



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, June 6, 2016
Meeting Report**

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

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interview

Chris Kern (appointment – Environmental Advisory Council)

Mr. Marmarou questioned how Mr. Kern learned of this opening. Mr. Kern stated that a former member of the firm where he works (Callie White) needed to resign due to her relocation out of the area. He stated that Mr. Beane spoke with him about serving.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the EAC has been very active drafting legislation (Riparian Buffer, Alternative Energy, Rain Barrel regulations) and that she is very pleased with their work.

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Kern is not a City resident but that he is highly qualified to serve in this position.

Mr. Slifko questioned why Mr. Kern was interested in serving. Mr. Kern stated that he works in Reading and is concerned about its environmental future. He stated that his qualifications make this a perfect fit.

Mr. Slifko questioned Mr. Kern's experience with environmental matters. Mr. Kern stated that he is often involved in environmental clean-ups with old storage tanks and their soil and water impacts.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Mr. Kern had specific concerns about Reading's environmental issues. Mr. Kern stated that he had no specific concerns at this time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the Brownfields issues at several City locations.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if these areas could be covered rather than having the soil removed and relocated. Mr. Kern stated that this is acceptable as long as a covenant is added to the deed to prevent future digging on the site.

Mr. Slifko questioned if leaching could continue under the capping. Mr. Kern stated that this must be taken into consideration during evaluation. He stated that the site should continue to be monitored after it is capped to determine if contamination is occurring downstream. He stated that in order to cap the site it must be demonstrated that there will be no future impact.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the interesting position the City is in with PA DEP and US EPA regarding the waste water treatment plant. Mr. Kern stated that most of the remediation that occurs is due to prior generation's actions.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that Mr. Kern is knowledgeable about environmental issues and that his background and experience are excellent for this position.

Mr. Slifko stated that all EAC members have great backgrounds. Ms. Katzenmoyer described the backgrounds of each member.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the current topics that the EAC is discussing. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that they have also looked at the issue of adding fluoride to drinking water. She noted her concern about the hazardous materials traveling through the City by train.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he grew up on Poplar St and that his mother would need to clean the front of their home weekly to remove the train soot.

Mr. Kern stated that he spent several years in Pittsburgh and understands the issue with soot. He stated that they have done a fantastic job addressing their environmental issues. Mr. Slifko agreed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the City is surrounded by woodlands and that the animals tend to come into the City.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the EAC meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at noon. She questioned if Mr. Kern would be available to attend meetings. Mr. Kern stated that he would be able to attend.

Mr. Kern questioned if the City's trash/litter issue is being addressed. Mr. Slifko stated that 60% of City residents are on the City's trash removal system, 20% have private haulers and 20% have no hauler. Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that when the City learns that a property does not

have a hauler that it should be added to the City's system. He stated that they should also be cited. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the hybrid system is inefficient.

Mr. Slifko suggested that the EAC take a position on this issue. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed.

Mr. Kern questioned the current members of the EAC. Ms. Katzenmoyer again described their backgrounds.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Chris Kern to the Environmental Advisory Council.

II. Appointees

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested a legal opinion on removal of appointees to boards, authorities, and commissions when it is known that the appointee is not working well.

Mr. Slifko stated that this committee cannot removal members.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the enabling legislation allows for removal for malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance. She stated that the removal would need to be by Council resolution.

III. Other Matters

- Code Enforcement

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she requested this topic be added to the Strategic Planning agenda to discuss the issue with the Mayor and Managing Director.

- Jeep Club Event

Mr. Marmarou relayed details about a Jeep club event which culminated with issues on Lemon St. He suggested that this also be discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that it be discussed directly with the Managing Director.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk