



Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Committee

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Roll Call: Chairperson Mota, Gerlach, Siegel

Discussion: Composition of the Board and Staff Support

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked if there were any comments from the administration.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the administration is in support of it.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked if there were any comments from his colleagues.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they have been working on this for quite some time now. They initially passed the bill a couple of weeks ago. They decided to amend it do to the composition of members of the board that will be selected. They will do the board the same way with applications sent to the Mayor and he will vet them out and appoint some people. After that, it will come to City Council and they will approve and not approve them. Most of the time, Council approves everybody that the Mayor recommends. By the time, the appointees come to Council they have already been vetted. They are suggesting that the Youth Council to consist of 12 members, appointing by the Mayor and approved by Council. Five members will be adults and representative of the Youth organizations interests or advocacy. one member shall be a member of the Allentown School Board. Six should represent youth, not older than 21 years of age. Recommendations can be made by the Mayor or any person in Allentown by an organization. The Mayor shall appoint the chairperson of the board with the approval of Council. One member of Council shall serve as a nonvoting liaison. The Mayor shall designate staff support for the Youth Council and that person would come form the Parks and Recreation Department. The terms will be four terms and it will be staggered terms. They shall serve four years. Two for three years and two for two years and one member will be for one year. Students shall serve for one year terms. He stated that this amendment will be submitted for vote at the next Council meeting. He asked if anybody had any questions.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked if there were any additional comments from his colleagues in relations to this. He asked if there were any comments from

the floor.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber suggested that they add one word which will be in the first paragraph, in the second to last sentence where it says "one member of Council will serve as a non-voting liaison" because the organization itself is the Council of Youth there might be some confusion of what Council is "one member of City Council shall serve as a non-voting liaison.

Mr. Julio Guridy asked what paragraph is that.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that it is the first paragraph and it will be the second last sentence. You are adding the word City to City Council shall serve as a non-voting liaison.

Mr. Julio Guridy thanked Mr. Palmer, Knoxley, Fred Montgomery, Richard, Mr. Perez and the rest of the board members and Council. He stated that it is going to be real nice and something they needed to do for a while and will help our youth a lot.

Mayor Ray O'Connell asked if Council had its City Council Rep or liaison. He stated that he believes it should be Julio also.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they have not made a decision yet. Let's see. He certainly look into doing it.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that the sooner they get started, the better. The liaison from the Parks and Recreation Department will be Chris Hendricks.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that the president of Council usually recommends that person.

Mr. Patrick Palmer, 617 Allen Street, stated when you have a board and they are voting on things, you should have an odd number.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated initially they said that they will have 11 members.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that it was 13.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that it was 13.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated that the school representation should be a mixture of high schools.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that what they did was rather than spell out the

schools, they choose and create diversity. The intend was to have non schools.

Mr. Patrick Palmer stated in case someone drop out or had some problems or disabled.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that Patrick and Fred submitted some recommendations on specific appointments. After internal discussions, it was decided to be not specific and to allow the Mayor and Council to make the decisions rather than be specific.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that they still can think about it, but formalizing the numbers is more important at this point. They can pass it and decide what is best for the Council.

Mr. Patrick Palmer suggested that when the board is being formed because he, Fred, Knoxley put so much into it that they will be able to be there for the selection process and have an input on the selection process. He stated that he was talking to the Commissioners in the county and they want to be involved and would love to have a liaison from the county. He stated that Dave Harrington would love to be a part of it. He stated that Emily and John were unable to be here. She loves you all and happy that this is able to be put through. They wanted more presentation for the youth. They are both hoping that this gets approved and this allows them to be better leaders in the future.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they agreed to it. It makes sense.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he is hoping that they become members themselves. He stated that he is not trying to have a conflict of interest. He suggested that everybody submits an application and Council and the administration vet the application.

Mayor Ray O'Connell stated that they will vet them, but will have member of the committee to vet them.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that these meetings will be open. Anyone in the public can show up for this.

Mr. Luis Perez, 1101 W. Hamilton Street, stated that they have been working on this for quite some time and wanted to let them know that they all have been communicating. They started an email thread. They and the youth have been working on a Facebook page. He stated that they want to make sure that they are involved so they feel that they are a part of owning it.

Mr. Joshua Siegel asked if there were any further comments.

Mr. Richard Lovell, 825 N. 4th Street, asked about the guidelines and the age limit. Why 21 is the cut-off? He stated that it says that they want to definitely have youth from the schools in the area. It gives the students of schools and the district an actual voice. It shouldn't deter people from the community that are willing to come here that have experience with the troubled youth in the community.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated as a youth, it is 21, but if the person can serve as an adult. He stated that 21 is just the age when somebody becomes an adult. He stated that is what we are looking for. We are looking for involvement.

Mr. Matthew Kloiber stated that when someone 20 and filled the term. Once they are an adult, they have to reapply as an adult. The specific circumstances will look at the committee and Council will look at that as it arises.

Yes: 2 - Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

[15-3222](#)

Bill 66

Establishing Article 180B, Council of Youth, to advise the Mayor and Council on issues impacting youth.

Attachments: [Bill 66 COY](#)

[COY Proposal](#)

[COY Amendment](#)

[Ordinance #15583](#)

Bill 66 was moved favorably to the full Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Ce-Ce Gerlach and Joshua Siegel

Absent: 1 - Cynthia Mota

Enactment No: 15583

Adjourned: 5:50 PM