

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

- - -

BEFORE:

Dr. Charles J. Martoni	-	President, District 8
Nicholas Futules	-	Vice President, District 7
John P. DeFazio	-	Council-At-Large
Heather S. Heidelbaugh	-	Council-At-Large
Matt Drozd	-	District 1
Jan Rea	-	District 2
James R. Burn, Jr.	-	District 3
Michael J. Finnerty	-	District 4
Krista Harris	-	District 5
John F. Palmiere	-	District 6
Robert J. Macey	-	District 9
William Russell Robinson	-	District 10
Barbara Daly Danko	-	District 11 (Via Telephone)
James Ellenbogen	-	District 12

Allegheny County Courthouse  
Fourth Floor, Gold Room  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Tuesday, August 20, 2013 - 5:05 p.m.

SARGENT'S COURT REPORTING SERVICE, INC.  
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 1300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 232-3882 FAX (412) 471-8733

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joseph Catanese - Director, Constituent Services  
Jared Barker - Director, Legislative Services  
Walter Szymanski - Budget Director

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The August 20th meeting of Allegheny Council will now come to order. Please rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

(Pledge to the Flag.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Please remain standing for a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

(Moment of silent reflection or prayer.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Green Hawkins?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Present.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Here.

MR. CATANESE: Thirteen (13) members currently present.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Proclamations/  
Certificates. 7682-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating Ms. Macaila Ziolkowski, for winning the 2013 All-American Soap Box Derby (Stock Division) World Championship. Sponsored

by Council members Ellenbogen, Macey, Finnerty, Danko, DeFazio, Drozd, Futules, Green Hawkins, Harris, Martoni, Palmiere and Robinson.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Hello, everybody. We're here to do a proclamation tonight for --- congratulations to Macaila --- did I say that right --- Ziolkowski, for winning the 2013 All-American Soap Box Derby (Stock Division) World Championship. How about that.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: That's great stuff. Well, I'm going to read you this --- you're the star tonight.

WHEREAS, known as the greatest amateur racing event in the world, the All-American Soap Box Derby is one of the oldest road races in America today. And those who compete in this race are part of a long-standing legacy that highlights the best that American youths has to offer; and

WHEREAS, in order to be a champion soap box racer, it takes imagination and creativity to design a vehicle that has durability, handling and speed you need to win. It takes hard work and diligence to build a racer once it has been designed. And it takes intelligence and grace under pressure to successfully command a soap box racer in a racing environment; and

WHEREAS, this year about 6,000 boys and girls, age 7 through 17, competed in regional competition in the United States, Canada, Japan and New Zealand, with 440 racers earning the right to compete in the 76th Annual All-American World Championship Soap Box Derby, in Akron, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on July 27th, 2013, Miss Macaila Ziolkowski, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, won first place in the 2013 FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby (Stock Division), making her the first winner of the annual Greater Pittsburgh Soap Box Derby (Stock Division), in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, to win a national title.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate Macaila Ziolkowski for winning the 2013 All-American Soap Box Derby (Stock Division) World Championship. Sponsored by myself and Council members Bob Macey and Michael Finnerty, and presented this 20th day of August, 2013, as I submit to you, Mr. President. I just want to say that it is just --- you know, all we do is Council Burn and I talk about this all the time --- is hear about the kids that

just do all the bad things. And it's just nice to know that there are kids, like Macaila, that are out there, that are intelligent, that contribute. And mark this tape some day, because this young lady is a winner, and she's going to be somebody someday, as she's proved today. Congratulations, honey.

(Applause.)

MR. MACEY: Thank you, residents, and obviously to Macaila, for representing the soap box derby. Soap box derby is run every year on Father's Day in McKeesport, on Eat'n Park Boulevard, along that hill, next to the high school. And I had the pleasure of seeing Macaila race, but I didn't see her win subsequent races; only win the first one, but not subsequent races. But we all know now, she's our champion; just going back to Pittsburgh, a City of Champions. And for 75 years, we haven't had a champion from this area, and now we do. Congratulations. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Let me say, that was very big of you to come up here, and do it again.

MR. FINNERTY: I don't have to really get up there. I'd just like to say congratulations, champion. It's great to have you in Allegheny County.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Do you want to say a few words to your fans?

MISS ZIOLKOWSKI: Thank you. I would like to thank the Greater Pittsburgh All-American Soap Box Derby and my family and Steven Butler, for getting me to do this. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7683-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating Ms. Cindy Hoffman for being crowned as the Women's World Champion in the 2013 World Horseshoe Tournament. Sponsored by Council members Ellenbogen, Finnerty, DeFazio, Drozd, Futules, Green Hawkins, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Is Ms. Cindy Hoffman here? There she is. This just gets even better. Mr. President and members of Council, WHEREAS, Ms. Cindy Hoffman, a Mount Washington resident and member of the Horseshoes of Pittsburgh Enterprises (H.O.P.E.) Club, in Carnegie, has been pitching horseshoes for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hoffman herself is state horseshoe pitching title in her division for the past eight years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hoffman qualified to play in the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA) annual world horseshoe tournament in St. George, Utah, from July 22nd to August 3rd; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hoffman's pitching win/loss record was 14/1 during tournament play and earned a final overall ringer percent of 69.63 for the tournament.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate Ms. Cindy Hoffman for bringing international acclaim to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County by being crowned the World --- the Women's World Champion in the 2013 World Horseshoe Tournament. Sponsored by myself and Councilman Michael Finnerty and presented to Council this 20th day of August, 2013. How about that, folks, the world champion.

(Applause.)

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Come on.

MR. FINNERTY: I know. I'd just like to congratulate you, and I think everybody in Allegheny County is extremely proud of our world champion. Do you want to say a few words?

MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you to my family and friends who believed in me. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7684-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation congratulating the Yellow Cab of Pittsburgh, upon the occasion of 100th anniversary. Sponsored by Council members Finnerty, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

MR. FINNERTY: I think you're here, Jerry. Oh, there he is. It's a great pleasure that I have the honor of reading this proclamation. Yellow Cab has been here many years, 100th anniversary, and we're very proud of the company that keeps people moving around the city. So without further ado, I'd like to read the proclamation; and then, Jerry, say a few words. I'm sure he knows more about Yellow Cab than I do.

WHEREAS, Yellow Cab, originally Pullman Taxi, began operating in 1912 and officially became the Yellow Cab Company of Pittsburgh one year later, 1913; and

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Yellow Cab was the first cab company in Pennsylvania and remains the largest taxi company in the state today, operating over 300 cabs on calls and advance service throughout Pittsburgh and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, through Pittsburgh Yellow Cab, every city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County citizens and visitors have access to safe, efficient, reliable and accessibility for hired transportation; and

WHEREAS, this year, Pittsburgh Yellow Cab is celebrating its centennial anniversary by rolling out a slew of renovations in its taxi fleet, including credit card machines, wheelchair-accessible taxis and alternative power-fueled taxis; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this Council recognizes and thanks the Pittsburgh Yellow Cab for 100 years of moving Pittsburgh and the region forward.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby congratulate Pittsburgh Yellow Cab upon the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and we join in celebration with Yellow Cab, with the Yellow Cab family, upon reaching this historic milestone. And it's sponsored by myself, Councilman Mike Finnerty, and many of Council members. Congratulations, Jerry.

MR. CAMPOLONGO: Okay. Thank you. I've worn out the joke. I don't look 100, but I've used that in everything I've done for this entire year. But thank you, County Council, for recognizing Yellow Cab, still here today. Surprisingly, we're half the size we were in the early '20s when there weren't two cars in every family and over 360 cars today; that's up. I've had the privilege of being president of the company since the last 23 years. So 23 years ago, we had 165 taxi cabs; today we have 360 taxi cabs. Back then we rode around 8,000,000 miles. Now we're up to about 21,000,000 miles moving people around, so 1.5 million trips a year. We have our bumps in the road. We have our service from time to time that we've done; a lot of new things this year to try to solve those and make service better for the public, including wheelchair renovation. We really are proud. And thank you, again.

(Applause.)

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: 7685-13.

MR. CATANESE: Proclamation honoring Mr. Richard L. Allison, for earning the Allegheny County Emergency Services Council's Emergency Management Services (EMS) Champion Award. Sponsored by Council members Martoni, Robinson, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Macey, Palmiere and Rea.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I'll read the proclamation. Mr. Robinson will have a few words to say, and then our honored guest, Mr. Allison, will have a few words.

WHEREAS, Mr. Richard Allison, Dean of Academic Affairs for the Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus, and Coordinating Dean of Allied Health for CCAC, was recognized by the Allegheny County Emergency Services Council for his significant contributions to the health and safety of residents and visitors to Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, Dean Allison was nominated for the Emergency Service Management (EMS) Champion Award for his work in the curricular transformation of the existing noncredit Paramedic Program, to a credit-bearing certificate and degree program; and

WHEREAS, through Dean Allison's leadership, CCAC's new Paramedic Program will be located at Boyce Campus and will have a state-of-the-art --- state-of-the-art science laboratory, with equipment for instruction and student hands-on learning, including a fully simulated ambulance, simulated interactive human body models and all of the equipment commonly used by paramedics in the field;

WHEREAS, the Paramedic Program was in the 25th Allied --- is the 25th Allied Health program at CCAC and is among the top largest two-year college producers of healthcare graduates in the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Allegheny County Council does hereby honor Mr. Richard Allison for earning the EMS Champion Award by his Allegheny County Emergency Service Council, and we thank Mr. Allison for his contributions to the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County. Mr. Robinson, do you want to say a few words here?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Dr. Martoni, and members of Council. I want to thank Dean Allison for his dedication to our college. As you know, I love the community college and anything associated with it and everybody who's there, every blade of grass. And the dean has been prominent, not only professionally but in the

respect that his colleagues have had for him over the years. This honor is well deserved. Those who have worked with him know that. Those of us who know of him appreciate what he has done for our college, the people's college. This is another example of the great work and the great people associated with the Community College of Allegheny County, which is sponsored by this county. This is our college; we're the sponsors. And so I thank the dean for his dedication, his hard work and his commitment to the students of the college who carry the banner, the banner prepared by him and others, as they move throughout the country and parts of the world, to send the most technically qualified medical personnel in memory.

The dean is to be congratulated; and hopefully, tonight he takes this proclamation home. I give you this honor, Dean. As I say, when you win something big, take it home, and when you get into bed --- I take it to bed with me for one night. Take your proclamation to bed and hug it tonight, and then go back to being who you were before the great contributor to our county. Thank you very much.

DEAN ALLISON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEAN ALLISON: Thank you all very much. I appreciate it. And as I look at this, I'm very much honored by asking --- your asking me to be here and giving me this proclamation. There is a --- there is a thread that's running through my life with emergency medical services, and it's through no fault of mine. It's really interesting that this is our 25th program at the college. We graduate about 500 students a year in Allied Health programs. And when I talk about this thread, in 1978, 35 years ago, September 4, I was in an accident in Westmoreland County in a little town called Derry; if you've heard of Derry in Westmoreland County.

And we were at a fair and, literally, a helicopter fell out of the sky, and eight people were killed, including my mother. Now, being a small town --- and the town was not even sure that they needed an ambulance or, you know, service. And this brought about change in Westmoreland County that's been unprecedented. People got together. And at the time, I was serving on City Council in Derry; Derry Borough Council, I should say. And they decided that we needed an ambulance service in Derry. So we built an ambulance association, and

somehow I became the president of the ambulance association. And jump 35 years ahead, and here I am in Pittsburgh. And a year ago, my boss said, I think we need to bring this paramedic program to Monroeville, and so we did that. And I'm happy to say that yesterday was our first day of classes, and we had 18 students. It doesn't sound like much, but it's more than we expected for a first semester. Our lab isn't completed yet, but with help from the Mellon Foundation and others, we have the capital that begins to build that. And it's just --- it's an honor to see this program and our students go out and the role that they'll play in saving lives in Allegheny County itself. I accept this for myself, but also for the Community College of Allegheny County, the program that we've run for 40 years for emergency medical services. So thank you all very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

DEAN ALLISON: Do I hug this now or later?

(Pictures taken.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The remaining proclamations will be read into the record.

MR. CATANESE: Let the record show that Councilman Drozd is present. 7686-13. Proclamation honoring Mr. William James Myers, a/k/a George, the Animal, Steele, for his lifetime achievements and induction into the Keystone State Wrestling Alliance (KSWA) Hall of Fame. Sponsored by Councilmen Burn, DeFazio and Martoni.

7687-13. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Joshua Pilarcik, of Boy Scout Troop 628, upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Burn.

7688-13. Certificate of Achievement awarded to Mr. Tony Au, of Boy Scout Troop 368, upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sponsored by Councilman Drozd.

7689-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Ms. Carolyn Petrina, upon the occasion of her 100th birthday. Sponsored by Councilman Futules.

7690-13. Proclamation honoring the 7th Annual Shyne Award honorees, including Three Talented Girls, Bidwell Presbyterian Church Young Adult Ministry, David Berkley, Jr., Tahjonai Gamble, Bryant Harper, Jr., Halie Smith and Nariah White. Sponsored by Council members Green Hawkins, Robinson, Burn, Daly Danko, DeFazio, Futules, Macey, Martoni, Palmiere and Rea.

7691-13. Proclamation recognizing Mr. Ocie L. Paige, for being honored by the Phyllis Wheatley Library --- Literary Society of Duquesne, Pennsylvania, for his community service. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7692-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Rudy and Pauline Campaneo, upon the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7693-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph and Norma Linhart, upon the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7694-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Phillip and Mary Spinosi, upon the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7695-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Lowell and Carol Gregg, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7696-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. John and Patricia Lipp, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7697-13. Certificate of Recognition awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Joan Whitney, upon the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Sponsored by Councilman Macey.

7698-13. Proclamation honoring the student interns of the 2013 Local Government Academy Municipal Internship Program. Sponsored by Council members Martoni, Danko, Finnerty, Burn, DeFazio, Drozd, Ellenbogen, Futules, Green Hawkins, Harris, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Palmiere, Rea and Robinson.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Thank you.  
Public Comment on Agenda Items.

MR. CATANESE: None.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Approval of Minutes. 7704-13.

MR. CATANESE: Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Allegheny County Council, held on July 2nd, 2013.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Do we have a motion on the floor?

MR. FINNERTY: So moved.

MR. MACEY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.  
Unfinished Business. Committee on Appointment Review,  
Second Reading. 7666-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of  
State Senator Wayne Fontana, to serve as a member of the  
Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, for a term to  
expire on May 23, 2018. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Is there a motion on the  
floor? Yes, John.

MR. DEFAZIO: Okay. Chuck, I'd like to make a  
motion that we approve this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. 7667-  
13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of  
William Brooks, to serve as a member of the Redevelopment  
Authority of Allegheny County, for a term to expire on May  
23rd, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion  
that we approve this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. 7668-  
13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the reappointment of  
James J. Dodaro, to serve as a member of the Allegheny  
County Industrial Development Authority, the Allegheny  
County Hospital Development Authority, the Allegheny  
County Higher Education and Building Authority and the  
Allegheny County Residential Finance Authority, for a term  
to expire on December 31st, 2017. Sponsored by the Chief  
Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion  
that we approve this reappointment.

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. Question?  
All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered. 7669-  
13.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: There's a no.

MR. CATANESE: We have a nay.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: That's okay.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah. 7669-13.

MR. CATANESE: Approving the appointment of  
Stephen (sic) Turman, to serve as a member of the  
Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, the  
Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, the  
Allegheny County Higher Education and Building Authority  
and the Allegheny County Residential Finance Authority,  
for a term to expire on December 31st, 2017. Sponsored by  
the Chief Executive.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. DeFazio.

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes. I'd like to make a motion  
that we approve this appointment.

MR. BURN: I think he said Stephen instead of  
Stephanie.

MR. CATANESE: I'm sorry, Stephanie Turman. I'm  
sorry.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Is there a motion and  
a second?

MR. FINNERTY: Second.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Question? All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Opposed? So ordered.  
Committee on Parks, Second Reading. 7671-13.

MR. CATANESE: An ordinance of the County of  
Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending  
Ordinance Number 07-06, the existing schedule of rates and  
fees for the use of the county recreational and park  
facilities, effective immediately, upon final approval.  
Sponsored by Council members Futules, Robinson, Rea and  
Palmiere.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mr. Futules.

MR. FUTULES: Thank you. Last week we had a  
parks meeting with the new fee structure, and we had a lot  
of conversation of what we were going to do in our county  
parks. And there were a lot of suggestions and changes.

So at this time, I'd like to amend, by substitution, and give a motion.

MR. BARKER: You have to move for approval and get a second, first.

MR. FUTULES: Move for approval.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: So moved.

MR. ROBINSON:

Second

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Moved and second. All in favor of approval?

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay.

MR. FUTULES: Okay. Now, I want to present the amendment. I need a motion to do that.

MR. FINNERTY: I second it.

MR. BURN: Was that motion approved, or was there a request to substitute before we took a vote on the motion?

MR. BARKER: We changed that.

MR. BURN: Okay.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think that motion was approved.

MR. BURN: Okay.

MR. BARKER: Yeah, the motion was approved first and then ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah, we changed ---.

MR. FUTULES: During the process, there are several fees --- if everybody --- we'll give them a chance to review it. Some members wanted some changes, and one was the Hartwood Acres, so we made some changes. We eliminated the catering fees, and we have changed the actual rental fees. The others --- I believe all of these are all changes, actually, from the original, if we have the original --- sure. Maybe we'd like to have Andy Baechle come up and go through it with us, to make sure that the members are comfortable with what we're doing and have any questions.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Andy?

MR. FUTULES: Do any members have any questions on what we're doing here?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Any questions?

MR. FUTULES: I just want to comment that this was months of work. It started in the spring. And Andy and myself had worked together with the County manager, and we have come up with new fee structures, based on our

overhead. I was trying to keep up with our losses. As we all know, our county parks cost \$25,000,000 a year to operate. \$18,000,000 comes from RAD, and we take \$4,000,000 out of our own budget to pay for our parks. And what we're trying to do is keep from going any further backward, as far as our rates. And we have compared ourselves to other counties, other parks, local, and we have been in line with other facilities throughout the state. And pretty much, quite a few changes were made. And if anybody has questions for Andy, you can entertain them at this time.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Any questions? Start down here, and then we'll go around. Go ahead, Jim.

MR. BURN: Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Baechle. How are you today?

MR. BAECHLE: I'm well, Mr. Burn.

MR. BURN: Good; a couple questions. It sounds as if you and Mr. Futules did some due diligence and have been working on this new assessment or this new schedule of fees for many months now; is that correct?

MR. BAECHLE: Yes, sir.

MR. BURN: And it looks like you --- your due diligence drilled down in one of our county parks, the amenities at this park at this region. And line item by line item, it was once in acceptable parameters, which once may have been a little high with what may be needed to be elevated in order to be competitive and not fall further behind; is that correct?

MR. BAECHLE: Yes, sir.

MR. BURN: And you did comparables with other county parks and other situated venues, not just in southwest Pennsylvania, you did comparables with your colleagues from other areas outside of this region; is that correct?

MR. BAECHLE: I have this binder here, and I tried to benchmark other areas.

MR. BURN: And for the record, that binder looks to be about four or five inches thick; is that accurate?

MR. BAECHLE: Yes, sir.

MR. BURN: Okay. That's what I thought. This wasn't just a matter of you and Mr. Futules sitting down and arbitrarily or summarily pulling some numbers out of the sky. You guys sat down, and you looked at each single one of those line items. You made comparables to your binder, which you just showed to the room and to the

Council, before you made the decisions that you made with respect to the adjustment of the fees; is that correct?

MR. BAECHLE: Yes, sir.

MR. BURN: And you continue to do this and continue to have these conversations about looking for ways to make these parks attractive to our community, our neighbor and our regions. We're always looking for other ways to find revenue streams, in order to fund the overhead and the maintenance of these parks, including the inimitable County Riverfront Park that myself and Mr. Fawcett introduced by legislation in 2007. You're always looking for other ways to find revenue without compromising the amenities and the beauty of our parks; is that correct?

MR. BAECHLE: That's correct, Councilman.

MR. BURN: And you're going to continue to do that in ways that make these --- some of our best assets in ways --- to look for ways to reduce overhead without compromising their beauty as we move forward to do that; correct?

MR. BAECHLE: To the best of my ability.

MR. BURN: That's all I have.

MR. DROZD: That was pretty good, though. I always respect Councilman Burn's Cross Examination. He's fabulous, and he brings out good points. All of them are good points. You know, tonight I'm going to vote against it because if we could separate the two and say anybody outside of Allegheny County can increase the fees, I'd be right with you; but inside, no. I get a lot of calls from a lot of people, a lot of seniors and that. You know, they just, you know, are against it and ask us that they feel --- you know, they cannot pay for more of it.

Let me ask you some questions. Even with these fees increases, do you feel it's going to really bring our parks up to the standards where they should be?

MR. BAECHLE: I believe it will give us more revenue to work with; yes, sir.

MR. DROZD: Will it bring it up to the standard?

MR. BAECHLE: Yes.

MR. DROZD: You know, I can go out there and I see a lot of --- a lot of, you know, maintenance that's really no fault of yours, just monies that are missing that we don't have. And we're probably one of the counties in the country that have more parks anywhere than anybody else in the country. Would this bring it into

that first class --- all those parks, a vision that you envision?

MR. BAECHLE: It'll be a step in the right direction.

MR. DROZD: Right; but will it bring it ---? I want to know. Step is one step. Remember when they went to the moon; one step for mankind? We're needing a big, huge step here to really bring those parks into world class.

MR. BAECHLE: Councilman. It's kind of a nebulous question. I don't know how to answer that.

MR. DROZD: Okay. All right. No problem. But I want you to know, what I'm going to introduce tonight will bring the parks into a world-class condition, comparable to what I've seen. You know, I did four national parks in five days, and we need a lot more than this, a lot more. Now, I don't want to put, you know, that part of it on the burden of the people of Allegheny County. I would go separately, if you can separate the two. These people from outside the county, they should be paying more. I agree with that 100 percent.

And I understand that I --- you know, I understand where my colleagues are coming from. But I have something I think better in the long run. It's really going to do something for our parks. It'll make us a showcase for America and the entire earth; you know, people coming here. I think it'll happen. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Baechle, and thank you, my fellow councilmen.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Anybody else on this side? Do you want to go?

MR. FINNERTY: Oh, yeah, I'll go.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Who was first?

MR. FINNERTY: Jimmy. We're just going down the line.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: So it's Jimmy.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Well, first of all, I'd like to thank Chairman Futules, Councilwomen Harris, Rea, Palmiere and Finnerty, because I know they spent an inordinate amount of time on this, going back and forth on every fiducia. Due to the locations of a lot of these parks being right on the county lines, I want the public to know that, and I appreciate ---. I know it's a little bit of a pain, some of it. I wanted fees to be higher to renting the facilities for non-county residents. I think that it's only fair. We provide police protection and we

provide Public Works maintenance and the things that the Parks people and everyone else does, and that our taxpayers in this county should get a break by getting it cheaper than people from out of the county, because of the location. And wouldn't you agree that a lot of our sellers, men or women, are people from other counties? So they got to pay more, the way I see it. And I appreciate the committee's putting up with me, as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: Thank you. I'd just like to point out some of the things that were said here and just to point out the facts. And if you go three pages deep here, you'll get to Roman Numeral V, and it says, establishing non-resident rate comprised of 25 percent increase in the current fee. So definitely, as Councilman Ellenbogen spoke, that we are charging non-residents of Allegheny County more to rent our fields, our groves, to get passes, et cetera. So I just am appalled by misinformation that's passed on here by some people --- who has left right now.

But this is something, you know, and we're talking about making our parks world class. And of course, everybody up here wants that to happen. We have to take steps to do it, and you need revenue to do things like that. And that's why this is so important. It's a beginning step. We know that we have a lot of things to do in our parks, Settlers, North Park, South Park, Round Hill. I don't want to forget that one.

MR. MACEY: Thank you.

MR. FINNERTY: And we know that we're going to need revenue to do it, and there's going to be a plan. Our parks director, Andy, and Clarence, they do great work. They have great plans with our County manager, to bring our parks --- raise them up, as they say. So I definitely support this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Nick?

MR. FUTULES: Well, I'll continue, but Matt's not in the room, but I was going to rebut what Matt actually said about --- he was talking about not wanting to raise the rates. Justifiably, the Hartwood Acre mansion --- we spent \$750,000 at the mansion and the upgrade, Matt. I'm referring to your rebutting your question there. We spent \$750,000 at Hartwood Acres. We have a new HVAC system that cost, more utilities to operate. The roofs were repaired, new bathrooms were

installed. And it's being more conducive for events at the mansion and it was justifying any rate increases; not necessarily are we making more money, but we're keeping up with our losses. At this time, we're an approximate \$4,000,000 in the red every year. If we don't make these changes, we could be \$4.5 million in the red next year.

So all we're trying to do is keep ourselves to neutral to minimal losses at our park. Also --- I forget. I forget the other part I wanted to mention. I brought the playing fields and other amenities that we have at the parks. Certainly --- certainly --- keeping up with the Public Works and the maintenance of our --- like I said, are very important. And the fact that you don't feel that we should raise fees, that's your business. But unfortunately, we have to do that, just to keep up. And that's it for now. Thanks.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. We'll go on this side, and we'll come back to this side. Heather?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Bob?

MR. MACEY: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I know I'm not going to break any new ground here, but over the years the cost of chemicals for our pools has gone up. The cost of fuel for our equipment has gone up. The cost of equipment has gone up. The cost of personnel benefits has gone up. I mean, let's just face it, the costs have increased, and we haven't increased our fees for quite some time. And you know, the amenities, we've also added amenities to our parks, like spray parks for young kids. And we've refurbished some of our pavilions and we put new ball fields in. So ladies and gentlemen, I think it's time that everybody pay a little bit to --- for the amenities, as well as the world renowned parks that we do have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: John, anything?

MR. PALMIERE: No, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Bill?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. For Mr. Baechle, go Buckeyes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Matt, did you have something to say?

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. Thank you. Mr. Baechle, do you want some of the people to use those fields, those ball fields? Some of our residents of our county, do they not maintain those fields? At least, that's what one of

my friends told me. They play after they play softball and they maintain those fields.

MR. BAECHLE: It depends. Some fields, like the soccer field, we have a contract with a group. And they maintain the fields and they pay us some rent. And they bill it in a bill, the money we billed them. So the majority of the fields we maintain ourselves.

MR. DROZD: Okay. And there are people that do maintain fields?

MR. BAECHLE: In two examples; yes, sir.

MR. DROZD: Okay. Secondly, what total revenues do you see these fees will be bringing in; how much total revenue? You projected that? I hope you have.

MR. BAECHLE: You know, there's a lot of variables; I guess, \$300,000 to \$400,000. But you know, I really don't know.

MR. DROZD: Okay. We need to do that.

MR. BAECHLE: I try to under-estimate revenue and over-estimate expenses.

MR. DROZD: I didn't think two or three projects within those parks --- they don't even cover, in one park alone. I'll go over that in more detail later. We're band-aiding this again. And again, you know, it's almost like the Port Authority. Every year we have the same discussions, and every year we really don't get the issue. And I'm not just going to keep --- no, no. We don't get the issue. We band-aid it. We really don't do what's needed. And there's some necessary things within that. It's not more money from us. It's more concessions. That's not what we're discussing.

MR. FINNERTY: Yeah, it's not.

MR. DROZD: But it's a comparison. And my point is that we're really only addressing only minute parts of the park --- the parks, in order to really bring them into first-class condition. And I'll outline in more detail. So again, you know, this is my concern. We just aren't getting enough here into these parks, to really make it world class, as we say, in a first-class park which you can see. And I've seen some just recently, even in Buffalo, New York, that I saw in other parks right along. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Baechle.

MR. BAECHLE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thank you. I think it's time. Everybody had an opportunity. Let's call a roll call for a vote on this. Okay?

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?  
MR. BURN: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?  
MS. DANKO: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Nay.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?  
MS. HARRIS: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?  
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: Yes.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, noes --- no, 1. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thanks, everybody. Liaison Reports. Liaison Reports.

MR. CATANESE: Excuse me. That was the amendment; the amendment passed.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Oh, okay.

MR. CATANESE: There's only 14 members present.

MR. DROZD: Can you clarify was that the amendment?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. I apologize.

MR. DROZD: We need a vote on that again, I think.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Now, we're going to vote on the bill. Okay? I guess that was the amendment.

MR. CATANESE: That was the amendment.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I apologize. It took so long, I thought it was the bill, and obviously, it was the amendment. Okay. We're going to vote on the bill.

MR. CATANESE: The bill, as amended.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: As amended.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

MS. DANKO: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?

MR. DEFAZIO: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?

MR. DROZD: Nay.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?

MR. FINNERTY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?

MR. FUTULES: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?

MR. MACEY: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?

MR. PALMIERE: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?

MS. REA: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?

MR. ROBINSON: Aye.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. CATANESE: Ayes, 13, no, 1. The bill passes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Liaison Reports. Liaison Reports. We'll start down here. Mike?

MR. FINNERTY: No, I don't.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Well, I know Mike has one.

MR. FINNERTY: I'll give you one, just to ---. I'd like to mention that Heidelberg had its annual fishing contest in Chartiers Creek, and it was a great success. We had about 80 people sign up for the tournament, and they had a great day in the creek catching a lot of

smallmouth bass. A couple guys fished a couple of carp, so it shows that our creek is getting a little cleaner.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Jim?

MR. BURN: Thank you. I just wanted to congratulate the Borough --- Millvale Borough Councilman Brian Wolovich. He started on a project before he got on the borough council. He had an idea to create a Millvale library. And despite how many folks said no, Brian, it can't be done, or we can't get the funding, or you can't do this and you can't do that, every time somebody said no to Brian, he would work 20 times harder to accomplish it. And this past Sunday was the grand opening of the Millvale library. So you know, Brian is one of these guys that we should all keep our eye on, because he's definitely a rising star and a great leader in Millvale. And his story with this library is an example that anyone, whether you're in a public position or in a private sector, that if you truly believe in something, every time somebody closes a door, you just keep knocking; or as Bum Phillips once said, you just kick the SOB down.

And he did exactly that, and it's a great project. It helps the mayor and the council out there market the community, because believe it or not, it's been nine years but they're still on the rebound from the devastating effects of Ivan in 2004. This is another example for leadership in Millvale. Just stake a claim on the future of that community, and Brian Wolovich led the way. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause).

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anyone else? Bill?

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. President. As I do each year at this time, I present to Council a tentative budget schedule, and I'd like to do that this evening with your approval, to have the Council's Budget Director have a copy of that schedule available for members. And you will see on the front page the persons who will receive a copy of this schedule. On the schedule there are some dates that are marked as tentative. Mr. Szymanski assured me that additional information will be forwarded to members of Council and others tomorrow, to address the issue of some of the tentative dates. If there are members of Council who need to have some adjustments to fit their schedule, please share that information with myself or Mr. Szymanski. I want to thank

the members of Council and our very competent staff for helping me put this schedule together.

This schedule is similar to the one that we used last year. I ask members to be diligent in reviewing this, as you have been in the past, and that you work with us, so that we might accommodate you in getting any information that you choose to get through the Budget and Finance Committee, and to share with you any information that we have that will be helpful to you as you make your budget deliberations. The first inquiry of the administration and affiliated agencies has already been sent, consistent with what we have done in the past years. Members again will be solicited for additional questions that you might have. We anticipate the answer to the questions that were submitted by Mr. Szymanski and myself, will come in the first or second week of September.

What we have done over the last couple years is, we try to coordinate this request with the request that the administration makes of department heads and affiliated organizations, so that staff is not burdened with collecting the same information twice and sending it out at different times. I want to thank the administration for their cooperation and helping us make sure this process is as efficient as possible.

As in the past, my primary responsibility will be to manage this process on behalf of County Council and to represent you in any discussion or negotiation with the administration. I will double my efforts --- re-double my efforts this year to make sure that all members of Council are accommodated, not only in terms of any questions that they would like to have answered through the committee, or making sure that any legislation that members want to propose relative to our budget, are processed in a very transparent and forthright fashion. For those of you who choose to follow your own path, that is your privilege and you're right. The Chair will help you if you need help. Mr. Szymanski is obligated more so than myself to help you, because he is an employee of this council. But we both will work diligently with anyone who would like to utilize us. We have a very competent staff, highly qualified, dedicated to serving us; dedicated to serving us. Let's not take for granted their ability to do that. Let's put them to the test, as we did last year, with Mr. Szymanski's first budget.

I gave him a little advice; stay angry but stay with us. Stay angry. Represent the interest of this council. Lastly, as everyone knows, I'm a strong supporter of staff, wherever they are. And so I will be supporting staff at every turn, to see to it that they could serve us best and defending them where I feel they need defending, because oftentimes it's imprudent for them to say anything in defense of themselves. That's part of my job as the Chair, to look out for staff, after I look out for the members. We are going to have a very thorough and respectful process. It's going to be as difficult this year as it has been the last two or three years, because simply, we need additional sources of revenue, and we need to find ways to pay our bills, simple as that. I will concentrate on that, to see that we can move in a direction to pay our bills and have a little bit left over.

This schedule is now in the public domain. Anybody who would like to have a copy of it, they certainly could see myself, Mr. Szymanski or Mr. Barker. In pulling this together, like I said, this is the system with what we've done over the last five or six years. In terms of scheduling, we tried to keep the dates consistent. This is a very difficult process for members. It gets more difficult each year because of our responsibilities. And hopefully, I will be of assistance to all of you who want that assistance, and I'll work diligently with Mr. Szymanski and other staff to see to it that you are serviced. Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you, Mr. Robinson.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes? Go ahead.

MR. ELLENBOGEN: I'm speaking as the Public Safety Chair, the county has become quite a bicycle county for folks. And lately, we focused a lot on safety of bicyclists. I'm an avid walker. I walk every day. And there --- for the most part, most bicyclists are very courteous and very respectful. But I'm starting to wonder if something needs to be done, in terms of, you know, walkers, because I nearly got hit by a couple of bicyclists in the last couple weeks that were not as courteous as most are.

I would ask the ---. Mr. President, I would ask you to ask your staff if you could get me from Chief

Moffatt and from the --- Chief McDonald from the City, the statistical numbers on bicycle accidents, with not only automobiles but with pedestrians, also, that have been recorded, so that I can make a decision on whether I should have a community meeting on this issue. At first I thought it was something that might not be something that was that big of an issue, but I've had a lot of complaints from a lot of seniors and a lot of walkers, and I, myself, have experienced it more than once. So it's an issue I'm going to be looking very hard at, in terms of trying to keep the bicyclists safe and keep the walkers safe, also. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Staff heard you loud and clear. Bob?

MR. MACEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of Council. I'd be remiss if I didn't speak for myself, as well as the rest of the Council, and thank our interns who we had this summer, Cassandra Dubay (phonetic) and Allie Barone (phonetic). They certainly helped out a lot through vacations and through all the work that we have to do our summer months. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Anything else for liaison reports? Nothing else? Okay. We're moving on. New Business; Ordinances and Resolutions. New Business; Ordinances and Resolutions

MR. CATANESE: We have none.

MR. DROZD: I have one.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You have one?

MR. DROZD: Yes, indeed; yes, sir.

MR. BARKER: You have to make a motion to add to the agenda.

MR. DROZD: I'd like to add this motion --- this referendum. This is a --- I wanted to ask for a referendum to be put on the ballot.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay.

MR. DROZD: I'd like to make a motion before Council to add on the agenda.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: So you make a motion? And we have a second to that motion; am I correct? Let me just --- do we have a second? I don't see it.

MR. FINNERTY: I second.

MR. BARKER: Still need to vote it.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: What do we do now?

MR. BARKER: Vote.

MR. BARKER: We need a motion to add it.

MR. MACEY: I don't know what it is.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I don't either.

MR. BARKER: We can hand it out.

MR. DROZD: Yes. My --- this says ordinance, and it actually puts on the ballot giving the people the choice. And there's been a lot of issues about the pros and cons and whether we drill in the parks for the gas. And I'm a strong believer, I've always been, in giving the people a voice, especially in major decisions such as this. It really needs to be aired, and people have to know. We have to really put the process out there on what it involves and what we're going to do, that we will do such things, that it is an environmental impact study on what's done, I understand, at the airport, the way it should.

And we have to look at this. We have to say, what's the benefit. In my ordinance, I break it out that 1/3 will be earmarked for the parks. That would be approximately in excess of \$8,000,000 a year. We talked here --- and the reason why I said I didn't vote for that is because --- for that --- those fee increases, there's a tower out in North Park. It's a metal tower. It used to be where people could go up and they'd see the panoramic view; you know, all the countryside. Just to fix that tower, we're talking \$100,000. It should be repaired. It should be maintained first class. We shun anything in our parks that aren't maintained first class. Our walking trails --- I walk --- how many of you walk it, the Rachel Carson Trail? I walk that all the time. Again, why should you kill yourself. We're talking about biking here. Some of those trails you can't bike. I have gone to a lot of other parks of the country, in North Carolina, in New York. Like I said, I did four national parks in Utah, alone. The bikes are --- the trails are unbelievable. You can hike them; you can bike them. You know, it's for the safety of the people. We don't have those monies.

These parks --- you're right. They're just a sleeping --- what I call a sleeping giant. With the right plan and funds, we could really bring it into the 21st century and make them the world class where we need to be. Our people, they do a great job for what they have. They don't have the funds --- they don't have the people power --- to really get in there and do what's necessary

to make them what they need to be. And secondly, the people of Allegheny County do not share the wealth. And this belongs, all this, this gas within this region, within this county, within this region, belongs to the people of Allegheny County.

I firmly believe in that. It's almost like Alaska, where the people of Alaska --- the oil belongs to them, and they do get a royalty from those --- that oil that is extracted in Alaska. And one part of my ordinance says it's going to be earmarked through new initiatives so there aren't any new tax increases, whether in the short or the long term, that the people will benefit from that. I mean, we talk and we wring our hands about assessments. We really haven't done anything to cure all the assessment issues. It's still lurking. It's like the Port Authority. It's still lurking, and it's like our parks that are in bad need of renovation and new things to be done in those parks. It's still lurking.

And we've got to really cut the dragon's head wherever and whenever possible. And this will give an opportunity for them to do it and will give the people the chance to say yea or nay. You know, we hear issues on both sides on how people feel throughout, and the majority should prevail. I always believe that; the majority of the people of my constituents is the way I vote. And I think this will give them an opportunity to voice their decision and say what they may in this case. So I would ask you to at least put it into committee. Let's take a look at it. Let's not be afraid, because these issues really need to be aired. We talked about it, we looked at it, but we really haven't heard the voice of the people. And we want to hear what they want, what they say. Isn't this what we're about to be representatives, to say the majority of our people and what they want? This is why we're here on Council? This is why I wanted to come here. And it's the only reason why I would or would not want to stay on any elected office, if I didn't represent the majority of my people.

Don't get me wrong. But at the same time, the way this country was founded in the Constitution, it's the basis on the majority of the decisions, as long as it's done in a good ordinance, environmentally safe, health safe in all those areas. And we have the technology today to make sure that's done. And maybe we may delay it until the technology has improved, until we know that it's

totally safe. And we can even look at those issues. But it needs to be put in committee. There's a lot of people here today that don't have a say, not just coming up and speak their three minutes apiece. They don't have a say. They can vote in that election, vote for it. They can --- it works one way or the other to whatever they know. And then we'll all air this, because you know why, in the end result it all belongs to us.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thank you, Matt.

MR. DROZD: So that's what I've asked. Thank you, Mr. President, and my fellow council members.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I have a question. I have a question from the --- it would go to the solicitor ---

SOLICITOR: Yes.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- or the ---, I don't know, in regard to the process of this.

SOLICITOR: Or both.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Mr. Drozd is asking that this would be put on the ballot in May '14 by the Board of Elections, on which I serve and Mr. DeFazio serves, as a referendum. Please provide me --- legally, I was under the impression that a referendum had to be placed on by the people, not by the council. Obviously, I'm incorrect.

SOLICITOR: Yeah.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Explain that to me.

MR. MACEY: Point of Order, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead.

MR. MACEY: This isn't even on the agenda. It has to be voted on.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I understand, but I have a question.

SOLICITOR: Yes, there is a process under the County Charter for placement of an issue to the voters by referendum.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: By the Council?

SOLICITOR: By the Council. Now, there are limits on that issue, and I need to get you that. It can be just a garden variety issue, and it's going to be an issue that affects the county, as a whole, and has financial impact. Again, those are the guidelines. So it can be done by this council and placed on the next referendum. That would, though, be subject to approval, as you just pointed out in the first part of your question, by the Board of Electors --- Board of Elections, rather.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Okay. And I just have a couple follow-ups.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Please.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Thank you very much, Mr. President. So assuming we have it on the agenda, we went to the committee and it was approved out of committee --- and voted on it was approved --- then the Board of Elections, which is Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. DeFazio and I, could have the option of saying yea or nay?

SOLICITOR: Correct. Now, there's a specific guideline under the Election Code that is to whether or not --- you know, the powers and jurisdiction of the Board of Elections. So it is limited to whether or not there's authorizing legislation that allows you to do that.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And the last question is, were you --- was the solicitor ---? I understand you're working with Mr. Cambest, ---

SOLICITOR: Right.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: --- but was the Solicitor's Office asked regarding the legality of what is currently in front of us?

SOLICITOR: No. Not on this issue, no. I'm going off of past experience with referendums, so ---. And I have some questions myself as to how this would work if it were approved.

MR. BURN: Mr. President?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MR. BURN: I understand that we still have to vote to get it on the floor, so we either ask questions now or after they're on the floor. But I would ask the sponsor --- I assume that once --- assuming this is voted on to the agenda, to put it right into committee tonight and not ask for a vote tonight, I would assume?

MR. DROZD: Yes. When it involves getting taxes to the people and help for our parks, I think it has to go into committee, and we all have to have an opportunity and others have to ---

MR. BURN: Can I ask you a question?

MR. DROZD: --- excuse me, bring the experts in.

MR. BURN: It was just a quick question.

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir. I'm ---.

MR. BURN: All right. You wouldn't want it voted on tonight, it would lose.

MR. DROZD: Yeah. No, no. My intention is to put it in committee.

MR. BURN: All right. The second question is --- and Mr. President, thanks for indulging me --- procedurally, I assume it's going to go into the Government Reform Committee?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I would think so.

MR. BURN: And once it gets in there, there's going to be a need --- there's going to be a need for a hearing or hearings, and then ---. So the sponsor, Mr. Drozd, has indicated correctly, folks can come in and weigh in on different issues that are indigenous to the language of this. And then along the way, it's quite possible that many of our colleagues may attempt to offer amendments to the bill and its terms. So is it fair to say, Mr. President, that if this were to go into Government Reform, this would go to hearing after hearing from now until the end of the year on discussion of this; and it would be altered or attempt to be altered. Is that a fair statement, sir?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think that's very fair.

MR. BURN: And then at the end of this year, because it's an even --- an odd number year, we have our Sunset Division. It's going to be a transition in Council; am I right?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That's a very fair statement.

MR. BURN: So any bill that goes in now, it's not going up for a vote by the end of the year in the Sunsets and just the whole process is having to start over again in January of 2014 with new council; am I right?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That's correct, too.

MR. BURN: Okay. So you know that the intention of the sponsor is to get this on the ballot by May of '14, but it sounds as if through Council and Ms. Heidelbaugh's questions and your analysis of the procedure, that even that would be a long shot. That's just my comment.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think your comments are all valid. I think that everybody on Council has a right to bring up and say whatever they feel, and that's exactly what he did. Okay?

MR. BURN: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: If it offended personally, I apologize. That goes for everybody. Question?

MR. FUTULES: Question --- legal question. Matt, you want to put up an ordinance on something that doesn't exist. You want to send it to committee

prematurely. I think what you have is okay, but I think prematurely you're putting an ordinance in something that doesn't exist yet. There's no ordinance on drilling in parks before us. You're talking about something that doesn't exist. This is nothing but a rumor. There's no exact ordinance in front of us today. Do you see what I'm getting at? There's no ordinance in front of us to --- that says what?

MR. DROZD: Am I supposed to respond, Mr. President?

MR. FUTULES: Yeah. Answer me.

MR. DROZD: That's up to the president, if he wants me to respond.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Why don't you answer and then let's move on. I don't want to ---.

MR. DROZD: Thank you, sir. Yes. We put many things on the floor when there doesn't exist --- or whatever, Mr. Futules. Yes, we have. And so it doesn't matter. This has been a discussion for how long? Let's get it out. It doesn't have to come on the ballot in May of 2014. I don't care. It doesn't --- I want at least to have the people ---. Don't you represent the majority of your people? Don't you want people to have a say in their own destiny when we talk about millions that are under our feet, whether it comes out or not?

(Applause.)

MR. DROZD: Do you want to sequester the people of this county?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Let's go --- We have something here. We're going to vote.

MR. DROZD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: And that's the end of it for tonight. Okay? Thank you. Thank you all for your patience --- your impatience. We're going to vote to put it on the agenda. Okay. All in favor of putting it on the agenda.

MR. DROZD: Aye.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We do a roll call.

MR. DROZD: Oh, yes, sir. Okay.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I think that's the best way to do it. Roll call.

MR. CATANESE: Mr. Burn?

MR. BURN: No.

MR. CATANESE: Ms. Danko?

(No response.)

MR. CATANESE: Mr. DeFazio?  
MR. DEFAZIO: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Drozd?  
MR. DROZD: Aye.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Ellenbogen?  
MR. ELLENBOGEN: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Finnerty?  
MR. FINNERTY: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Futules?  
MR. FUTULES: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Harris?  
MS. HARRIS: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Heidelbaugh?  
MS. HEIDELBAUGH: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Macey?  
MR. MACEY: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Palmiere?  
MR. PALMIERE: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Ms. Rea?  
MS. REA: No.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Robinson?  
MR. ROBINSON: Nay.  
MR. CATANESE: Mr. Martoni, President?  
PRESIDENT MARTONI: No, it's over. No. Okay.

It's done. Okay. Let's move on.

MR. CATANESE: One, for, 12 against. The bill fails.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yeah. Okay. Notification of Contracts. 7705-13.

MR. CATANESE: Notification of approved executive actions from July 1st, 2013 through July 31st, 2013.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Received and filed. Public Comment on General Items. We have a large number of people tonight that's making public comment. And we're probably going to --- I was thinking of restricting the time to two minutes. Okay? We need it at the end ---.

(Audience outbursts.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: It was never ---. I don't care personally. Okay? You come here and you make your public comment. The first speaker is Nancy Koerbel. If I mispronounce all of these names, I apologize. Okay? Nancy Koerbel, are you here, K-O-E-R-B-E-L? Not here. Matt Peters?

MR. PETERS: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Matt Peters? Okay?

MR. PETERS: Yeah.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: And anybody that wants to go, just go. Yeah, your name and address for the record, so keep that in mind when you get up there.

MR. PETERS: I have copies for the clerk.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We'll pass them out.

MR. PETERS: I don't know who the clerk is. As you can imagine, I'm staunchly opposed to drilling at our parks, and my dismay at the lack of democracy in the process is renewed as negotiations proceed. These parks are, in and of themselves, a precious resource as parks, attracting thousands of visitors to our county each year and supporting a valuable and extensive outdoor tourism and recreation industry. Data from the DEP website, which is attached to my comments to you ---. Data from the DEP website shows that in the State of Pennsylvania, this industry supports 219,000 jobs, while U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics show that mining and logging combined claim only 37,000 direct jobs in the state last year. Clearly, the greater benefit to the Treasury, to the people of the Commonwealth and to the future of the resource itself, lies in the long-term stability and far greater number of jobs that come with protecting public parks and forest habitat. Indeed, Article 1, Section 27, of our Constitution directs us that it be so.

In addition to these sustainable green jobs and the tax revenue that comes with them, our parks and public forests provide a wide array of ecosystem services that we would be hard pressed to replace when, not if, these functions are compromised by industrial fragmentation and exploitation. Forests filter our water and our air, reducing pollution and the associated health impacts. Forests absorb stormwater runoff, mitigating flooding. Indeed, it is the repeated catastrophic flooding of downtown Pittsburgh that led to the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 and the creation of the Allegheny National Forest in 1924.

Forest holds water in the soil and roots, as well as in the more humid air underneath the canopy, mitigating the effects of drought. Mature, intact forest habitat on a landscape scale can have a regional cooling effect, mitigating the impacts of global warming. Standing forests can mitigate the effects of storms and high winds, as their effects on atmospheric humidity and

temperature helps regulate rainfall. Emerging science is showing that as forests mature, their capacity to store carbon from the atmosphere does not diminish as once theorized, but rather increases as fungal and microbial relationships in the soils are restored. In so many ways, our forests and parklands are worth more as a forest than they would ever be as a fossil resource.

By contrast, the drilling companies and multinational corporations that own them, are given enormous tax breaks, one of the lowest bond rates and severance payments of any state in the gas plays. And the secondary jobs created in the medical and funeral industry or toxic pollution cleanup, are the kind of jobs that our community can do without.

(Applause.)

MR. PETERS: Itself, it may be more valuable in the ground than sold to the sleaziest bidder. Consider the carbon credits we can award ourselves by not continuing our dependence on fossil fuels. Consider the current low price of the resource on market. Consider the fact that much of our domestic fuel security is being sold overseas. Consider the fact that it is British Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell that are coming after these American public lands. Didn't we fight revolution over this kind of resource exploitation? Our public lands are part of our American heritage, something unique among the nations of the world. I urge for their protection from the shortsighted folly of our Executive.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Carrie White? Carrie White? Carrie White? Following Carrie will be Jennifer Myers.

MS. WHITE: Hi. My name is Carrie White, a resident of Fawn Township, Allegheny County, a stone's throw from Deer Lakes Park. The right to protect ourselves, our families and our environment and sustain life is an inalienable right, as set forth by the Declaration of Independence. The gentleman that we entrust with all of these protections got elected by the people, for the people. These rights are also protected by this document, not to be destroyed by the greed of private drilling companies that threaten our water and air and environment.

These parks belong to the people of these communities, the taxpayers that have sustained them for the sole purpose of wildlife preservation and recreation,

not for the profit of bureaucrats or private fracking industry. The parks are not to be bought or sold as commodities for profit. Since when does a private business have the right to rape communities for its own gain ---

(Applause.)

MS. WHITE: --- only shadowed by fracking ponds and barrels of unknown chemicals. I have watched waterways become discolored with the unknown chemicals into our drinking water. I see the ramifications of toxins that enter our environment. Have you ever been to a cancer center? The rate of cancer and leukemia has risen across this country at alarming rates, not to mention breathing problems and it's not limited to the human species. Let's look at the ramifications of what's now proposed and who will be held accountable. Allowing even pipelines in these parks will only add to the destruction of the state. The fracking has been allowed to run rampant without consequence in this state, as well as many others. Fracking on any level is dangerous fracking, fracking waste, the noise, the water that's taken from our drinkable water supply, the compressor stations and the exposure of the wildlife to these open pits of toxins.

These do not belong anywhere, let alone near our parks. Families play there and fish are there. They hunt there. Our local search and rescue team practices there on a weekly basis. We should not be limited to its access that's due to the construction, the concern of toxin and potential hazards these create. Truck traffic alone is a dangerous proposition. And I, myself, have been run off the road by a tri-axle that --- and they're way over any weight limits for these roads. And they justify it by saying they bonded the roads. A ten-ton weight limit is not a tri-axle. It's way over ten tons.

They are somehow excluded from our laws, even our speed limits. Our communities have become more war zones of sorts. I have a report from a municipality that a school bus was even run off the road in one Butler Township community. Now we are worried about IEDs, yet IEDs, as stated, are safe for the communities. Our local EMS is now incorporating fracking into our training, because we are under siege in our own back yards. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Jennifer Myers, followed by Claudia Kirkpatrick. Jennifer?

MS. MYERS: My name is Jennifer Myers. I live at 5431 Carnegie Street. That's in Lawrenceville. I'm shaking from what just happened about ten minutes ago. I believe I saw everybody, except the person who presented their referendum, rule against allowing the people of Allegheny County a right to vote on drilling in the parks; is that correct?

What everybody just saw is --- was scary. I'm here to speak out against any and all proposed drilling inside or under our Allegheny County parks. I'm dismayed and disheartened that we even need to be here today to defend this land, which is our land, our land.

(Applause.)

MS. MYERS: And it's entrusted to us in perpetuity and paid for almost entirely by our tax dollars. You on Council are the ones who are elected by us to preserve and protect this land against any perceived threats. We need you to do your job, and we're here today to demand this. Money can buy even the most moral of men. Pennsylvania is not --- some of you seem to be a part of that. And it seems that what is happening here today is disgraceful and upsetting. There quite literally may not be a greater threat to our health, our well being, our county parks, our communities, like hydraulic fracturing.

(Applause.)

MS. MYERS: It's actually called the greatest human health crisis today. It is a monumental scale that we're doing. This method of drilling has devastating short-term and long-term consequences that are still only partially understood. Our work here today is to bring your attention to the very imminent and dire threat that is now facing our parkland. We are here together as one group under the name, protect our parks. And we are demanding from you, our County Council members, the following; say no to exploitation and environmental destruction of our private parks for private corporate gain. Block any attempts to drill on or under our county parkland. Demand written reports of all private negotiations between the fracking industry and Mr. Fitzgerald. Hold public hearings on this subject, which are open to all Allegheny County residents. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Claudia Kirkpatrick, followed by Mel Packer. Claudia, are you here? Claudia Kirkpatrick is not here. Mel Packer --- I know Mel's here --- followed by Terri Supowitz.

MR. PACKER: I have a public statement.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We'll take it.

MR. PACKER: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Now it's yours.

MR. PACKER: Mel Packer, 623 Kirtland Street, 15208. I'm going to read you an open letter to County Council that is signed by 18 different organizations, up to tens of thousands of people. Dear Elected Representatives; we, the undersigned organizations and/or individuals, are informing you of our opposition to the leasing of Allegheny County public parks for shale gas extraction, commonly known as fracking. As you may know, Allegheny County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, has been meeting privately with Range Resources, one of the major fracking corporations, with the plan to lease the mineral rights to one of Allegheny's public treasures, Deer Lakes Park.

Mr. Fitzgerald has also repeatedly made it clear that he is open to leasing other public parks, as well, for private gain by gas companies. During the past year, the taxpaying residents, your constituents, of Allegheny County, have seen our airport's mineral rights leased for shale fracking. It is commonly acknowledged from some of you that this lease was not shown to you before Allegheny County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, forced a vote on that lease. In fact, some of you voted against the lease, making it clear that the process was flawed, and that Council members should have been given time to fully review the lease before voting.

Our public parks are some of the main attractions, as you have mentioned today, that bring prestige and attention to Allegheny County. Hundreds of thousands of residents have, for generations, been able to enjoy our tax-supported public parks that are largely free of air, water and soil pollution. It has become quite obvious in published reports and studies from all parts of the nation, that fracking causes water --- air and water pollution, whether the fracking well is in the public park or located on land adjacent to it.

It sends a pretty bad message to our children and potential residents, who are considering locating homes and businesses in our county, if we let private corporations exploit and spoil the public's land. As our elected county representatives, we are sure that you will act on your duty to carefully examine all contracts before Council and to demand that such contracts be examined fully, and that public hearings be held before any leases are signed. We are certain that each of you is aware of your primary responsibility to your constituent. We expect that each of you will collectively and democratically determine policies regarding fracking of public lands. And as our representatives, we are also certain that you, like us, treasure and wish to preserve our public parks. Do not give away our public parks. They belong to us and to future generations and not to private corporations. And this is signed by Allegheny Defense Project, Clean Air Council, Clean Water Action, Group Against Smog and Pollution, Jefferson Hills Marcellus Group, Marcellus Outreach-Butler, Marcellus Protest, Michael Bett, a Ben Avon council member, Mon Valley Unemployed Committee, Mountain Watershed Association, Neville Island Good Neighbor Committee, PennEnvironment, ShadBush Environmental Justice Collective, Sierra Club Allegheny Group, South Hills Area Against Dangerous Drilling, Steel Valley Printers, Thomas Merton Center and the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23.

Lastly, recently one of the members was quoted as saying, do no harm to gravel roads. Nature never made gravel roads.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Florence Johnson? Terri, your name and address.

MS. SUPOWITZ: I'm Terri Supowitz. I live, breathe and garden at 310 Hay Street, in Wilkinsburg. I know it may sound corny and cliché, but I love being outdoors. I walk, hike, bike, kayak, cross country ski and, of course, garden. I have visited and played in all the county parks. Drilling on, near or under the parks is of great concern to me. Drilling harms everything near it, the people, the air, the water and the animals. It's just a matter of time. All county parks belong to the citizens of the United States, to the residents of

Pennsylvania, to the local communities, to our children, to future generations, forever and ever.

I was at the County Council hearings on releasing the drilling rights at the airport to CONSOL Energy. I watched the process. And the bottom line was, it was rushed beyond words. There was little time to examine the lease. Most of you barely had a chance to read it, let alone think about all of the implications. I felt as if it was a slam dunk with your hands tied behind your back, not your fault at all. You can't let this happen to the parks. The process has to be transparent, no closed-doors, private meetings. Instead, there must be public hearings starting as soon as possible and lasting as long as it takes. County parks do not belong to the oil and gas companies. They can't buy this property; they can't lease this property. It's public property. It belongs to all of us.

(Applause.)

MS. SUPOWITZ: As much as they would like, you only can build a mall, a barber shop, a Giant Eagle. Not even UPMC can build a hospital there. County parks are public land. Drilling is about private gain. Fracking in, under or around the parks will only detract from the quality of the park and the quality of life in the communities adjacent to the parks. It has become obvious, fracking harms everything around it. From reports and studies from all over the nation, there is no doubt fracking causes air and water pollution, whether it's on public land or private.

I know everyone here wants to do the right thing. You want a bright and safe future for generations to come. You want to maintain the public lands for the public. The right thing to do in this case is to keep drilling out of the county parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Florence Johnson? Florence Johnson, followed by Aaron Booz. If I'm saying your name wrong, forgive me.

MS. JOHNSON: Good evening.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Good evening.

MS. JOHNSON: I come before you this evening as a mother, a grandmother and a former teacher in the Pittsburgh public schools, to share with you my thoughts on fracking. Interestingly enough, old schools in Pittsburgh where I taught were in parks, the North Side

and Frick Park. For years, I not only took my children to the parks but my students. I cannot even begin to imagine the various activities and experiences with the children in the park without the trees, the clear atmosphere, birds and butterflies. Beautiful and clean parks are a definite part of our lives in Pittsburgh.

Can you imagine an existence without them? Can you imagine a park with fracking? Sometimes our governing bodies have private conversations about our lives in Allegheny County. However, the citizens of Allegheny County should have conversations and/or votes with our governing bodies in public, about how our taxes should be used to make our communities and parks livable, healthy, safe and our memory unforgettable. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Aaron Booz, followed by Kim Eichenlaub.

MR. BOOZ: Aaron Booz, 3181 Bel Air Drive, Whitehall. Members of Council, I'm also here to talk about the issue of leasing the county parks for horizontal slickwater hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracturing. It seems from what I'm reading in the media, the County executive is pressuring each of you to support this risky plan. And we're here to tell you that we support you as you try to find the facts about private fracking on public land.

And I'm going to start by addressing the assurances that I keep reading in the newspapers. The explanation that we're hearing from Mr. Fitzgerald is that the horizontal drilling will come from pads on neighboring private properties, and only the ground under Deer Lakes Park would be fracked. Also, he claims that the area around Deer Lakes Park would be fracked, regardless of whether you sign a lease or not, so you might as well sign a lease and at least get some money for your pollution.

I don't know how you could know this for sure. On what evidence is he basing this claim? Industry is rarely open, if you follow these issues, with the public about when they will or won't renew a lease or start drilling or start fracking, or come back and re-frack. They just show up one day and start. And more than that, there are many leases the company signed but never actually end up exploiting. So I want to ask you on Council to find out for sure whether the parks would

actually be subject to the neighboring properties being fracked if you don't sign.

It could well be that deciding not to lease Deer Lakes would make all of these leases unprofitable, and you'd end up saving the park and the surrounding areas from fracking, simply by not. And when you're told the whole area around that park is being fracked now, that's not accurate. There are a few Marcellus wells in the northeastern corner of the county, but none of them are actually close to Deer Lakes Park at this point. Now, you took a tour last week of Cross Creek Park. Our neighbors to the southwest are into fracking in a big way since the last decade, and many residents have been suffering the consequences for years. This month we finally heard the whole story of the Hallowich family, from Mount Pleasant, Washington County, and how Range Resources --- by the way, the same company that Fitzgerald now wants to do business with --- polluted their area, damaged their farm, sickened their family and seriously degraded their property value.

Now, the Hallowich case is not some rare occurrence. At this point, tens of thousands of people across the country have suffered similar contamination to their land, air, water, as well as the same health effects. The story is always the same. The air and water were fine, then the Shale drilling and toxic fracking happened, and now the water is turning colors. And there's all kinds of illnesses. And the lights, the noise and the truck traffic were unbearable. None of this sounds like the type of environment I would associate with a park.

Now, coming back to the Hallowich case, there's one other important point to make. Stephanie and her family did not have an oil and gas lease. In fact, it was her neighbors who did. The illness and contamination of her farm didn't happen because she had leased the land for a surface well pad. It was contaminated by what was next door. We keep being told in the press that Mr. Fitzgerald is protecting the parks for the citizens by intending to lease only the mineral rights, that Range would only frack under the parks. But as you can see from the Hallowich example, regardless of where the well pad is located, the pollution never stays right where you put it. Please protect our parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Kim?

MS. EICHENLAUB: I cannot come up, because I live in Richland Township.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Go ahead.

MS. EICHENLAUB: Over in Westmoreland County, CONSOL Energy has been fracking the forest surrounding a large lake. During the 12 months ending this past July, CONSOL was cited by DEP for three hazardous spills of frack wastewater into that lake. As we all know, wastewater is the stuff that comes back up out of the ground after fracking. It's not only chemically toxic, it's potentially radioactive and often tend to be so. The lake it's spilled into is known as Beaver Run Reservoir. It provides drinking water, according to various sources, to anywhere between 80,000 and 150,000 people, frack water in drinking water. My mother is one of their customers. Allegheny County has, I found out, a sustainability program. It's called Allegheny Green. According to your website, one of its objectives is to lead the region in sustainability; hum.

The sustainability plan, I learned from your website, aligns with objectives set forth in Allegheny Places, which is Allegheny County's comprehensive plan. Those objectives include, one, expanding the regions parks and trails. Hopefully, trekkers and joggers won't mind a little testing underfoot. And how close will it extend to trails and paths, what comes from the water containment ponds, which I'm really concerned about, whether at the edge of the park or within view of people's panoramic views of the park.

The second objective of your comprehensive plan is protecting and enhancing the environment and public health by promoting energy conservation and continuing to improve the county's air quality. Right? You do understand that fracking leaks methane into the air, right, and that fracking increases smog by releasing volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides into the air?

The third plight of the Allegheny Places objectives platform is --- and my favorite --- eliminating urban, agricultural and industrial pollution runoff to protect streams and watersheds. Deer Lakes Park has three fishing lakes, all using the same watershed, according to the website. Some local residents count on the fish as part of their regular diet. Runoff is what happened to two of those three fresh water ruinations by frack water

in Beaver Run Reservoir. Runoff can happen when a valve, a pipe or a tanker truck leaks or when a heavy rainstorm causes a frack water containment pond to overflow. Have you seen the photos of frack water ponds overflowing? Have you seen the photos of fish kills in the streams and watersheds near fracking? What do you look at, what risk assessment?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We're getting the whole picture. Thank you very much. Okay?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Sarah Scholl? Sarah Scholl? Sarah, are you here? Point of Order. Mr. Burn, do you have a ---?

MR. BURN: Point of Privilege, Mr. President. Thank you. Ma'am, before you start, I want to jump in.

MS. SCHOLL: Okay. Yeah.

MR. BURN: Thank you. Jennifer Myers, are you still here?

MS. MYERS: I am.

MR. BURN: Okay. You made a point. You didn't understand what we had done on that vote.

MS. MYERS: I didn't.

MR. BURN: Let me explain that, because I think there's a misunderstanding in the room.

MS. MYERS: Okay. Thank you.

MR. BURN: One of the things that motivated us to cast that vote is very similar to a fundamental process that I notice in this room tonight, and that is about looking at detail, not jumping into something and using due diligence. I mean, I think that's what I repeatedly keep hearing in your remarks. That's no different than what we did on that no vote. That was not a no vote on the substance of what Matt was trying to do. That was a no vote on the procedure of how Matt was trying to do it tonight. Matt brought the resolution onto the floor. None of us had the chance to see it. Our legal team had not had a chance to review it. And so our concern was --- if Matt wishes to, he could speak for himself --- but Matt can always introduce it in a timely fashion, according to Council procedures.

He didn't want a subsequent agenda, and then it would go through the Government Reform Committee, where it would be vetted, where it would be researched and where it would be debated and where it would be discussed. So it's

not dead if Matt wants to introduce it again. So that was my point.

MS. MYERS: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. BURN: There was a misunderstanding. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Do you want to say something real quick? I want to get on. We have a lot of speakers.

MR. DROZD: I know. You know, I always believe, not only this case, but the people of Allegheny County and throughout the country should have a voice in their government. I really respect what Jim just said. You know, I'll put it on next week. He's a really great guy. But I want you to know that I believe in --- not only in this instance, but I believe that the people should have control in their own destiny on major decisions. What the heck, why not? Why not? I mean, isn't this what this country's about? Anyhow, you vote anyhow. Why can't you vote on these issues?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We've got to get on.

MR. DROZD: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Sarah, are you there?

MS. SCHOLL: Yes, I'm here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You're up ---

MS. SCHOLL: Okay.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: --- followed by Marcia Bandes --- Marcia Bandes (changes pronunciation). Go ahead.

MS. SCHOLL: Okay. Thank you. Well, first I'll introduce myself. I'm Sarah Scholl. I live at 5302 Overlook Glen Drive. That's in Whitehall Borough, in Allegheny County. My comments may be shorter than I planned, as they are somewhere. But I think I can speak to what brought me here tonight, and what so many of us that are here have told you. So first, I do want to thank several of you, who have actually taken the time to talk with me and with members of the group that I belong to in my community, which is SHAADD, South Hills Area Against Dangerous Drilling.

We formed over two years ago when we started to learn about the process of hydraulic fracturing and, you know, became more and more concerned as we learned what so many here are telling you today --- tonight, that this process is not safe, that it involves the use of toxic chemicals and volumes of water that we just don't have to give and pollutes our land, from air, water and soil, for

generations to come, potentially. So regardless, whatever your individual thoughts are on the rights of individual land owners to lease their land for fracking, we are here to ask you, as our representatives of our land and our parks, to not act on just your own accord but thinking of future generations and all of us, yourselves included, who use our county resources and our parks. Industrial fracking sites in no way belong on any county land, in my opinion, nor anywhere, in my opinion. But I think we can all agree that they don't belong in places of recreation where our families come with their children to relax and recreate and to enjoy the ---. You know, I actually am a jogger, off-road biker and hiker and use many of our parks. You can't imagine hiking near toxic conditions from nearby fracking operations or walking through --- I'm hiking in the woods; or you're coming across clear cut trees in areas where I once liked to hike. These are our lands, and we entrust you as our representatives to protect them. And so I ask you here to do that here tonight, as so many others are. Thank you for your time.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Marcia Bandes? Marcia, followed by Mary Ruth Aull.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Council President Martoni?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: You've allowed two of my colleagues to make a statement. Can I just make one?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Of course, you could; of course, you could.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: Okay. I just want to make one for the whole proceeding here. I would like anyone in this audience listening to me, to send to me some specific information in regard to your concerns. This is what I'm looking to hear and I --- yeah, maybe somebody else will address it. What I want to know --- a lot of you are saying the same type of thing.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up, please.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: A lot of you are saying the same types of things. What I want to know is specifically for underground drilling, not pads in the park; underground drilling. Give me scientific articles, not, you know, your feelings. Give me scientific articles, the actual article, that will explain to me as a lawyer, okay, scientifically how this is going to affect the citizens.

This lady who just spoke, I understand her point. Okay? Don't just do what you want; we represent everybody, okay, take everybody's thoughts into consideration. And I want to do that. But I need more scientific information, not your feelings about how it's going to hurt your experience at the park. Send it to my e-mail. Now, the last thing I want to say is ---.

MR. FINNERTY: Send it to all of us.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: And if you want to send it to me, I'll be happy to copy everybody. But there is a statement continuously made that the Council members don't read their e-mail. I will only speak for myself. I read every single thing that's sent to me, and I represent the whole county, along with Mr. DeFazio. He and I don't represent a district, so I get a lot of e-mail. So I think it's only fair to you to tell you that lots of our votes, people don't like. But I want you to know, as your fellow citizen, as an Allegheny Countian, that I am listening. I will read everything you send, and I think most of my colleagues will. So that's all I wanted to say for tonight, and I will listen to the rest of the evening.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much.

MS. BANDES: I'm Marcia Bandes. I'm in Squirrel Hill at 1531 South Negley. Let me just start by asking, why do we accept hydraulic fracking in our parks, when it's exempted from every major environmental law, including the state's Water Drinking Act, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. It doesn't make any sense to me. What kind of accidental --- accident or infraction records do Huntley and Huntley and Range Resources have? Would you trust them drilling in your back yard near where your children play? The toxins don't have to filter up from underground. They can come from unmonitored and sloppy disposal methods.

Range Resources at last count had 553 wells in Pennsylvania. From 2008 to 2012, the DEP has issued 187 violations at 94 of these wells. That means that 17 percent of Range's wells have had a violation. What are our chances? There's an informative article in the June issue of Scientific American on a Duke University study about the increased methane, ethane and propane in groundwater samples near active fracking sites. The scientists concluded that the gases came from the wells, not natural sources, as many fracking companies would like

to have you believe. And I have the material, I will leave it. What they do say is that you could improve the casings, and that could help. It is my understanding that Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection has tracked gas leaking from wells across the state. They found 6.2 percent of new wells were leaking in 2010, 6.2 percent in 2011 and 7.2 percent in 2012. This tells me that the cement casings designed for gas leaks are not getting better. And concrete casings deteriorate and the ground shifts over time. So a six percent leakage rate at the start grows to 30 to 60 percent. Who will catch, much less fix, these leaking cases in 10, 20, 30 years? From what I've read, there is no way to fix them, whether the methane and other chemicals come directly through the fracking, from the leaking cement casings or from distributing pockets of gas of old wells while they drill, we will be polluting our waters for generations --- generations --- to come.

I assume that you are lured to fracking by the money. Who can blame you? What kind of accident or --- excuse me. How is the airport contract written? Do you get royalties on what is sold or how much they take out of the ground? Have you read the August 13th ProPublica article titled, Unfair Share; how oil and gas drillers avoid taking royalties? It's eye-opening. I strongly, strongly recommend it, and I have it here. These are not your parks to do with as you wish. These are our parks. So these are our parks, and we want to say what happens. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mary Ruth Aull, are you here? Mary Ruth, A-U-L-L?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: She's not here. Okay. Joni Rabinowitz. Joni, I know you're here. I saw you. Yes, you are. Joni, I don't have to tell you --- you've been here enough --- name and all that, followed by Lucas Lyons. Okay?

MS. RABINOWITZ: My name's Joni Rabinowitz, and I live at 7721 Edgerton Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15221. I want to talk about potential long-term ecological and public health consequences of this industry. This means that the County Council should join in our movement to ban or put a moratorium on fracking. You must review the many studies

which have been done about these potential consequences. I'm sure most of you haven't read the list --- reviewed the list I distributed to you at the hearing in Moon, so I'm making that available again, along with some additional information here.

Water contamination; a recent study by Duke University scientists, reported in Scientific American, showed that methane seeped from fracking wells into nearby drinking water. A 2008 review by ProPublica found that there are over 1,000 reports of water contamination from throughout the U.S. Recently, the Scranton Times-Tribune obtained DEP data that showed at least 161 homes, farms, churches and businesses had their water supply damaged by drilling.

A peer review study by the University of Texas, published in Environmental Science and Technology, showed elevated levels of arsenic, barium, strontium and selenium, close to natural gas extraction sites in Texas. Air pollution; according to the EPA, methane, a significant component of natural gas, exacerbates climate change 20 times more than carbon dioxide. According to a health review and environmental health perspectives, pollution associated with fracking are associated with cancer, cardiovascular, respiratory and neurological development --- developmental damage.

Health Effects; David Brown, a toxicologist with the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, meets with patients who believe their health has been affected by gas drilling, and the doctors don't know what to do. Physicians have little experience with toxic exposure. He suggests we stop drilling until we can promise people that it is safe. I'm sure that when you review these reports, the ones I'm telling you about and others, you will agree that now is the time to stop until we can prove the process is safe. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Lucas Lyons? Lucas Lyons, are you here?

MR. LYONS: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Lucas, come on up. Lucas will be followed by Jason Coll.

MR. LYONS: Lucas Lyons, 1902 Meadville Street ---. So I think we've done a very good job of explaining those scientific reports to the councilmen. Those are three of the main studies that we've heard

already. So I just wanted to just come up and mainly just comment to the Council. If this is public land, okay, and this isn't private individuals selling their rights and their mineral rights, if people get sick on that public land, are they going to then come back and sue Allegheny County? And are we going to be on the hook for that?

(Applause.)

MR. LYONS: My point is, when you think about all this money that's going to come falling down if you sign this lease, or you go along with Rich Fitzgerald, make sure you scrape out a good, good chunk of it for all of the individuals that get sick and we can prove it. And we're going to come for you, and I promise you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Jason Coll? Jason Coll, followed by Briget Shields. Jason?

MR. COLL: Jason Coll, 5357 Greenridge Drive, Whitehall. And I'm opposed to any fracking taking place on or under our county parks. Like others have spoken tonight, I'm a member of a group that opposes fracking, and it's easy when we appear as a group like this, you view us as environmental radicals or special interest. But I assure you, we represent a highly diverse population, and we all have one thing in common, we are all well informed. And tonight, we speak for the uninformed, who only know what they see from the beautiful commercials produced by the gas industry. We speak for the people who feel they have no voice. We speak for the countless families whose lives have been turned upside down by fracking.

We speak for those afraid to speak publicly and for those who think fracking is a runaway train car that can't be stopped. Each one of us speaks for our friends and our family, and we speak for our children. We do not comprehend how their future is being affected. We speak for future generations who will look back on the decisions that we have made together as a society. And most importantly, we speak for the planet, which we need, all of us, to survive. And it's also your job as elected officials to speak for us and for those people that look beyond the easy choice of quick money and, instead, look at the long-term effects of the land you've been entrusted to protect for the citizens of Allegheny County.

Fracking one well takes millions of gallons of fresh water from our ecosystem. That water, once used,

cannot be used again. It's poison. And where does it go, injected back into our earth. We may not be scientists or economists, but there's one thing we need to know and we've heard it before, you can't drink money. Human beings need air and water to survive. Can you live a day without money, yes; without water, sure. How about a month; no money, uncomfortable. No water, you die. Fracking is happening all over the world at an alarming rate. The thought that drinkable water, which is already in short supply in so many places, may disappear, is not that far-fetched. And hey, the banks get in. Why do you think they don't --- they won't give mortgages to lands that have been drilled? Because it kills ---.

(Applause.)

MR. COLL: Let's look at this economically. Now I'll put it this way. It seriously reduces the value of your land. We have to raise our thinking and consciousness to a higher level and be stewards for the earth together, or else my children and your children and our grandchildren will not have the quality of life we've enjoyed and been entrusted to preserve and protect. You have the power to say no to fracking in the parks. What difference does it make if they're already fracking around the parks, you ask? Well, it makes a big difference, and it sends a clear message. You know what? We've got to start somewhere, and I ask that we start here. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Briget Shields? Briget Shields, followed by Karen Bernard. Briget?

MS. SHIELDS: Briget Shields, 2329 Tilbury Avenue, 15217. I don't even use my notes now, but you know, we were here before, and we were very willing to work with you. And I brought personally a pack of information and handed it to each and every one of you. It had a booklet in it about the shale field stories, and it had a lot of links to information from Peer Review, Scientific Study, Tony Ingraffea. Just look him up. He is the founder of what helped start fracking and is now telling us that it's the wrong way to go.

I heard you went to Washington County for a scheduled tour, and I'm sure you saw that everything was rosy down there. But this was July 14th in Washington County, and this was four days before they could put this out. And this is the air that the people living in that area had to breathe. So I'm asking you --- we are willing

to help you. We are willing to work with you. But we are not willing to go through the kind of process that we went through with the airport drilling. It was embarrassing to us to have to sit there for an hour and listen to the industry tell us how great it is, when you open a newspaper every day and there is another story about tremendous negative impacts from this industry. And these are impacts that are irreversible in a lot of cases. It's happening in Wyoming, in Colorado, in Texas. Wherever this industry is operating, there are very serious negative impacts. And the greatest toxic impact we are having today from this industry --- it's not a drilling problem, it's a democracy problem. They have been able to buy our politicians. They have been able to buy our Department of Environmental Protection, both federal and state, to the point to where they're operating in areas without even having a permit.

We have proof of this. We have documented cases. We are willing to share it with you. And I thank you so much for having the patience to be here tonight and listen to us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Karen Bernard? Karen Bernard, are you here? Karen will be followed by Rachel Greene.

MS. BERNARD: I live two miles from a county park, and I walk there frequently with a neighbor and her daughter, with my daughter, cousin. And there are many people that go to this park for exercise and reconnection. Sometimes theater performances, other times, recreation, relaxation. It's a beautiful place. I can hardly imagine drilling people out of this land, the land where I live, poisoning it, fracking its natural structure. Let's look at the big picture as we make this decision. The land is our ground. It's what grounds us.

Do we really think we can have peace or health or sanity if we fracture the bedrock on which we live, to poison our water and release the toxins that we know are involved? Do we really think that the illness, the cancer, the addiction and the depression so rampant today is unrelated to the way we treat the land? I'm sure we can find scientific evidence to the link between depression and addiction and the ecological destruction. We live in our heads in this culture. We think the body is just a machine trying to carry the head around. But

this is not the reality. Really, we're all connected. We come from the earth. We belong to the earth. And the gas belongs to the earth, not to us. The earth is our extended body, and we're all part of a whole. What we do to one part, we do to the whole. And we know it in our bones. If we stay in our head, we can fool ourselves with a list of reasons why fracking might be something we need. It might be a great idea. But again, I think we can come up with plenty more reasons to say that fracking is crazy. We know in our hearts this is a bad idea. The question is, will we lie to ourselves, or we will --- will we listen to our deep wisdom? If we want to be sick, we can sell our land with a profit to ourselves. We can allow ourselves to be colonized. If we want to be healthy --- and the root of the word, healthy, is whole --- we'll act with the whole in mind.

We'll find ways to live without this gas and the money the corporations will throw our way. Whatever become of it, fracking is a temporary fix. I believe we can find other ways to build energy independence and a strong local economy. We can do this for ourselves. If we can't do it for ourselves, we can do it for the children, our own children and the children of all the species.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Rachel Greene? Rachel Greene, followed by Loretta Weir. Rachel?

MS. GREENE: I'm Rachel Greene. I was born in Pittsburgh and raised directly across from Frick Park. I do not know the names of the tens and hundreds of chemicals which are blam-blast, hydrofracking ejaculated into ancient sedimentary rocks in Pennsylvania's green and brown skin. I know that I do not want that fracking ejaculate flowing in the beautiful Crooked Creek, Allegheny veins of our home. It will run out and join cash crop chemical runoff Spanish moss in the wide Mississippi flowing into the Gulf of Mexico and a second Dead Sea.

I know that I do not want that corporate tongue cocktail moulting in the veins, ventricles in the bodies of my future grandchildren. I do not know how you clean energy entrepreneurs, you job creators, you Allegheny County Council members, can forget that your bodies are also made of water and air. It is not really the children or the natives or the poor who are made of stardust and

sweat. The jive for profit has entered your bloodstream. The fumes of your frack water and your natural gas are clouding your minds. You do not hear our mother cry no as you rape her while her children watch. When her body quakes under the pressure of your poison blasting into her, your fantasies tell you to take her with pleasure, and you believe them. I do not know if our spring will ever be silent or when. I know that we are still singing. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Loretta Weir? Loretta Weir, followed by Kenneth Weir. Loretta, your address, and your name and address

MS. WEIR: Loretta Weir, 4544 Homeridge Drive, ---

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. WEIR: --- 31st Ward in the City. Actually, I've been sitting here all this time. Really, I don't mean to be insulting, but quite frankly, do you guys remember the first time we were here, probably ---. Let me refresh your memory, because no one here seems to have a very good one; 2010; that's three years. That would be, like --- let me see --- six semesters of failing the same test over and over again, which would be really impossible if I did that. But regardless, we give you information time and again. And do you know what I heard tonight, don't bring your emotions, bring me some facts. There are so many facts out there, I find it insulting that no one has happened upon them, even though you receive them by e-mail. You receive them personally, hand given to you. Okay?

Most people in this room, when they have to hear from a constituent --- because we're really not constituents, by the way, because the real constituents love drilling. Did you know that? And they want baseball uniforms given by Range Resources. That's what we were told. Those are the real constituents. You guys aren't constituents. I've never seen one of those baseball uniform-loving constituents in this room. But I've seen these people tell you what, listen, hope springs eternal. I'm going to give you guys a quiz, because I know you're all old enough to remember some of these things. And for those of you who haven't had to go potty. Haven't had anything to drink. Have you needed something to eat or

had to make popcorn or laugh, because we bore you. We bore you.

We're, quite frankly, not important enough. We roll with the big guys now. We roll with your pity, okay, Mein Fuhrer. We walk block steps. Okay? We've been taken our voice away. I am disgusted by this; I mean, disgusted, honestly.

(Applause.)

MS. WEIR: And if you remember the lies we were told about asbestos, this is all poison for profit. You don't remember that. You'll remember --- many of you don't remember it. Maybe it really does. I'm not confident that there's a whole brain power in this room. Okay? How about DDT, and then you remember the lies. Anybody remember Agent Orange lies? Anybody remember that? Okay. And how many years did that lie go on? There are still men suffering from Agent Orange that can't even --- can't get medical care. Okay? How about the Love Canal; anybody ever watch that? Maybe you watch movies; I don't know. Erin Brockovich, that was another movie; maybe you went to a drive-in, who knows.

It was on the screen, no reading involved. Antoine Delvig (phonetic), anybody remember that? That was on TV right after ---. I was flipping through the channel, looking for something good to watch --- the news might have been on --- BP oil spill, Halliburton. Halliburton, that rings a bell. And Monsanto, they're poisoning the hell out of all of us. Fracking --- fracking --- the newest lie, the deadliest one of all; enough said. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Kenneth Weir? Kenneth Weir, followed by Patricia DeMarco. Kenneth?

(Mr. Weir plays for the room a song recording.)

MR. WEIR: This friend of mine wrote this song. You'll get to hear the lyrics, and you'll understand where the people in this room are coming from. I want everybody to hear it. Bear with me.

(Lyrics of song, Stop the Frack Attack, playing.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Patricia DeMarco? Patricia, you're her. Name and address. And Michael Stout is next. Michael?

MS. DEMARCO: Hi, members of Council and my fellow citizens. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you this evening. I come to you as a citizen of the Allegheny County of Pittsburgh. I was born and raised here. I spent a good part of the last ten years in Alaska, one of the period of time as a Commissioner of Regulated Activity --- Regulated Utilities. And I'd like to share with you a perspective on this transition in time that we are facing here in the 21st century, between the fossil economy and the economy of renewable and sustainable resource base. We are at the decision point of choices that will shape the future not only of our planet but also of the health and well being of our children, their grandchildren, their great-grandchildren and generations yet unborn.

As public policy decision makers in such difficult times, it's important that you be very clear about what our choices are. We are facing the imminent pressure of an industry with court cases pending as to whether methane even is part of the mineral rights of the ground. They're trying to get as many leases signed and accounted as they can while these cases are still pending in court. Second, this industry is running apace very rapidly since the National Energy Act of 2005 suspended the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and certain provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, to allow them exemptions of things that would otherwise not be permitted.

I think it's important that you act on priorities that have been taken in your long-range planning, to look at the leadership potential of our county and our regions with its 11 universities providing all kinds of innovative procedures for living in a sustainable and renewable world, where the free resources of the earth are taken into account. We have the capability to develop by technology things that are thousands of feet beneath the earth. Just because we can doesn't mean that we should. It has not yet been engaged, the ethical debate about these choices. Free market has driven everything. But a free market without rational constraints, without reason, yields chaos.

And I urge you to consider adopting a citing policy for industrial facilities that would include exclusion of public lands, watersheds and critical food supply sources. I give you a copy, based on the ordinance

that we adopted in Connecticut, for citing industrial facilities, for your help. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you, greatly.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Michael Stout, followed by Paul Butler. Michael?

MR. STOUT: That song was not three minutes, Chuck, so ---. I'd like to --- my name is Mike Stout, 4223 Willow Avenue, in Castle Shannon in the South Hills. I'm also --- I've worked and lived in the Monongahela Valley, and I'm a member --- dues-paying member of the United Steelworkers for 37 years and also a member of the Musicians Union for the last 20 years. And I'd like to raise briefly --- one I'd like to thank, Ms. Heidelbaugh, for saying that you would look at scientific studies. And I wish you would get together with us, because we have sent you countless scientific study. I don't know if people are reading them. We gave everybody on this council a copy of shale field stories. We gave it to you twice, and I know my representative, John Palmiere, put it in your mailbox.

There's scientific evidence in there, and there's testimony from over 350 people who have been poisoned by fracking in that book. We can turn you on to science on the websites, thousands and tens of thousands of people who have had their land and their families and their water poisoned. We will show you. If you'll sit down with us, we'll direct you to the scientific facts and we'll give them to you. That's number one. Number two, this issue that we have raised that there's a contradiction here between jobs and the environment is --- I want to say this. We're for jobs, but we're for clean jobs. And I'm a proud member of the United Steelworkers of America, and we have a green-blue alliance called BlueGreen Alliance. And that alliance says we're fighting for jobs, decent-paying jobs that produce renewable energy, that's clean and that's affordable.

We're not going to repeat the mistakes from the 1,800s in the steel industry, where hundreds and thousands of workers were killed and maimed. We don't need to go through that again. And thirdly, I'd like to implore you to please sit down with your citizens here. You're hearing every single day, every five minutes on TV, radio and in the newspaper, the industry's side and their three

to five words and their commercials. Why don't you sit down with us, just like Mr. Futules did, just like Mr. Macey did and just like Mr. Palmiere has, and let us show you the evidence that we have.

And I'm proud to say that Mr. Palmiere had a meeting in April, stood with the people in the South Hills and said he will be with us on the frontlines to stop the drilling in the parks. And I want to tell you this. I've been a union organizer and a community organizer for 45 years, on picket lines with John DeFazio, with Chuck Martoni and with Bob Macey. And I'm going to let you know, myself and a lot of organizers are going to be out there, and we're going to be defending our parks. And I'm going to be retiring next year, Chuck and John, and I've got a lot of time on my hands. I'm going to get organized; it is illegal, it's immoral and this pointless fracking that you're trying to do at our parks in our county. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Paul Butler? Paul, are you here? Paul; yes, you're here. Okay. Paul's going to be followed by Wanda Guthrie. Okay. Paul?

Right into the mike.

MR. BUTLER: Sometimes it seems like our country's attitude toward fossil fuels is ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Did we get a name and address?

MR. BUTLER: Oh, Paul Butler, and 706 Rockwood Avenue.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. That's good.

MR. BUTLER: Sometimes it seems like our country's attitude toward fossil fuels is as simple as, if it's available, use it. From coal to oil to natural gas, we have a long history of the burning through hydrocarbons with little regard to the consequences. Even challenging the notion that these resources must be radically consumed, just afraid of some sort of attack on American values. In Pennsylvania, the current energy is that of Shell Gas. The oil and gas corporations promised us that their fracking technology creates a win win scenario; free money to the landowner, more natural gas for Americans and minimal environmental effects.

But we all know that it's not that simple; certainly, the payments from drilling on these, attempting to even the best intentions. However, water mains

initially has gained environmental and human cost. The contamination of drinking water, percentage and accountables, fires and explosions and much more. Not surprisingly, once that lease is signed, the singular priority becomes extracting as much natural gas as possible at the cheapest cost. Allowing fracking on our county parks effectively snatches control of the land from the hands of the public and places it in the grips of eagerly-awaiting corporations. We can do better than that. Our land and our lives are incredibly precious to every aspect of our country. Leasing our parks to drilling companies to harvest natural gas prioritizes short-term monetary benefit over the long-term well being of our environment.

As a teenager, it's hard to watch our society think energy extraction is more important than the preservation of our environment for the future. Let's organize once and for all. This isn't free money. Instead of fracking our land, it will be harmful to all of us for years to come. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Wanda Guthrie? Wanda Guthrie, followed by Thaddeus Popovich. Wanda, you're on. Name and address.

MS. GUTHRIE: Hi. I'm Wanda Guthrie, and I am representing the Thomas Merton Center Environmental Justice Committee, at 5129 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh. There's a debate happening in university halls, around religious congregations, individual kitchen tables nationwide, but apparently not here. The driving question, should we divest from the fossil fuel industry? This is a relevant question for all of us. We are talking about how we invest in our future. The math is simple. We can release up to 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide by burning fossil fuels and stay below two degrees Centigrade of warming. If we burn more than that, we risk catastrophe to life on earth.

The problem is that the fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. If fossil fuel companies simply carry out their stated mission by utilizing those reserves they currently own or have rights to, the earth will become inhospitable to life as we know it. So we must compel the 200 largest fossil fuel corporations to keep 80 percent of their assets in the ground. This is both a practical and

moral issue, and the answer is simple, divest from fossil fuels. Don't encourage this behavior. Don't talk it up and don't have frack parties.

This is not a wonderful investment. Divesting from fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy is the only real answer. There really is no other way. And this seems to go unnoticed by practically every public servant in the State of Pennsylvania. In October, 15,000 young people will descend on Pittsburgh for a Power Shift 2013 Conference at the David Lawrence Convention Center. They'll come from everywhere, and they'll be the best and brightest of all our young people. They will come with their high school teachers and college professors and discuss the future of earth viability.

They will develop strategies to create change. In November, Bill McKibben, father of 350.org, will be here to receive the Thomas Merton Award and give a talk about the ways we can all address global warming. These are opportunities for the Allegheny Council to learn and strategize with the residents for our future. The Environmental Justice Committee is submitting a paper to you today, 11 reasons to divest from fossil fuels. And we are passing around a petition, and we have a petition online, for the Pittsburgh City Council to divest of fossil fuels in the next year. We hope Allegheny Council will consider this way. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thaddeus Popovich? Thaddeus Popovich, are you --- you're here.

MR. POPOVICH: I'm here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Marissa Hicks.

MR. POPOVICH: I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I was talking --- I was addressing the next speaker. Go ahead.

MR. POPOVICH: Okay. Are we ready?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We're ready.

MR. POPOVICH: Okay. My name is Thaddeus Popovich, and I live at 6606 Virginia Avenue, in the Borough of Ben Avon, six miles down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh. I am in Mr. Drozd's district, and I tip my hat to him tonight for what he brought forth. I am opposed to fracking on or under or near park lands. I am an avid user of the parks. The Rachel Carson Trail connects North Park, Hartwood Acres and Harrison Hills

Park, for over a 34-mile trail. I've had the pleasure of hiking at all parts of that trail. These parks are gems. They must be protected from the intrusion of industrial processes like fracking. This past June, I hiked 17.5 miles of the trail in one day, believe it or not, along with hundreds of others participating in the Rachel Carson Challenge. Not bad for a 67 year old celebrating his one-year anniversary of quintuple heart bypass surgery.

(Applause.)

MR. POPOVICH: It was for me, as I build up my endurance beforehand. By hiking in these parks and other green spaces, I have restored my health. Meanwhile, researchers from the Colorado School of Public Health found elevated benzene levels in the ambient outdoor air of communities located near drilling and fracking operations West of Colorado. Benzene exposure can cause leukemia, birth defects and breast cancer. More than two years ago, on a more local basis, at an April 7, 2011 meeting, the Avonworth Municipal Authority, consisting of members from Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Emsworth, Kilbuck and Ohio Township, approved a five-year lease for drilling rights in the 119-acre ACORD Community Park. Go figure.

People at the meeting were outraged. I feel this is too big of a risk for our community, said Lisa Cole, of Ben Avon. We want to live here for a long time. We don't want to be forced out because we can't drink the water. Why should she say such a thing, when you heard about the exemptions from the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and so forth? The park lease still require the approval of four to five municipalities that make up the authority, and they were subsequently rejected unanimously --- unanimously. And we had a huge turn out at both meetings voicing concerns about the safety of Marcellus Shale drilling and the impact it might have on the park, roads, water quality and property values.

It's hard to find anything positive about this besides the money, said resident Polly Peters (phonetic). These companies will only come here because they make a ton of money, said another resident. They're not interested in our health and our community. The local elected officials in Avonworth communities listened to its citizens and voted to protect ACORD Community Park. We want our elected officials at the county to listen to us in the same way. Protect our county parks by opposing fracking on or under or near park lands. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Marissa Hicks? Marissa Hicks, are you here? Okay. Mary Marciano? Mary Marciano, are you here? Cecilia (sic) Janoski, are you here? Cecilia Janoski? She's not here? You're here; you're up.

MS. JANOSKI: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion and facts. I came to this country ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Address, please?

MS. JANOSKI: Oh, I'm sorry. I live at 305 Hoenig Road, Sewickley, so that's in Beaver County, five minutes across the border. I came to this country in 1956 and lived in Glassport for a short time. The air was putrid, and you could not see across the road at noon. I could not understand how people put up with such horrid living conditions. Now I know. It was the jobs and the money it produced, the same reasons people want slickwater hydraulic fracturing. It will produce jobs, jobs, jobs.

How long will these jobs last, and how many will get very sick? There are very few union jobs for the protection of workers in the oil and gas industry. People living downwind from all segments of the drilling know only too well that after nosebleeds, asthma, detached retinas, neurological problems and skin rashes, just to name a few, never mind livestock and pets bleeding to death. The drillers do not have their families live within three miles of any drilling activity. People are petrified that drilling has occurred in our agricultural areas where the food for us and our children are grown. But now they want to drill in or near our parks. And if the Supreme Court rules against the Commonwealth Court, we will all have drilling next to us; after all, the gas is under everyone.

We could be like Wyoming and have a well pad every mile. In seismic testing, we've charted 30-foot deep left in the ground for up to 120 days, being planned for the parks. Or perhaps you don't know. Parks, in their very nature, are places of enjoyment and relaxation and a place to move our minds and bodies away from everyday stresses, so as to be rejuvenated for the days to come. Who asked the people if we wanted our parks fracked? Indeed, who asked if we wanted our communities to be fracked? Slickwater hydraulic fracturing is a heavy

industrial activity with heavy-duty risks; explosions, constant evaporation or leakage of benzene, methane, toluene, ethylbenzene, et cetera, for the life of the wells, for the life of condensation tanks, compressor stations, and often pipelines. Water is used and abused in great quantities. Farmers out West make more money selling their water to the fracking industry than growing food. Where is all the radioactive waste frack water going? Where will our food come from? How many people get rich from this activity, and how many will be harmed? Go to Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air to find out how. The children in the future are the ones who will suffer the most. Most of us are unpaid volunteers. And if we had air time equal to the fuel industry, there would be no slickwater hydraulic fracturing --- (Applause.)

MS. JANOSKI: --- and we need it now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. Maren Cooke? Maren, are you here? Maren Cooke, followed by Ben Fiorillo. You're on; name and address.

MS. COOKE: Before I start, I want everybody to see that seal of Allegheny County and how we talked about clean air, clean water and good food.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Very good.

MS. COOKE: My name is Maren Cooke. I'm fortunate to live on the edge of a park; in this case, Pittsburgh's amazing Frick Park, at 6745 Forest Glen Road, in Squirrel Hill. There is no question that we live there because of the park, as do our neighbors. The quality of life associated with the scenic beauty, the relative quiet and cleaner air and the ability to step right outside to nature, translates directly to real estate value and hence property taxes. The benefits of the park extend quite some distance away from the park, as residents in the adjacent neighborhoods can also get to the park easily. What is the purpose of a park?

It is to provide people access to nature and lessons it can teach, the passage of the seasons. The sounds of frogs and crickets, a healthy place to exercise and socialize.

It is to provide an island of biodiversity in city and suburbia, habitat for migratory birds and native plants and animals, in contrast to the surrounding sea of pavement and lawn.

It is a place to be protected for ourselves and for future generations. Or is it to be leased out, and permanently degraded to provide short-term profits for private corporations, with a little going back into maintenance of the parks, which will, sadly no longer be attractive places for recreation, education, solitude or living nearby after the extraction operations commence. Aren't there better ways to pay for park maintenance? Have all of the residents surrounding the county parks been canvassed, to see how they feel about having their neighborhoods turned into industrial zones, complete with the noise and vibration of seismic testing, drilling, explosive fracking and heavy trucking, about having the air once freshened by the woods laden with leaked methane, VOCs, and dust? About having waterways and wells once fed by a clean forest watershed, drained for frack water and polluted by brine carrying who knows what chemicals from the proprietary fracking fluids along with salt and other materials from the long ago days of deposition about having their own health, once enhanced in so many ways by proximity to the irreplaceable parks, slip away -- to be replaced by headaches, rashes, coughs, cancer and other ailments that doctors aren't even allowed to talk about.

Should Pennsylvania, once again, fall victim to extractive industries after a sales pitch of environmental benefits and local jobs, but receiving not much of either. Boom-and-bust economy isn't a healthy path for any region, and most of the skilled jobs tend to go to people from out of state, where this industry has been operating for years. And on the environmental side, most of the gas to be shocked out of the Marcellus Shale and Utica formation below is slated to be sold overseas, leaving us to continue sullyng our own air, water and land with coal for power, along with all the risks of drilling, fracking, processing, and transport. The fact that gas burns cleaner than coal may improve health and the environment in other places, which is great, but we are the ones to pay the price for the extraction, in terms of air and water pollution, habitat loss, park access and aesthetics and attendant decline in property values. These costs are all quite inevitable. Even if wells and compressor stations operate nominally. And the further risks of leaky well casings, and most wells will ultimately leak, and the occasional fiery blowout or tanker truck turnover raise the stakes even further. As for the putative

climate benefits, the fact that natural gas when burned produces less carbon dioxide than coal is outweighed by the degree to which the gas itself is being released from the wells and other facilities; methane is a much stronger greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide by a factor of 20-100 depending on how you count it. Society here and all over the world needs to wean itself off of fossil fuels in order to avert climate catastrophe, not find more sources of it.

Thanks for listening. I hope that you will hold the line against sacrificing our public lands to the short term interest of corporate profits and so-called easy money. Please don't sell out the parks!

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Ben Fiorillo? Ben Fiorillo? Ben, are you here? D. Freedman? D. Freedman? D. Freedman? I'm sorry.

(Child in audience brought to mike; no statement.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. Getting back to the agenda, is there a D. Freedman here? Nathan Hall? Nathan Hall? Is there a Nathan Hall here? Victoria Scholl? Victoria Scholl? I don't want to make this a circus. This is a very serious issue, okay, so let's all address it like that. Okay?

MS. SCHOLL: Thank you. Members of Council, my name is Victoria Scholl. I reside at 935 Dallett Road, in Whitehall. I am here to ask you, as so many others have already said, to never lease our valuable county parks for industrial shale gas drilling. I think our outstanding parks are the best thing about Allegheny County, and I think that most other county residents would agree with me that we don't want heavy industrial sites near our parks or dangerous pipelines carving up our safe housing communities. I think it's bad enough that companies keep using private lands for their industrial fracking, farther and farther into Allegheny County, let alone the public lands, as well.

I'm asking you to make sure that the county executor (sic), Rich Fitzgerald, cannot invite these harmful companies in to exploit our public lands. If you do this, and you let our beautiful county parks for shale gas extraction, I, like so many, really fear what will

become of them. And I have the same fears, regardless of whether the well pad itself is on park land or on neighboring private property. The harms of shale gas extraction do not stay in one place, as you will find if you did do research.

Please remember, at the end of the day, none of the Range Resource executives who are trying to convince you to lease our land, in the coming weeks will be accountable to us. And they answer to their shareholders. If any of the lakes in Deer Lakes Park are contaminated, I do not believe that they will be here to help clean it up. When residents who pay their taxes are frustrated by thousands of trips of heavy trucks on county roads, or by the bright burning flares or the noise of heavy machinery, I'm here to complain. I do believe that Range will be here to answer the questions or yours. They will just point to the lease that you signed, and you'll be left to deal with the mess. Well, I'm here today with a common sense request. We're asking you to do your due diligence and not rush to sign a long and complex lease that is written to benefit the company who writes it. We want you to consider the cost of possible harm to the public spaces, that you have the duty to protect. In summary, I beseech you, protect our parks. Please say no to private exploitation of our public lands. I thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Douglas Shields? Doug Shields? I don't think I see him here --- okay. He's here, followed by Dana Dolney. I missed you.

MR. SHIELDS: County Council members, thank you for having us tonight, and thank you for staying with us. I can't add much more to what's here tonight. You've heard from a lot of people. Did you know, Pittsburgh City Council, is coming up on the third anniversary of the governing body that is due diligence, that are two separate special sessions of council, three hours long, devoted to this subject. There are not speeches by the members. There was a Q and A with experts before them. We had constitutional law scholars there. We even had scientists there. We had representatives from the industry there; Dr. Kenneth Borris (phonetic), who's an international expert right here in our backyard at Duquesne University, who said, don't get me wrong, guys, on gas. You understand that.

But the way things are going in Pennsylvania right now, you need a moratorium from Dr. Ken Borris. If you're not sure, if you need research, if you need evidence, there are six hours on two DVDs sitting over in the Clerk's Office. Mr. Catanese, who serves this council so well, can easily provide those to you. He can call up Linda Johnson Fosler (phonetic) tomorrow and the clerk will send those hearings to you. Consider the evidence we considered when we made that decision. That was a shock heard around the world in this debate.

(Applause.)

MR. SHIELDS: You know, I have a few points here, and it's a suggestion. And one of the suggestions during the meeting, that somehow or another, this is not on the table; we don't have anything in front of us. We are not fools, we are citizens. We know what's going on. We know about the meetings of Rich Fitzgerald. We know what's going on and your council, Councilman Futules. To suggest that this is not a possibility or that this moment is not right to have such a discussion, is simply not true. The moment is now, and we're not going to sit here and wait until this thing's all lined up to go, as it was in the airport deal ---

(Applause.)

MR. SHIELDS: --- expert by people that didn't have any standing at all, to come to a public hearing before this body. I'm not putting up with that; believe me, I'm not. I stand ready to help each and every one of you. I stand ready to do the legal research with Ms. Heidelbaugh.

And also, you have an obligation as yourself. If you want us to bring information, we will. We will.

MS. HEIDELBAUGH: I've done ---.

MR. SHIELDS: We will. I have the floor. We will bring you the information. But on your side of the ledger, you're a skilled and competent attorney working in a very good law firm that has access to a lot of information. In response to my constituents who were getting their door knocked with a \$1,200 check and a landsman saying, let's lease, that's how I got involved in this. And I did my due diligence. I did my research, and I put it on the table and met the test; and my message to Council --- not necessarily that we agree with me, but we agree with the evidence. You want to have a trial with rules of evidence, rules of procedure, let's have it,

because never at these meetings, as was pointed out, is the industry, and never is the media.

When I go to speak in public somewhere and someone from the industry is supposed to be on that panel, they cancel an hour before, every time; every time. And I do wear deodorant, so I don't think it's the body odor. If you want our help, we're here. Just take our calls and call us back. I'm getting tired of no responses.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Dana Dolney? Dana Dolney, are you here? Dana Dolney, D-O-L-N-E-Y ---

AUDIENCE MEMBER: She's not here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: --- followed by Pia Colucci.

MS. COLUCCI: You got it right.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: That's right. Did I do it right?

MS. COLUCCI: You did it right.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Oh, God. First thing all night.

MS. COLUCCI: Hi, members of Council. Thank you for listening to my comments on the proposed fracking in our county parks. This is my first time ever here, and I'm very excited. I was thinking while I was standing down here and thinking about the horrific ecological side effects for fracking --- terrorism, that I call it --- going on, on our only planet, Planet Earth. But I trust at this point that you're very well educated about the process, with poisoned water injected into the wells, the resulting and, most importantly, the millions of gallons of water per well, never again recoverable for our aquifers due to the undisclosed poisons that the frackers use.

Those are some of the nightmares related to the process of fracking. I know many of you voted to fracking the airport, but I thank those of you that stood up for our environment and voted no.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hear, hear.

MS. COLUCCI: I'm a realtor. I've been licensed since 2002 here in Pennsylvania. What I want to bring to your attention --- oh, by the way, I'm from Shadyside, 4725 Wallingford Street; okay? What I want to bring to your attention is the effect that it's had on your constituents' property; this fracking, I'm hearing. Maybe when they sell their home because they're next door to the previously highly desirable location, by one of our county

parks, you'll have to think of why, when you had the chance, didn't you protect our parks and ban fracking. It has happened in Washington County. A couple did not get a mortgage due to fracking; not on their lands, but rather on their next door neighbor's.

This threat is getting more and more common. Our very own forms issued by the West Penn Multi-List, goes into more and more detail of fracking in every revision that we received. Section 17 titled, Hazardous Substances and Environmental Issues, Item G, I read this verbatim. Are you aware of the presence --- and this is the seller who has to fill this form out before they even can sell their property. Are you aware of the presence of an environmental hazard or biohazard on your property or an adjacent property? Answer yes, no or unknown. Section 17, same section, Item M, are you aware of any other hazardous substances or environmental concerns that might impact upon the property? Answer yes, no or unknown; if yes, explain. Title --- Section 19, titled Miscellaneous, Item L, are you aware of any drilling that was put on the property? Yes or no. Are you aware of any drilling that is planned for this property? Yes or no. Are you aware of any drilling that has occurred or is planned to occur on nearby property? Yes, no or unknown. If the answer is yes to any of these items, please explain. If items were added --- if these items were added in the very recent past, they were added for a reason. The disclosure gives the seller the opportunity to address in a public --- make public the failings of the home. Now, the most important character of real estate, location, location, location. Think about what you will say to your constituents when they no longer are able to sell their homes. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Helen Gerhardt? Helen Gerhardt, are you here? No response. Davis Gill? Davis Gill, are you here? I guess he couldn't answer if he's not here. Peter Wray, W-A-R-Y (sic). Peter, are you here?

MR. WRAY: I'm Mr. Wray.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Wray.

MR. WRAY: Good evening. My name is Peter Wray, and I'm Conservation Committee Chair of the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club, with close ties to 3,000 members --- sorry --- with close to 3,000 members in Allegheny County. We are seriously concerned about any

move to open up our region or county parks to industrial fracking operations. Public lands everywhere are always open to quick commercial gains, corporate and ball fields and the city parks, mining in South Park, which you might remember. And we are currently fighting any attempt to lift the current moratorium on fracking in state forests and state parks, our overriding sense that leasing the gas rights beneath Deer Lakes Park as being privately explored by the county administration and is but a first step towards leasing of all nine parks.

And will the county administration be satisfied with just leasing of the gas rights, when there is even more money to be made from gas drilling within the parks? The argument might be made that monies from fracking will be used solely for the greater regional park system, but we have to warn them. How soon will the regional park system be used as a cash cow for other needs? Simply leasing the gas rights may be seen as a harmless move with little, if any, impact to the parks. But what consideration will be given to the invited gas drilling and production close to the parks? Here are but a few questions. One, how will the county ensure that the air quality around the parks and throughout the county's area, will not be impaired? Two, will groundwater testing be required by the county before drilling is approved and money thereafter? Three, has the impact of seismic testing been evaluated?

Four, what rights does Council believe it has to impose restrictions on fracking operations that go beyond the rules and regulations imposed by the state? Five, has Council considered the loss in tax revenue due to the depreciation of property values near the wells? Will the county respect the zoning requirements of all the municipalities? What emergency plans need to be made to handle accidents and spills? What requirements will be put in place for capping of wells after their use, and who will be accountable? There is much to be considered, so what's --- why the rush?

We urge Council to place a moratorium on the leasing of gas rights for all nine parks, at least until public hearings and the environmental impact statements have been held for each single park. Finally, we urge Council to provide assurance that there will be no shale gas drilling in any regional park, any park, and to place

bans on any such activity for all nine parks. Thank you for your patience.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Mark Pakulski? Mark, are you here?

MR. PAKULSKI: I am here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Yes, sir. Did I butcher that name up a little bit?

MR. PAKULSKI: That was nice; it was nice.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay.

MR. PAKULSKI: Hi. My name is Mark Pakulski. I'm from Natrona Heights, Pennsylvania. I live at 2511 Wilson Street. I live about a half mile away from Harrison Hills. I love the park. Please don't drill it. I think everyone is being very case on tonight. I don't need to reiterate that. I'm 28. I've been able to vote for ten years; I voted twice in my life. And I've been here for three hours waiting to just make my thoughts be known. I'm not a very passionate political person, but it affected my park. I love Harrison Hills Park, so I've been waiting and waiting and waiting and dragged my sister and my girlfriend and one of my co-workers here, to go do it with me.

(Applause.)

MR. PAKULSKI: Thank you. Yeah. Basically, the situation is, I represent what I like to call the normal dude, quote, end quote. So I'm motivated to action to come out and say --- and make my opinion known. But normally, I would rather be working on my golf game, because I would. But this matters that much to me to actually speak in passion about it. So please protect our parks and the interest of the people. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Jessica McPherson? Jessica, are you --- you're here.

MS. MCPHERSON: Hi. My name is Jessica McPherson, 4815 Kincaid Street, in Pittsburgh. I know that a lot of money is being dangled in front of everyone, millions of dollars. But I just want to urge you guys to realize that it's not free money. This is a very serious decision with serious consequences, and we really need a serious democratic deliberative process to go along with it. I'm not looking for what happened at the airport,

sure you have heard about that. So this decision is a bit more significant because these are large chunks of land that might make or break the economic feasibility of drilling efforts regionally.

Public lands can drive these private stations. Companies like situations where they can work with a single land owner. We've seen this with state lands, state forests. Companies have been seen to exploit state forests before they've exploited other areas which are actually geologically more significant. But they go to the state forests because they work on a single landowner, and they can work through access issues and there they go. So really, this isn't like, oh, what are we going to do what's being forced upon us here? You may be in the dark about what happens regionally. There's a lot of ramifications about park users and its surrounding communities. There's significant evidence --- there's no possible way to go in, there's a lot in the process, and it is impossible to summarize it in three minutes. I really urge you to look at what the City --- Pittsburgh Council looked at, to follow through with a similar process of inviting experts from all sides, experts who are not in the industry. Of course, industry is going to tell you this is safe. They stand to make a lot of money. We've all seen that. But please reach beyond that, listen to the sense of the people that have been impacted by this process already who are multitudinous, and listen to the experts who aren't in the pay of the gas industry.

The other thing I would say, yeah, you might need money for the parks. This is not a new situation, but this whole situation. The gas isn't going anywhere. The companies want to answer to their quarterly profit reports and push this decision to happen fast. We don't need to do that, we really don't. We have a much higher quality to uphold the quality of life in the county, and the long-term sustainability, these assets that can't be replaced once they're destroyed.

