

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HIGHER EDUCATION
and
ENERGY COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, June 20, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Tom Barraga
Legislator Ed Romaine
Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development
Charles Stein - Suffolk Community College
George Gatta - Suffolk Community College
James Morgo - Commissioner - Economic Development
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:50 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Would we please stand for the Pledge.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And may we just stand for a moment of silence for all those young men and women who are fighting for our freedoms across the sea.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of June 20th, 2007. And I have several cards here. We do not have a presentation today, so that will make this an abbreviated meeting. Let me first call up Debra Alloncius.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Good morning, Members of the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee. My name is Debbie Alloncius. I am the AME Legislative director. I'm here to speak in support of IR 1562, accepting and appropriating the grant proposal of State funds to Suffolk County Community College. We all how important it is that we build those -- that college up. And accepting these funds is a no-brainer to, I understand. But we want to make them the best. I'm sure there's a few alumni here in this room right now. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Take the money.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We want them to make them the best. So we're all in agreement. Okay. Let me call up Dr. David Axelrod. Doctor, why don't you have a seat here in the front. You will note on the agenda Introductory Resolution 1553, designating Poet Laureate of Suffolk County. Who is our -- Dr. Axelrod is our -- is our nominee. But first, let me -- let me allow you to present any information you will like to give us, Dr. Axelrod.

DR. AXELROD:

Well, I'm grateful to be here. In fact, I'm honored to be here. And hoping that if there any questions, I'd have a suitable answer for you. I'm looking forward to the possibility of performing in this capacity. In fact, I bring some goods news. In the process of awaiting confirmation, I notified two or three people who might be able to provide funds for a Young Poets Mentoring Program that would allow established writers in Suffolk County to bring along younger poets. And we already have two grants confirmed; one from Wal-Mart, Good Works Program; and another just yesterday from Washington, the America the Beautiful Fund, both of which would provide seed money to allow young writers a chance. So I'm hoping I can put those funds into play.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Boy, that sounds great. We appreciate your proactive issue related to going out there and researching and looking for dollars to promote poetry in Suffolk County. That's truly great. Anything else you would like to add, Dr. Axelrod?

DR. AXELROD:

No, but I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good. Let me do this. If I may, Legislator Viloría-Fisher is, I believe, looking to take an Introductory Resolution out of order.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Out of order, yes. I just wanted to point out that Legislator Romaine has a question.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'm sorry. Ed, I didn't see you down there. Ed.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I just would ask you, Doctor, what you would anticipate doing as a poet laureate during your tenure.

DR. AXELROD:

Well, I regard it as a teaching experience, because that's been my career all my life. And as a Good Will Ambassador to the general public, I've been the Director -- the Founder and Director of a writers service for 30 plus years now. And in that capacity, we bring the arts more generally and poetry, specifically writing to all ages. So we have the young poets thing. Another I would hope to initiate might be visits to the seniors. They have a wonderful Tapping Program that's been successful. Maybe we can further that.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I know the power of poetry, and it has a way of cutting through things and making its point very well. So I look forward to hearing you and your words as you serve as our poet laureate. And I always remember what Mario Cuomo said for people in my profession, "We campaign in -- we campaign in poetry, but we govern in pros." And I think that's apropos.

DR. AXELROD:

Maybe I can edit the poetry at least.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I think you'd be knee deep if you tried to edit some of that poetry.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

By the way, Legislator -- the Legislator is a former English teacher, I believe; is that correct?

LEG. ROMAINE:

History.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

History. Oh, I thought you were English.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

No. I was the English teacher.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I knew you were. So why don't we make that motion, and then we have some certain issues as far as inclusions that the Doctor has provided us. We want to make sure that everyone takes a look through.

DR. AXELROD:

I promise that there will be no quiz on the books that I provided.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You know you're among academics, huh? Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to IR 1553 out of order.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. And I do want to say, Dr. Axelrod, that it is indeed an honor to have you here before us. I know the work that you have done throughout your career in promoting poetry here in Suffolk County. Certainly the acting -- you have acted as a teacher of poetry for the public and somebody who has included the general public in the art of poetry. And so I think it's a perfect fit. However, I didn't give the Chair the opportunity to take the vote on the motion I just made.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You did not, that's correct. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. We are taking this legislation out of order.

1553. Designating Poet Laureate for Suffolk County (David B. Axelrod).

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And I did want to mention for those of you who haven't had a chance to look at just a brief resume that's attached to the legislation, Dr. Axelrod is a three time recipient of {Full Brights}. He has certainly spread the good news and the word of poetry in many countries of the world. He is a -- you're an educator on sabbatical at Suffolk Community College.

DR. AXELROD:

I have one more small piece of good news just in case someone wants to take the trip over. I've just been informed that I'll be giving a ten day seminar in {Mount Estevern} in Ireland this summer. So that will be a nice addition.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And when is that beginning, from when to when?

DR. AXELROD:

July 19th to 29th. I'll be presenting an academic paper teaching poetry and giving a performance. It's always an excuse for a party.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Sounds good to me. Well, Mr. Chair, I'd like to make a motion to approve.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May I also add that we have -- we have three books that were included in our packet today, "Early Sky New and Collected Poems," as well as Love in the Keys, Poems prepared by Dr. Axelrod," and "The Universal Language." And congratulations on your to trip to Ireland. There is no better place in the world to study and learn about poetry then the Emerald Isles of Ireland. That being the case, there's a motion on the floor to approve and there's a second by Legislator Romaine. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

Congratulations. What you do now is we'll be -- this will be presented now in front of the full Legislature. You do not have to be there. This would be next Tuesday, right, in Riverhead. So you are out there, aren't you?

DR. AXELROD:

Well, in Selden now, but it's a quick hop out to Riverhead.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, you're welcome to come out to watch the proceedings involving this resolution, though you do not have to be there. The requirement was that you have to come before this committee.

DR. AXELROD:

Thank you so much for having me. I look forward to serving your needs. Again, I'm honored to be appointed.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

LEG. STERN:

Congratulations.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good luck to you. All right. We don't have any further cards, so we will move to the agenda. Tabled Prime. Carolyn Fahey, you wanted to say something. I forgot you. Come on up.

MS. FAHEY:

Good afternoon. I did want to just advise you that at Tuesday's full Legislative Meeting you're going to be seeing a CN accepting and appropriating a grant from the FAA to cover the cost of engineering for a portion of our runway at Gabreski airport. It was going to be on the regular agenda and submitted to committee, but because the FAA notified us that they needed to have grant accepted and returned by July 15th, we've asked the County Executive's Office to do a CN on it. So I'm just giving you a heads-up that at the next meeting -- full Legislative Meeting you will see that CN.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. Any further questions of Carolyn? Thank you very much. All right. We'll now move to Tabled Prime.

1171. Adopting a Local Law to establish the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So moved. Note for the record Legislator Romaine opposes. **APPROVED (VOTE:4-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legis. Romaine)**

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

1501, Adopting a Local Law enhancing the ability of the Wireless Suffolk County

Development Corporation to develop a WI-FI Network in Suffolk County and Nassau County.

This needs to be tabled for a public hearing.

LEG. STERN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Stern, I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED** for a public hearing **(VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1562. Accepting and appropriating a grant proposal to the New York State Education Department for a Students Uncovering Mathematics and Science (SUMS) Program 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve and also put on the Consent Calendar by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Vilorio-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to adjourn by Legislator Romaine, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:01 P.M. *)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY