



CITY COUNCIL

Nominations & Appointments Committee

**Monday, May 6, 2013
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, R. Corcoran

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

James Snyder (reappointment – Downtown Improvement District Authority)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Snyder was interested in continuing to serve. Mr. Snyder stated that he has been a member of the DID Authority since its conception.

Mr. Corcoran questioned if there was anything that Council could do to assist DID at this time. Mr. Snyder stated that the Authority has been functioning much better since Mr. Broad was named Executive Director. He stated that he is the chair of the Green and Clean Committee and that there has been increased cooperation between DID and the City. He stated that panhandling and vagrants are problematic and that the courtyard behind the Sovereign building has become a haven for the homeless. He stated that Police do regular sweeps and assist DID as needed.

Mr. Marmarou questioned having DID Ambassadors as sworn officers to address some issues. Mr. Snyder stated that he does not want to put the Ambassadors into this position as there is greater danger of getting hurt. He stated that Ambassadors address vendors without permits, skateboarders, and bicyclists.

Mr. Marmarou and Mr. Corcoran thanked Mr. Snyder for his service to the City and his willingness to continue in this capacity.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of James Snyder to the Downtown Improvement District Authority.

Cathy Curran Myers (appointment – Environmental Advisory Council)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Myers was interested in serving in this capacity. Ms. Myers stated that she has a 30+ year career in environmental law. She stated that she is currently teaching at Alvernia and also has experience in water and storm water infrastructure. She stated that she is very familiar with environmental issues and is committed to the City. She expressed the belief that this would be a good fit.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the City needs professionals on its BACs. He stated that Ms. Myers has an excellent background to serve on the EAC. He requested that Ms. Myers keep lines of communication open with Council.

Ms. Myers stated that she is very pragmatic and works well with others. She stated that she is also a trained mediator.

Mr. Corcoran thanked Ms. Myers for her willingness to serve the City.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Cathy Curran Myers to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Rick Mountz (appointment – Stadium Commission)

Mr. Marmarou stated that Mr. Mountz was involved with sports his entire life. He explained that the Commission members have fewer responsibilities at the stadium now but expressed the belief that Commissioners should still attend games to greet visitors and represent the City.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Mountz was interested in serving in this capacity. Mr. Mountz stated that he was asked to serve several times in the past but was unable due to his other responsibilities. He stated that he is now available and wishes to give back to the City. He stated that he has no intentions of moving out of the City.

Mr. Corcoran thanked Mr. Mountz for his willingness to serve the City.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Rick Mountz to the Stadium Commission.

Ms. Reed arrived at this time.

Carl McLaughlin (reappointment – Water Authority)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. McLaughlin was interested in continuing to serve as a member of the Water Authority. Mr. McLaughlin stated that his service has been a great

experience. He stated that he is learning a lot and that Authority members and employees have been very forthcoming with information. He stated that he is proud to be a part of this Authority.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Authority would begin accepting payments at their office. He stated that customers have problems paying at other establishments. He stated that the Authority office has plenty of parking available. Mr. McLaughlin stated that this has been studied. He stated that he is unsure if payments will be accepted but noted his understanding of the problems around cash payments.

Ms. Reed stated that security was noted as the main issue in the past. Mr. McLaughlin agreed and stated that the Authority works hard to make payments convenient. He stated that there are several ways to pay and stated that on-line bill pay is now available in addition to sending checks to the lock box and cash payments through the independent vendor. He stated that the Authority is making advances with their customer service.

Mr. Marmarou stated that the Authority taking cash payments would be advantageous as others cannot answer questions about bills.

Ms. Reed agreed and stated that many residents are confused about how to pay their bill.

Mr. Corcoran stated that trash and recycling will now be added to water/sewer bills. Mr. McLaughlin stated that this is a new addition but that the bill should be easy to read and understand.

Mr. Corcoran stated that he appreciates having the ability to pay on-line.

Mr. McLaughlin predicted that cash payments will decrease as more people move to direct deposit and on-line bill payments.

Mr. Marmarou stated that many City residents do not have bank accounts. He questioned if delinquencies were up. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the Authority is looking at this issue.

Ms. Reed questioned if Mr. McLaughlin was ready to serve another four years. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he was. He stated that the Authority has done many good things and has made great strides. He stated that they are working on beneficial projects and that they are beginning to work with the Reading School District on projects with youth.

Mr. McLaughlin thanked the Committee for the opportunity to continue to serve. He stated that he also serves on the billing panel and hears people's concerns first hand. He stated that this is a good experience.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the reappointment of Carl McLaughlin to the Water Authority.

Jean Howe (appointment – Diversity Board OR Human Relations Commission)

Mr. Marmarou stated that Ms. Howe has applied to be on either the Diversity Board or the Human Relations Commission. Ms. Howe stated that she is willing to serve in any capacity the Committee sees fit. She stated that her background includes social work, adult protective services, school teacher, management, the medical field, special education, and HR recruiting. She stated that she feels called to help the community and that she loves the City. She noted the need for the City to invite diversity and be inclusive. She stated that she enjoys working with people.

Ms. Reed stated that the Diversity Board would be a good fit with Ms. Howe's HR background.

Mr. Marmarou stated that there are more vacancies on the Human Relations Commission.

Ms. Howe stated that she is willing to serve in either capacity.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained the duties of the Diversity Board and the Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Marmarou suggested that Ms. Howe be appointed to the Human Relations Commission. He suggested that if Ms. Howe does not enjoy her work there that she should return to this Committee to be appointed to another BAC.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee recommends the appointment of Jean Howe to the Human Relations Commission.

II. Other Matter

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that there is a resident who continuously submits applications to serve on a BAC but that he does not have the mental capacity to serve effectively. She questioned how to proceed as this has been ongoing for many years. Mr. Marmarou suggested that this resident be told that all positions are filled.

The Nominations and Appointments Committee adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk