

**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 1, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Legislator Ricardo Montano
Legislator Lynne Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Tom Barraga - 11th Legislative District
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Eric Kopp - County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development
JP DiMartino - Aide to Chairman Horsley
Maria Figalora
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver - Legislative Aide

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:01 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Good afternoon everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting of June 1st. May we all please stand for the Pledge.

SALUTATION

May we please stand for a moment of silence for the men and women who continually fight for our freedoms both home and abroad.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We have a very short agenda here today. We don't have any presentations. Do we have any cards? Nothing. All right. Why don't we move then to the agenda.

TABLED PRIME RESOLUTIONS

1297 - Approving the change of project location for Downtown Revitalization Round V for the Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce and amending the contract with the Village of Lindenhurst to reflect same. (Co. Exec.)

This is already in the budget and it's been -- we've moved to -- and reconciled with the attorneys and whatever. So I will move to approve this.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

1378 - To appoint Maria Figalora as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Barraga)

Is Maria here?

MS. FIGALORA:

Yes, I am.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Maria, come on up and why don't you have a seat. And I'm going to turn this over to Legislator Barraga who says that you are his constituent and is just anxious to say hey.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, Maria has an opening statement she'd like to make and then I'd like to make a few comments after she finishes.

MS. FIGALORA:

Good afternoon. First let me thank you for giving me the wonderful opportunity to be here and if selected to serve on the Suffolk County Cultural Affairs Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. I would also like to thank Legislator Barraga for having the confidence in me. Having said that let's go on to business.

I've always been interested in the music, the arts, history and different cultures. I remember as a young girl my father would take me to the free concerts in Central Park, we would sit on the great lawn enjoying lunch and listening to wonderful music. I remember being part of the first Puerto Rican Day Parade going down Fifth Avenue on the float from my dad's hometown called the Pirates of the Caribbean.

For years I would go on the Red Cross boat that would take the sick and needy up and down the East River on an annual boat ride. The impact that those and many other such events had on my life are still with me today.

As a longtime resident of West Islip, I have spent a lot of time as a responsible member of the community giving of my time for the public good.

I have been a past member of the board of trustees of the Vanderbilt Museum overseeing the management of the museum, promoting the arts and ensuring the financial well-being of the museum. I have been a past board member of Head Start, involved in fundraising and management of this nonprofit dedicated to children.

I am a present board member of Pronto of Long Island. My duties include promoting organization, fundraising, organizing events and overseeing financial status of this community outreach center whose mission is to provide emergency services to the needy.

I'm a member of the West Islip Task Force, now the West Islip Association. I'm a past Vice-President and currently serving as Secretary of the Board of Directors focusing primarily on recreation development. My committee's include West Islip beach and the LaGrange Inn. I'm a member of the West Islip Historical Society involved in research development of historical themes of West Islip currently conducting historical interviews with famous families of the region.

I'm a member of the West Islip Chamber of Commerce working to promote the business and arts of West Islip. I'm on the board of the West Islip symphony orchestra organizing music for a minimum of three concerts per year, setting up venues and opportunities to build awareness for the orchestra.

For the past ten years I have volunteered my time to the Elizabeth T. McNamee Fund. This fund supports many community and scholarship programs.

In closing, I look forward to doing a good job and making awards for the Citizens Advisory Board; if I'm selected. I look forward to bringing my past experiences, devotion and doing a good job for the board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you, Maria. I guess the only question I have is after listening to your statement; you're not running for the Suffolk County Legislature, are you?

MS. FIGALORA:

No, not now.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I would like to make just one or two points. In every community there are always a small group of people who do a great deal. And it's obvious from Maria's statement, you can see the kind of

commitment she's given to the Hamlet of West Islip. She's involved in just about anything. And whenever anyone needs help or assistance; she is there. And there's no doubt in my mind she will do a fabulous job on the Advisory Board of the Arts.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that you please approve her appointment.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Hi, Maria. Just on a personal note, when you said you were in the first Puerto Rican Day Parade; was that in New York City?