And have we really thought of other options? What would happen if we leased portions of our parks for solar energy? Wouldn't we like to bring our kids to see that instead of to bring them, you know, pollution does not respect boundaries. That explosion you saw on the poster is not just going to blow the other away of the park fence line. Even if we don't let infrastructure on the park surface, we're going to still have to deal with

that, you know. And the people who made the decision to make that lease, are going to be morally in trouble for the impact it has. So please be more responsible and consider the long-term interest.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Monica Bielawski? Monica Bielawski? No Monica out there? Tom Hoffman?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Carlana Rhoten?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: No. I have that she's not going to be here; right? She's not going to be here.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: No, don't be sorry. Tom Hoffman?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not here.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Okay. He's not. Fran Harkins? Fran Harkins? Are you here, Fran?

MS. HARKINS: Yes. Thank you for the privilege of speaking here this evening. As county board members, you are the trustees of our heritage. Our public parks are the crown jewels of this county. Your vote either will protect and preserve these natural resources or endanger them. Supporting fracking under any county park will set a clear precedent. Future parks will fall like dominoes. Under current law, this choice is yours.

Time spent in the cool forests breathing clean air is fortifying to both body and spirit. On a hot day in summer, my visit to White Oak Park to enjoy the family celebration of my tenant and friend, was a true gift to an asthmatic like myself. Though the Mon River Valley is one of the most polluted airsheds in the United States, the Post-Gazette nonetheless reports that both White Oak Park near McKeesport and Round Hill Park in Elizabeth are considered as drilling prospects.

Where else would the under-served population of this county turn for respite from the already heavy burden to their lives and health of industrial pollution? Allowing the oil and gas industry to drill laterally beneath our public parks will result in an increased number of drilling pads and compressor stations, greater diesel truck traffic and consequent road damage, and much larger component parts. Damage to our airsheds and watersheds is inevitable. Short-term profits will not begin to trump the monetary costs of long-term impacts, as

measured in citizens' health, damage to roads and pollution in our parks. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Rebecca Reid? Rebecca Reid? Not here, I assume. Jill Weeks?

MS. WEEKS: Hello, everyone. Thank you so much for allowing us the privilege in front of you. I have never been to a rally before. I've only like seen this in the movies, and I am humbled before you because I know there's a lot of input that is before you. And I actually --- my brother is a normal guy. I actually come before you as a business owner and as a job creator. I am that girl. I make jobs in the Pittsburgh area. I went to college and went to New York City for ten years, and I came back about a year and a half ago. There are tax incentives for film production. There's great education. There's major healthcare. This is not Cleveland; this is not Buffalo. We have cleaned up our act. We have said we are going to make this place a place to be. We're like the happiest city. We're so happy and people like to be here and people want to be here. And so I just like studied the likes of Penn State. They were one of the first schools to release the study of how great the economy will be after the fracking. That was my alma mater. That's what they said.

And we know that's not necessarily true, and I'm not going to list studies, I'm just not, because you know it's important. I think it's kind of like --- for me, I'm a registered dietician. I have my Master's from Columbia University in New York City. And I studied nutrition and people say to me, how do I prevent cancer? How do I keep my dog from getting cancer? And what we do instead is, we put pink on NFL players on Sunday. That's how we fight cancer. And it's like you said, sir, our only way --- you know, we need to address the actual problem. And the problem of why we're seeing such a high incident --- high incidence of cancer is because our food and water and soil are polluted. And we need to be forward thinkers.

And there is some research out there. I'm really not going to get into it. I just want to speak as a business owner, that I have to recruit talent from around the world to work for my company. And I have to be able to sell this place --- it's safe for your kids; it's safe to live here. And I would rather see it invested in

more public transportation, houses to rent --- oh, my gosh, was that awful --- houses to rent, more infrastructure for young people to come in here. That's how we get revenue, is bring more people here that want to move to Pittsburgh. So you know, let's keep it up. Okay? And thanks for being here. I'm not a member of any of these groups, but I do recycle, so ---.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Erika Staaf? Erika?

MS. STAAF: Thank you for making me follow you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you recycle?

MS. STAAF: I should, because I represent PennEnvironment. I'm an advocate for PennEnvironment. My name is Erika Staaf. And we're a citizen-funded, state-based environmental advocacy organization. We represent roughly 10,000 residents in Allegheny County, and our address is 1831 Murray Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15217. I don't think anyone will argue that our --- as we've heard again and again, for many reasons the county parks are the gems of our community. It's a place for us to escape. It's a place for rest and relaxation, to walk dogs, bike ride, take our kids to experience nature, enjoy summer concerts and lights at Christmastime.

And I understand the economic promise and potential that you see and the balance that you're attempting to create. I understand that. But from studying and working on this issue for the last five years, I can tell you that the benefits are just not worth the risks, now and for future generations. The track record alone of companies across Pennsylvania speaks for itself, I believe. And the company specifically looking to drill in our county parks, Range Resources has had 388 violations of our state environmental laws since 2004. Conley (phonetic) and Company has had 61 violations.

And I can give you the whole range of all the other potential drillers in our county parks once I know who is going to start drilling there. We are more than happy to provide any information, scientific studies, to all of you, more than you've already received. And you know, there's a lot of information out there. I'll go through a little bit of it in a second. But at the same time, I believe that the burden of proof really needs to be on the industry to demonstrate that and only then should we move forward. But our future is just showing again and again the risks of shale gas extraction through

drilling and fracking, through other operations associated with the industry --- close to population centers in Allegheny County are just too risky.

We've seen fires --- we've seen well fires in 2013, 2011 and 2010 in Pennsylvania requiring the evacuation of dozens of families each time. We've seen truck traffic and noise which has caused extra levels of stress on families and nearby businesses. Gas and oil development has damaged water supplies of 161 homes, farms, churches, businesses and other institutions, between 2008 and 2012. That's according to the DEP's own record. Gas has been documented to contaminate aquifers up to seven miles from the wellhead. So that's why I'm joining with my colleagues today --- everyone here today for this and other reasons, that we are urging Allegheny County Council to permanently halt all chance of drilling on or under our county parks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Dr. Peri Unligil. If I mispronounced it, I do apologize.

DR. UNLIGIL: Hi. My name is Peri Unligil. I live at 210 Sun Ridge Road, ZIP 15238. And I'd like to add another comment on the possibility of --- on the possibility of fracking in our county parks as Air Quality Chair of the Allegheny Chapter of the Sierra Club and as a physician practicing here in Allegheny County in general internal medicine. Like many county residents, my family and I go frequently to Allegheny County parks for family gatherings and exercise. Clean air and the absence of traffic are among the greatest benefits of our parks and for exercise and play. The introduction of fracking activity into our parks brings associated truck traffic and air pollution emissions from the well sites, plus the potential to take away the health benefit of exercise and recreation in our parks.

And it's been shown that fine particulates from diesel traffic can make a significant difference in our lungs' response to exercise, with more pollution being produced when we exercise in areas with higher levels of fine particulates. This leads to asthma exacerbations and heart attacks. The young, elderly and those affected with conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, also known as COPD, which is especially prevalent in this county, are advised to avoid exercising in areas

of high fine particulates such as produced by diesel exhaust.

Fracking would take away the county parks as a safe haven from this form of pollution that we seek out when we use these parks. In particular, I heard that Deer Lakes Park is a site for fracking. Having enjoyed the clear skies and minimal light pollution in this park to observe the stars from Wagman Observatory, I doubt that either of these activities would remain enjoyable or advisable for young and old. The fracking would be established in or adjacent to this park. Fracking in county parks would be of significant cost to our county, and we should not allow a short-term profit to cloud our view of a long-term cost to our community's health. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Elissa Weiss? Elissa Weiss? Are you here?

MS. WEISS: Good evening. My name is Elissa Weiss. I reside at 134 Dennis Drive, in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania. I would like to express my concerns about opposition to the current practice of hydraulic fracturing, and particularly, in or around our populous county and public parks. To begin with, this process, as I understand it, involves clearing several acres of land for drilling pads and access roads for more than 1,000 heavy truck trips per well, the cargos of chemicals and water and other materials, drilling to establish the well and the injection of toxic solids, water at high pressure, with accompanying 24/7 loud noise and bright light exposure and the resultant recruitment and mixture of in-ground toxic and radioactive entities return a substantial proportion of the injected materials, local impoundment of the return, with local fugitive emissions, leaks and spills, for re-use or disposal, which is a controversial problem in itself; the gas disposition also, through pipelines, valves, storage tanks, compressor station processing plants with 24/7 operation, exhaust fumes, noise, light, increased local traffic, all with significant fugitive emissions.

Scientifically speaking, with respect to the chemicals' nature, identity is largely unrevealed, the effects of their compounding are uncertain, as are the effects once they return to the surface, of their combinations with other chemicals or radioactive

substances underground. The health effects of all these and of multiple fugitive emissions and exposures have not been thoroughly studied, nor can they be, especially in the absence of complete transparency on the part of the drilling companies, which is not forthcoming. We do know that absent inactive --- gas wells has contributed to well failure, the citations described are accurate. Oil Field Review, a company or a journal, indicates significant failure with marked increases over time, up to 50 percent over 30 years of well failure, a consequence echoed by the Society of Petroleum Engineers. We do know that there are numerous instances of suspected contamination of the groundwater in Wyoming, I understand, demonstrated to be related to fracking, according to the EPA. We do know through studies that there is no predicting the direction that fracturing will take. With these facts, these scientific facts --- these are realities --- in mind, we should be particularly concerned about the effects of fracking on our county parks, both because of the wild non-industrialized nature of the parkland, as it was intended to be, and especially because of the relatively high density of the population of the county living in proximity of the parks, which will be most affected by this industrial practice.

Physicians for social responsibility of U.S. affiliate and international physicians for prevention of nuclear war, a 1998 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, made a physician statement on fracking published by the American Environmental Health Policy Institute, and it states, PSR supports a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing until such time as impartial federal agencies, such as the U.S. EPA, develop rules that provide adequate protection for human health and the environment from fossil fuel extraction by hydraulic fracturing.

I apologize for going overtime. I will deliver a copy to each of you of this ---.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We thank you.

MS. WEISS: Again, there are also a wealth of scientific responses by PA PMPH and hydraulic fracturing and international natural gas development research done here in southwestern Pennsylvania.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Melanie Pallon? Melanie Pallon, P-A-L-L-O-N, are you here --- Pallon (changes pronunciation). Welcome, Melanie.

MS. PALLON: Thank you. I'm not going to be as erudite as some of the prior speakers, and I'll try to be a little more cordial and speak a little bit more from the gut. I live at 412 Tenth Street, in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. For the record, I am opposed to drilling in our parks. Parks are set aside for the preservation of nature, for wildlife, for green space, for recreation and for an escape, especially from the urban landscape, in which many of us find ourselves on a daily basis in this county. There's no question that we owe some of our ancestral heritage to the fracking industry, and that some of us have benefited from the mining and steel production that came from coal. But there's also no question that our state has paid a heavy price from the ravages of coal mining and coal burning, to our health, to our water sources, to our air quality, to our soil for vegetation, to our wildlife habitat.

Frankly, I think that this state would be ashamed to open our doors to the invasion of dangerous chemicals that are proposed by the well drilling industry. And I have always challenged our governor to face the truth, whose pocket he's in, to open the door to what's good. The former Republican governor of the State of New York was far more courageous in imposing a moratorium for the citizens of that state, with a habitat and landscaping similar to ours, until they were certain that it was safe.

But I do blame this equitably in a non-partisan way, because of the Democratic predecessor whose governorship first allowed drilling in state parkland and state game lands and allowed and opened the door to fracking in the state. And we all have seen the results of that. So I'm going to ask you, as local politicians, to be a little bit more courageous and to take a really long, hard look at this before you go along with the program. Should you go to a head vote to allow this to occur in our state parks, as some of you no doubt will --- let's face it, the industry has been waging an unfair fight since the Federal Energy Act of 2004 cut off the tongues of those who would be allowed to speak about what is actually contained in fracking. Then I'm going to make a statement, which may not be popular with people who are now here, and I count myself among them.

Will you require that the frack water be treated in the most environmentally responsible way possible, that it be contained and that it be safely recycled, all right, as much as environmentally possible? And if you vote against the interest of citizens and taxpayers whose health and serenity are at stake here to allow this to occur, will you dedicate the profits back into preserving the county's parks of which you are basically the stewards at this point? Very briefly, I just want to let you know that I was driving on Interstate 79 when I saw a well fire, about Meadville. It was purple and orange, and sparks were exploding all over the place. And I was so afraid that a building had exploded that I pulled over and I called the State Police. I don't want to see this in our county parks. My niece plays in Deer Lakes in Springwood Park. Should I be afraid to allow her to do that once this occurs? So just a little food for thought for you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you very much.  
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Lucyna de Barbaro, are you here? You're here.

MS. BARBARO: Last one?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You're the last one.

MS. BARBARO: Hello and thank you, Council members, for listening to us and for taking to heart what all these wonderful people presented. And I would like to add my voice to them. I oppose fracking near or under --- in the parks. I'm a relative newcomer to Pittsburgh, and I must say, it was expressed --- I'm Polish originally, but lived in the States for a number of years already, but ---. And I have --- I think the value of the parks were very well represented here. They are very dear to me as well. And the value of recreation and green space in the city is entirely immeasurable. And such a space and such a lovely city, lovely area, as we have for attracting people to Pittsburgh and making our city and region vital and developing. I believe everybody should understand that.

On a personal note, also, I'm very much convinced that the global warming is one of the more important issues of our time. And I very much sympathize with the comments expressed here regarding how much we extract in the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are not a part of the future, and we need to raise our common

awareness of this. On a personal --- on a personal front, for example, I'm engaged in reconstruction of a home. It will be 80 percent more energy efficient than a regular home. It will be down in Squirrel Hill. I hope to set an example to others that we can use much less energy in our homes or in our new construction. There is a conference coming to Pittsburgh; you know, there's a movement to use less energy and also to use renewable energy is taking hold. And I hope we will all be part of this movement together. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. DESANTIS: I signed up, but I'm not a county resident.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: We'll have a special time for that. Okay?

MS. DESANTIS: So I can't speak now?

PRESIDENT MARTONI: I don't care if you speak. Come on and speak.

MS. DESANTIS: We drove a long way, and I'd like to have that opportunity.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You came far, and you have a long way back, so just be nice.

MS. DESANTIS: My name is Lisa DeSantis, D-E-S-A-N-T-I-S. My address is 2316 Pennsylvania Avenue, New Castle, PA, Lawrence County, which --- I'm above you. And I would like to --- the reason I got involved in the fracking fight is because they sold my county park. Lawrence County sold Cascade Park, Gaston Park, Flaherty Field, Deshon Field. Our schools are all sold. Our 500, 600 acres of game lands are sold. We're getting an \$800,000,000 electric plant that runs on shale that's going to be connected by pipeline from Beaver County to Lawrence County to Ohio, to where Patty Borchuk (phonetic) lives. And she's always fighting against frack.

And we're just getting --- we're getting dissected, bisected and trisected. I call the DEP; there's oil on the river. It's floating down here. Nobody cares. Our newspaper is so --- our newspaper is so money hungry. And the oil industry, they take --- they come down. They don't see this. The DEP told me that there's been oil on the river for years. So it's kind of just a normal thing. And I'm the one that's out trucking; you know, looking for trucks, finding the spills, finding the flares, doing all this groundwork when the DEP is not. And I travel, and I go to these meetings all the time.

And I've attended quite a few of them, dog and pony shows, and I realize that I appreciate you guys being here listening, and thank you. And I just want to let you know that this stuff is going down. You should pay attention to what's going on north of you. Lawrence County is sending a lot of this your way; so thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Thank you. That's everyone. Okay. Thank you.

MS. DESANTIS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARTONI: Everyone be safe going home. Okay?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chuck, people waited for a very long time to listen to us. Do more of this. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: You're welcome. Motion to adjourn? Motion to adjourn?

(Chorus of motions.)

(Chorus of seconds.)

PRESIDENT MARTONI: The meeting stands adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 P.M.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

  
Court Reporter