

# ***CITY COUNCIL***

## ***Nominations and Appointments***

### ***Committee***

**Monday, June 6, 2016**  
**4:00 pm**  
**City Council Office**

The Nominations and Appointments Committee will meet as needed to address nominations and appointments to the City's boards, authorities and commissions.

*Although Council committee meetings are open to the public, public comment is not permitted at Council Committee meetings. However, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe the meetings. Comment from citizens or professionals during the meeting may be solicited on agenda topics via invitation by the Committee Chair.*

*All electronic recording devices must be at the entry door in all meeting rooms and offices, as per Bill No. 27-2012*

#### **I. Interviews**

**4:00 - Chris Kern - appointment - Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **II. Appointment Recommendations**

#### **III. Review Pending Applications Memo & BAC Openings**



# CITY COUNCIL

## **Nominations & Appointments Committee**

**Monday, May 16, 2016**

**Meeting Report**

**Attendance:** S. Marmarou, J. Slifko

**Others Attending:** S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

### **I. Interview**

#### **Valerie Phelps-Robinson (reappointment – Human Relations Commission)**

Mr. Slifko questioned how long Ms. Phelps-Robinson has been serving on the Human Relations Commission (HRC). Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that she has been a member for four years.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Phelps-Robinson attended meetings regularly. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that she does and that she also volunteers in the office when she has time off.

Mr. Slifko questioned how often the HRC meets. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that they meet monthly.

Mr. Slifko questioned the types of cases the HRC reviews. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that the majority of the cases are housing and employment related. She stated that professional investigators give updates at the meetings.

Mr. Slifko questioned if the HRC then made the final decision on the case. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that they do not. She stated that the investigator and the executive director make the final determination.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if there was any assistance that the City could give to the HRC. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that the HRC needs another investigator. She stated that Ms. Talbot and Ms. Rivera do an excellent job but that an additional investigator would allow them to review additional cases. She stated that this would also allow Ms. Talbot and Ms. Rivera to do additional outreach and work on other projects.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if HRC members needed special training. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that HRC members attended training in the past but that funding has been reduced and currently only staff attends training.

Mr. Marmarou questioned the most frequent type of case. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that the majority of the cases are housing related landlord/tenant disputes. She stated that staff is doing outreach to educate both landlords and tenants.

Mr. Slifko questioned if HRC members had a function beyond reviewing cases. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that they do. She stated that outreach is done on housing issues. She stated that the EEOC pursues employment cases.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there was a problem in the past with landlords mistreating off-campus Albright students. He stated that the HRC assisted the students.

Mr. Slifko questioned the process to file a complaint. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that the complainant visits the HRC office and describes the situation and completes the paperwork. She stated that the executive director then reviews the case to determine if the HRC can assist. She stated that HUD is then informed and the investigation begins when warranted. She stated that if the HRC cannot assist, the complainant is referred to the agency that can assist.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if Ms. Phelps-Robinson enjoys serving on the HRC. Ms. Phelps-Robinson stated that she does as it directly helps people.

Mr. Marmarou and Mr. Slifko thanked Ms. Phelps-Robinson for her service to the City.

**The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Valerie Phelps-Robinson to the Human Relations Commission.**

Mr. Daubert arrived at this time.

## **II. BAC Liaison Review**

Mr. Slifko stated that Mr. Marmarou still needs to be appointed as liaison to the Stadium Commission.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this issue will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. She stated that at that time Council will determine who will serve as liaison to the remaining BACs (Stadium Commission, Shade Tree Commission, Human Relations Commission, and Planning Commission) and a resolution will be adopted by Council.

Mr. Slifko requested an email be sent to Council to determine who is interested in serving in these positions. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will send the email.

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the unique situation regarding an applicant to the Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Slifko suggested that the applicant be interviewed prior to a decision being made.

Mr. Daubert suggested that the applicant may poison the authority board. Mr. Slifko disagreed and stated that the applicant brings fresh opinions and new points of view.

Mr. Marmarou stated that this would set precedent for other applicants.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz arrived at this time.

## **III. Other Matters**

- Mineral Spring Hotel

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that she is aware of a woodworking business that must relocate. She stated that they are interested in this site.

Mr. Daubert stated that this will be discussed at the Standards of Living Committee meeting this evening.

- Posting of Properties

Mr. Marmarou stated that the policy has changed. There was a brief discussion. This will be addressed at the Standards of Living Committee meeting this evening.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:40 pm.

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



CITY OF READING  
BOARDS AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS  
APPLICATION FORM

Article X of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter encourages the participation of citizens in their government through the establishment of Boards, Authorities and Commissions to carry out City business. Broad citizen participation is encouraged in the recruitment of appointees and in making appointments.

No appointee of any board, authority, or commission shall hold any other elected public office or any compensated position for the City. No person may serve concurrently on more than one board, authority or commission. The Charter requires all appointees to be residents of the City of Reading. At the discretion of Council, persons not residing in the City may be appointed if they have a significant property holding or business interest in the City.

Name: Chris Kern  
Address: 434 Mountain Blvd., Wernersville, PA 19565  
Years living at this address: 14  
Date of Birth: 12/02/65  
Occupation: Professional Geologist (Environmental Consultant)  
Place of Employment & Address: Liberty Environmental, Inc.  
50 N. Fifth St. 5th floor  
Reading, PA 19601  
Telephone: Day 610-375-9301 x210 Evening 610-413-5147  
E-mail: ckern@libertyenviro.com

If you need more space for any of the questions below, please use the back of this form.  
If you have a current resume, please attach it to this completed application.

1. What Board, Authority or Commission are you interested in serving on? Why?

Environmental Advisory Council.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. In your opinion, what is the primary purpose of this board?

To make recommendations to City Council concerning environmental<sup>1</sup>

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matters, potential environmental problems (unsafe practices)  
and make recommendations for environmental sustainability.

3. What skills, abilities or other characteristics do you have that will help the Board successfully achieve its purpose?

I have more than 25 years experience in environmental compliance, site assessment, site characterization & remediation. I have good written and oral communication skills and a strong interest in environmental sustainability.

4. Have you had any previous experience with this particular board? If yes, please describe.

No.

5. Have you served in any other volunteer roles in the community? (e.g. youth organizations, church, etc.) Please list.

Secretary of the Tulpehocken Settlement Historical Society 1995-1998  
Sunday School Teacher - Calvary Bible Fellowship Church - periodically

6. Have you ever been employed by the City of Reading? If so, please list.

No.

7. In a business relationship, have you ever provided goods or services for the City? If so, please describe.

As the owner of Hafer Environmental Services we performed a underground tank removal and remediation project for the Reading Area Parking Authority.

8. Have you served previously on any other City of Reading Board, Authority, or Commission or in any other advisory capacity? If yes, please list the position and date(s) of service.

No.

9. Are you currently a registered voter? Yes  No

10. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes  No

11. Do you own any properties or businesses in the City? If so, please list.

No.

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12. Do you have any water/sewer bills, property taxes, codes violations, or fines which are delinquent for 6 months or longer? If so, please list and provide explanation.

*No.*

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I verify that the statements made in this application are true and correct. I understand that any false statements herein are made subject to penalties of 18 PA.C.S. 4904, relating to unsworn falsification of authorities. I consent to and authorize, without reservation, the City of Reading to obtain information relating to my law enforcement record, convictions for other than Summary Offenses, my tax payment record (including all applicable taxes payable to the City of Reading), and my utility payment records. Convictions or tax delinquencies will not automatically disqualify the applicant. I authorize each applicable agency to which this form is presented to release any results, upon request of the City of Reading, as described above. Copies of this consent that show my signature are as valid as the original signed by me. This consent is valid until the termination of my application process or my affiliation with the City of Reading, whichever is later.

I hereby irrevocably release and discharge each agency to which this form is presented and such agency's representatives and agents from any and all liability of any nature whatsoever in any way arising from or relating to disclosure of information of any nature about me and I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless each such agency from any and all loss, cost, damage, expense, or liability of any nature (including, but not limited to, attorney fees and criminal penalties) incurred by such agency or its representatives and agents in association with, or as a result of disclosure of information about, me. I further agree each agency to which this form is presented and such agency's representatives and agents are third-party beneficiaries with direct standing to enforce the release and indemnification provisions set forth herein.

Christopher M. Kerw  
Printed Name

  
Signature

4/5/2016  
Date

Christopher M. Kern,  
434 Mountain Blvd. Wernersville, PA 19565

Mr. Kern attended Penn State University and graduated with a B.S. in Geosciences in 1988. He worked as a staff geologist at JACA Corporation in Fort Washington, PA, for three years prior to attending the University of Pittsburgh and obtaining an M.S. degree in Geology and Planetary Science in 1993. After leaving Pittsburgh, he returned to the Reading area and was hired by Hafer Environmental Services, Inc., as a Hydrogeologist in 1993. He taught an evening geology course at Penn State Berks Campus in 1996. In 1998, he became a licensed Professional Geologist in the State of Pennsylvania and was promoted to General Manager, after which he substantially increased the scope of services offered by the company. Mr. Kern purchased Hafer Environmental Services in 2008. Hafer Environmental Services continued successful operations until it was acquired by Liberty Environmental, Inc., in October 2015. Mr. Kern currently works at Liberty Environmental as a Project Manager. He is an avid cyclist and photographer and studies martial arts. He currently resides in Wernersville with his four children and German shepherd.

Christopher M. Kern,  
434 Mountain Blvd. Wernersville, PA 19565

#### Education & Training

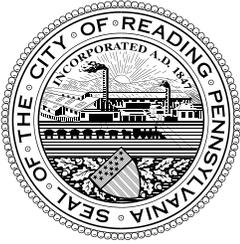
- Pennsylvania Professional Geologist (PG-000755-E)
- M.S., Geology and Planetary Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 1993
- B.S., Geology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, 1988
- 40-hour OSHA trained with up-to-date refreshers

#### Employment History

- Project Manager, Liberty Environmental, Reading, PA (October 2015 to present)
- President/Owner, Hafer Environmental Services, Reading, PA (2008 to October 2015)
- Environmental Geologist/Hydrogeologist, Hafer Environmental Services, Reading, PA (1993 to 2008)
- Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (1990 to 1993)
- Environmental Geologist, JACA Corporation, Fort Washington, PA (1988 to 1990)

#### Summary of Relevant Experience

- Performed more than 100 phase I environmental site assessments for both lending institutions and prospective borrowers, many of which included Phase II work.
- Supervised the closure and site assessments for more than 400 underground storage tank systems. Supervised soil and/or groundwater interim remedial activities.
- Performed numerous hydrogeologic investigations, pumping tests, slug tests, capture zone analyses and well interference studies.
- Performed numerous environmental risk assessments.
- Performed numerous soil gas and vapor intrusion investigations.
- Principle investigator on more than 100 site characterization projects. These projects involved the design and installation of soil boring and monitoring well networks to determine the lateral and vertical extent of soil and groundwater contamination, stratigraphic evaluations and preparation of conceptual site models.
- Expert preparation of 2D and 3D visualizations showing stratigraphy, cross-sections, soil and groundwater contaminant plumes, groundwater flow patterns, etc.
- Fully familiar with Act 2 technical and administrative processes under Chapter 245 and 250. Excellent reputation with the PA DEP. Responsible for more than 70 Act 2 site closures.
- Proficient with most standard analytical and numerical fate-and-transport, plume stability and natural attenuation and environmental data statistical models.
- Designed and supervised the installation of soil vapor extraction, product recovery, pump-and-treat, dual-phase extraction and bioremediation systems for the remediation of soil and/or groundwater.
- Performed karst terrain and sinkhole hazard investigations.
- Performed numerous geologic investigations involving geologic mapping, stratigraphic correlations and geologic structure analyses.
- Performed numerous third party reviews.
- Litigation Support and Expert Witness Testimony



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Nominations and Appointments Committee  
**FROM:** Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk  
**DATE:** June 6, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Pending Applications

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The following persons have applications for Boards, Authorities, and Commissions pending:

**Redevelopment Authority** - *2 openings*

- **Roberto Campitelli** - appointment - sent to Mayor February 2016
- **Mary Ann Ciarlone** - appointment - will need Mayoral approval

**Planning Commission** - *4 openings*

- **Melvyn Jacobson** - appointment - has Mayoral approval
- **William Cinfici** - reappointment - will need Mayoral approval

**Environmental Advisory Council** - *2 openings*

- **Chris Kern** - appointment

**Fire Civil Service Board** - *2 openings*

- **Michael Leifer** - reappointment

**BOARDS, AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS**  
**OPEN SEATS**

JUNE 6, 2016

Board, Authority & Commission	Mayor appointment w/ Council approval	Mayor appointment	Council appointment
<b>BOARDS</b>			
Electrician's Examining Board			2 openings
Plumbing Board of Examiners	2 openings		
Reading HVAC Board			5 openings
Zoning Hearing Board			2 alternate openings
Police Civil Service Board			Board full
Fire Civil Service Board			2 openings
			1 application pending
Board of Historical Architectural Review			3 openings
Board of Trustees of the Reading Public Library			City seats filled

Board of Health			1 opening
			1 alternate opening
Board of Ethics			
	1 opening		
Building/Fire Code Board of Appeals			
	1 opening		
	2 alternate openings		
Animal Control Board			
	3 openings		
Charter Board			
	2 openings		
Code & License Appeals Board			
	3 alternate openings		
Minority Business Board			
	7 openings		
City-wide Diversity Board			
			Board full
Main St Board			
	Board full		
Pagoda Foundation		2 openings	2 openings

**AUTHORITIES**

Reading Area Water Authority			
			Board full
Reading Redevelopment Authority			
	2 openings		
	2 applications pending		
Reading Housing Authority			
	Board full		
Reading Parking Authority			
		Board full	
Convention Center Authority			
			Board full
Downtown Improvement District Authority			
	1 opening		
City Revitalization Improvement Zone Authority			
			3 openings

**COMMISSIONS**

Planning Commission			
	4 openings		
	2 applications pending		
Reading Shade Tree Commission			
	2 openings		
Stadium Commission			
	Board Full		
Reading Human	2 openings		

Relations Commission			
Blighted Property Review Committee	Board full		
Environmental Advisory Council			2 openings
			1 application pending
Recreation Commission	Board full		
Audit Committee			
			Board full