MS. FIGALORA:

New York City in 1958.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. No, that's all right. The reason I ask you is that, I'm sure you don't remember me, but I was also in that parade. My father put me in a convertible, my brother and I, and we went up Fifth Avenue because he was involved back then so, yeah, I was eight years old at the time.

MS. FIGALORA:

I was a little bit older.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We'd of never known.

MS. FIGALORA:

I was at -- it was my father was a member of the caboroenos ausentes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Ah, okay. Well, my dad was Armando Montano who represented the South Bronx. So they probably knew each other.

MS. FIGALORA:

Absolutely.

LEG. MONTANO:

Well, nice seeing you again.

MS. FIGALORA:

It's been a long time.

LEG. MONTANO:

Long time since the parade.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. That is a good story. I'm sorry I told Mr. Grant that we didn't have anything of news today.

LEG. CILMI:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There's a motion to approve by Legislator Cilmi. Is there a second?
Seconded by Legislator Montano. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

Now you don't have to come on Tuesday so this -- we're moving forward since you were -- obviously you came to the committee and stuff like that so you don't have to come back for the final vote in front of the full Legislature.

MS. FIGALORA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're welcome. And we do appreciate your service.

Could I ask a quick question on your historical interviews that the West Islip Historical Society is doing, are you doing video or what -- how do you do them?

MS. FIGALORA:

We do it personally.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So it's all written.

MS. FIGALORA:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

MS. FIGALORA:

-- and then, oh, I'm sorry. I do them personally. Right now I'm doing the {paces} and then they go to Carolyn Agenjo who puts them on a video.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, they do put them on a video?

MS. FIGALORA:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Interesting.

MS. FIGALORA:

So they will be put on video.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Because we're -- I'm over in Babylon and we're doing the same type of work with our families that have been around awhile. So it's good. Good, I'm glad to hear it. Good job.

MS. FIGALORA:

Thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:
Congratulations.

LEG. BARRAGA:
Congratulations.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
1427 - Authorizing film promotion funding for 2011. (Co. Exec.)

Anyone? Someone would like to speak to this? Anybody? Carolyn? Mr. Montano has a question.

LEG. MONTANO:
Just wanted a brief explanation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Carolyn, 1427, anything you'd like to add to that?

MS. FAHEY:
This is funding out of the Hotel/Motel Tax for the film promotion. There are grants that are going one to the Huntington Cinema Arts Center, which is going to administer the next exposure production grant. And then we have two film festivals that we're funding this year that we'd like to fund. One is the Hamptons Take 2 Film Festival, which is -- focuses on documentaries and the second is the Hamptons Black International Film Festival.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Okay. Is that satisfactory? All right. I'll make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

Okay. **1467 - Amending Suffolk County Code, Chapter 636 to revise the fee schedule for Francis S. Gabreski Airport. (Co. Exec.)**

Any questions on this? George, do you have any thoughts on this? Carolyn, you want to?

MS. FAHEY:
If there's questions.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Do we know what we're looking at? I mean, not you Carolyn.

MS. FAHEY:
The exhibit was submitted. Do you have the exhibit.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
I guess we do.

MS. FAHEY:
Exhibit A.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Some of us didn't read it though.

MS. FAHEY:

Exhibit A is what you're adopting.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Basically it raises the fees.

MS. FAHEY:

Basically it does; yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Basically it does.

MS. FAHEY:

It also creates fees. You might remember a while ago this Legislature approved the purchase of the hangar for the Suffolk County PD Medevac.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right.

MS. FAHEY:

Part of that hangar at that time we discussed was going to be rented out for revenue for the airport. It establishes those fees also.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. They're clamoring to raise the fees. Okay. Are there any further questions of Carolyn on this issue?

MS. FAHEY:

Tony Ceglie's here also if you have questions from the airport manager.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. Anyone like to make a motion to approve?

LEG. NOWICK:

I will.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Ms. Nowick would like to make the motion to approve. I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

Motion to close.

[THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:13 P.M.]

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY