr. Slifko questioned how often the Committee meets. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she is unsure but that it is her understanding that they have not met for some time.

Mr. Slifko reviewed the duties of the Committee.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the City's finances drive its operations. She questioned Mr. Zimmerman's financial experience. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he is a financial advisor and has experience with taxes and insurance. He noted the need for consistent processes and attention to detail.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the information contained in the Baker Tilly report was already known through the City's annual external audit. He stated that many former findings have been corrected.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Audit Committee will also review the audit findings and recommend ways to correct the processes. She stated that the external auditor does not feel the City needs a forensic audit at this time. She reminded all that the FBI is still conducting its own investigation.

Mr. Zimmerman noted the need for a City of Reading's size to work to reduce opportunities for fraud.

Mr. Slifko questioned if Mr. Zimmerman had time to serve. Mr. Zimmerman stated that he does as his schedule allows flexibility.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of this Committee. She noted the need for the Committee to review the current audit findings. She expressed the belief that each time there is staff turnover in Finance there are additional delays correcting the findings.

Mr. Slifko stated that progress has been made but that more work is needed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed and stated that some findings are more egregious than others. She noted the need for standard operating procedures and stated that the Audit Committee can have a very powerful role.

Mr. Slifko questioned who the Audit Committee reported to. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the Committee should report to the Council Finance Committee or at a Committee of the Whole. She noted the need for Council and the Administration to be on the same page.

Mr. Marmarou described the situation in the past where boxes of uncashed checks were found. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this proves that there is a lack of standard operating procedures.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Wesley Zimmerman to the Audit Committee.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the pending applications memo and the chart of current openings. Mr. Slifko stated that he will recruit members as part of his next BCTV program.

II. Review of Additional Council Liaisons

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the City Clerk has identified the boards, authorities, and commissions where Council can appoint non-voting liaisons. She stated that the list will be reviewed in detail at the next meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk