



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

Monday, August 15, 2016
Meeting Report

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

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, B. Rivera

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interview

Kelly Christman (reappointment – Shade Tree Commission)

Mr. Marmarou questioned the function of the Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Christman stated that it advises the City about street trees and assists in planting new trees. Mr. Slifko stated that the City has a Shade Tree Ordinance and that the Commission advises the City on all matters regarding street trees. He stated that they now have an annual budget and there is an arborist and assistant arborist on staff. He stated that they plant and help maintain street trees.

Ms. Christman stated that residents must maintain street trees.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that there is a tree on her property that began growing there on its own. She stated that there are wires above it and that Met-Ed trims the tree every few years. She expressed the belief that this happens many times in the City.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Commission received complaints and whether or not they performed a review of all the current trees. Ms. Christman stated that they review complaints with the arborist and that they do a review of the current condition of the street trees two times per year.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the street trees could be removed. Mr. Slifko stated that a permit is required.

Mr. Marmarou stated that he had a street tree in the past and was experiencing low water pressure. He stated that the tree's roots caused problems with the pipes and it was removed.

Mr. Slifko stated that street trees are a challenge. He stated that there is limited space to grow. There are many utility lines (both above and below ground) and line of sight issues. He stated that Reading has a harsh urban environment.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz expressed the belief that the flowering pear trees on N. 9th St are too large and should be removed and replaced.

Ms. Christman stated that 40 new trees were installed on N 6th St and are doing well.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned how the City could assist the Shade Tree Commission. Ms. Christman stated that more members are needed. Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the current membership.

Mr. Slifko noted the need for the Commission to do more with the funds allocated to it. He noted the need to increase the number of trees in the City annually. Ms. Christman agreed.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Slifko noted the need for more efficient planning.

Ms. Christman stated that she was impressed by the members of the Fightin' Phils who assisted in planting trees at the stadium.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Christman was able to attend meetings. Ms. Christman stated that she is.

Mr. Slifko thanked Ms. Christman for her service to the City.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Kelly Christman to the Shade Tree Commission.

II. Review Pending Applications Memo

- Mary Ann Ciarlone – Redevelopment Authority

Mr. Slifko stated that originally Ms. Ciarlone did not move forward because she has delinquent RAWA fees. He stated that Ms. Ciarlone believes she has good reason for not paying these fees. However, he stated that he does not recommend moving her forward for appointment. He expressed the belief that she is not cooperative and is not a team player.

Mr. Slifko questioned how the applicant was informed of this decision. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that staff sends a letter thanking the applicant for their interest and informing them that Council has chosen not to make the appointment.

Ms. Katzenmoyer was directed to send the letter to Ms. Ciarlone.

- Mel Jacobson – Planning Commission

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Mr. Jacobson prefers to be appointed to the Redevelopment Authority but that Mayor Scott recommended him for the Planning Commission. She stated that she has spoken with Mr. Jacobson and the Mayor's staff about this. She stated that this appointment cannot move forward until Mr. Jacobson and the Mayor finalize the recommendation.

- William Cinfici – Planning Commission

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Mr. Cinfici had a problem with his background and that it has not yet been rectified.

- Linda Sarangoulis – Animal Control Board

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Ms. Sarangoulis has completed the background. However, her application form was incomplete. She stated that she has contacted Ms. Sarangoulis but has not yet received the completed application.

Mr. Steckman arrived at this time.

Mr. Steckman stated that the Administration would like to nominate Mr. Palacios as the Community Development Department Director, removing the acting status. Mr. Slifko stated that this Committee does not make these appointment recommendations. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that a resolution must be acted upon by the full body of Council after an interview in executive session.

Mr. Steckman left the meeting.

III. UGI Meters

Mr. Slifko stated that 1,400 surveys must be completed in two weeks.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk