

DATE

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**OF THE**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on June 11, 2014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory  
Leg. William Lindsay III, Chairman  
Leg. Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. John M. Kennedy, Jr.  
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey  
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Robert Lipp, Director/Budget Review Office  
Laura Halloran, BRO  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Eva Greguski, Aide to Leg. Calarco  
Deb Schaarschmidt, appointee to the SC Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts  
Lee Schaarschmidt  
Becca Schaarschmidt  
Gil Anderson, Commissioner/Department of Public Works  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Carolyn Fahey, Economic Development  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:02 PM**

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Schneiderman.

**SALUTATION**

Good afternoon. Thank you for being here for the Economic Development Committee meeting. I do not have any correspondence cards or -- anybody that's looking to testify. Anybody in the audience that would like to speak, please -- going once, twice? Okay.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

We don't have any presentations today, but we will go right to Tabled Resolutions starting with **1329, Establishing a new policy for appointments to the Board of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency. (Kennedy)**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'm going to make a motion to approve, Mr. Chair, as I have with previous committee meetings. I feel that it's important for us to take this step to make it very clear to our IDA board members what our intentions are as a body.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator McCaffrey. I'll make a motion to table; second by Legislator Stern. On the table motion all those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Abstentions? **1329 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-2-0-0)**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

Moving onto the Introductory Resolutions, starting with **1552, Authorizing 2014 Cultural Funding. (Co. Exec.)** Motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman. I'll second that motion. No comment on the motion? Carolyn, if you wouldn't mind?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Good afternoon.

**LEG. STERN:**

Carolyn, this is just -- the list that's included here, these are -- this is a list of the groups that were approved by the Citizens Advisory Board.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

Got it. Okay.

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**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Any questions? Okay, I'll call the vote. Thanks, Carolyn, that was easy for you.

**LEG. STERN:**

Good job, good job.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1552 passes. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**Resolution 1553, Authorizing the Film Promotion Funding for 2014. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Make a motion.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator McCaffrey. Any comment?

**LEG. STERN:**

Just -- someone's here that can answer the question, right? Carolyn, there is a -- this is a list of organizations to receive funding for each organization. This list was compiled based on the recommendations of the Suffolk County Motion Picture TV Film Commission.

**MS. FAHEY:**

It was by the -- yes, by the Film Commission, yes.

**LEG. STERN:**

This the Commission's recommendations they put together?

**MS. FAHEY:**

This is their recommendations, correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay. Very good. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Any other comment? Okay. We'll call the vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1553 passes. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**IR 1554, Accepting and appropriating 80% federally funded New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) grant funds for the purpose of preparation of the Nicolls Road Alternatives Analysis Study. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. Do we have anybody here from the -- Tom, could you step to the mike, please. Tom, if you wouldn't mind just giving a brief overview of what exactly 1554 for

the --

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I'm going to defer to Commission Anderson if that's okay --

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Sure.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

-- with the Committee.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Good afternoon. The Nicolls Road Alternatives Analysis will build upon the results of the Suffolk County BRT Feasibility Study, which was recently completed. It represents the next step in a Federally compliant planning process to continue to formalize the design of a new mass transit option on this key north/south corridor. The study will include analysis of traffic, parking, bus ridership and other needs along the corridor, engagement with the key stakeholders and public, development of options to improve transit, traffic and safety for all corridor uses; as well as an assessment of those options and focus areas; drafting concepts at key locations, considering the effects on drivers, pedestrians, bus customers and a selection of locally preferred -- and a selection of locally-preferred alternative sites.

The study's expected to take about 15 to 18 months and will serve as an important link to the connection -- connecting education, medical assets along the corridor, downtowns undergoing revitalization and transit hubs, providing east to east commuter rail service -- west to east commuter rail services, sorry. Accepting these funds is key to continuing the planning process. Plans and recommendations identified through the study will work closely and will inform other activities taking place along Nicolls Road, notably Capital Project 5512 on the north section and 5597 around the middle of the section. Components and key mitigation identified will be incorporated for the design and construction where feasible under these Capital Projects.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yeah, thank you. So this -- this is BRT. This is -- and this is 80% Federal funding?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Any other questions for the Commissioner? Okay. Seeing none, we'll move onto the vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1554 is approved. (VOTE: 7-0-0-0. P.O.**

**GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**1555, Approving change of project for a Downtown Revitalization (CP 6412) grant to the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce and amending the contract with the Town of Islip to reflect the same. (Co. Exec.)** I will comment a little bit about this since I'm very familiar with this particular project. This is just reappropriating funds that were already put in place. What the Chamber of Commerce is trying to do is mitigate a corner that is extremely dangerous for traffic and

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trying to cut that corner down, add sidewalks and curbing to it to make it easier for pedestrians to walk in downtown Holbrook. There is State and Town funding that's going to be adjoined with this \$25,000 grant. So that there's shared cost between the State and the Town on this. With that, I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1555 is approved.**  
**(VOTE: 7-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**1563, To reappoint Frederic Defeis as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board For The Arts. (D'Amaro)**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1563 is approved.**  
**(VOTE: 7-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**IR 1566, To appoint Deborah Schaarschmidt -- I probably messed that up there, John -- as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Kennedy)**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'll make a motion to approve, Mr. Chair. And we have Miss Schaarschmidt here today to go ahead and speak with us, if it's Chair's pleasure to come to the table. Why don't you come on up?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'll second.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

While she's coming up, Miss Schaarschmidt does an extensive amount of work with the Centereach Civic Association. She's on the governing board. Most importantly she is an instructor in violin and viola. Not only does she teach and has a very successful business both in instruction and performance, she also performs herself on a South Shore Symphony. And has very graciously accepted my request to be my representative on the Advisory Arts Board. Why don't you just take a seat at the table so if any of the Committee members might have any questions for you, if you want to share anything with us, that would be fine.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Hello. Hi. So my name is Debbie. And thank you so much for having me. And it's a pleasure to be on your board. I just wanted to share a little bit about myself. And I think -- I wasn't really listening to John but I think he was telling you guys a little bit about me.

And I'm the founder and the CEO of Dolce Amore Strings. I'm a violinist and I hire musicians to play with me for weddings. And John and I have been working on a concert venue. I'm working also -- my family plays music together. I play violin. My husband plays drums or key boards.

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And my girls sing. And I was thinking, John, that maybe we would do something like together for a concert venue. I also do jazz music together with a player. And possibly a base player. My husband does that as well.

So anyways, it's very exciting for me to be on this Board because I am a very -- I know a lot of people in the area. And I know a lot of musicians. And so I feel I'm going to be able to bring a lot to the table and be able to express a lot of different ideas; and maybe work with John and the rest of you, too, better the community and better the place in which we live.

And I have prepared a few things. Well, actually I've prepared a lot, but I was working on some different projects so I will share those with you. Well, you have the packet that I have in front of you. That was my bio and also my violin recital. That's going to be September 27th. If you'd like to join me, that would be awesome. Oh, I forgot one of my -- oh, so I don't have my projects, but you do. So I'll try to remember some of the projects that I'm working on.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Let's, if I can just for a second, Deb, probably the most important thing that we get to do is we get to thank any of the volunteers that come forward. Because this Committee is actually charged -- you may have just heard we have about \$230,000 worth of grants that were authorized, which actually have come before the Committee as it sits now. All of us, all 18 of us have representatives. And it really is an opportunity for us as elected to rely on folks like yourself from the cultural or arts community to look at the range of requests that get put forward before the Board and to vet them out a little bit. And we rely on your expertise. So, let me turn it over to my colleagues if they have any questions.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So, thank you. Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. It's nice to meet you.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

It's nice to meet you as well.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And, you know -- the -- I think what Legislator Kennedy just spoke to is really the main function of this Committee, which is to decide how to spend this grant money. This body provides the Cultural Advisory Board with kind of a block of money to allocate. It's money that comes through the Hotel Tax. It's supposed to be used for cultural related to tourism, to promote tourism within the County. And my only concern with CAB is that it makes merit-based decisions; that it's not a political body even though there's one member from each Legislator, but they look at each application and decide on its merits whether it warrants a grant and how much they should give. And that's all I would ask, that you look at things holistically, look at the arts and culture and other you know, museums, whatever comes into the purview of CAB and makes those decisions based on merit.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

That sounds great. Yeah, sure, yeah.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Thanks.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Excellent.

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**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And welcome.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Thank you so much. Thank you.

**LEG. STERN:**

I see -- I noticed that you were joined by -- you brought a fan club with you.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Oh, yes. I'd to introduce my family.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

That's my husband Lee.

**LEG. STERN:**

Lee, how are you?

**MR. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Very good. Thank you.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

And my daughter Becca. And I have another daughter. And she's at school still.

**LEG. STERN:**

I was interested to know what your family members play.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Oh. My husband, well, he plays -- he plays the piano. And, you know, he kind of plays the chords very well. And he's a Choir Director at our church. He's also a Band Director at Centereach High School. And he plays trumpet. That's funny I forget that part. But, yeah, he does Atlanta Quinn Symphony and different marching bands and that sort of thing. And Becca just finished her first year in college. And she's a flute player and she's a vocalist as well.

**LEG. STERN:**

Very good. Congratulations to you. Congratulations to you.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Thank you so much.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you for being with us today. And I wish you every success.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Thank you so much. Thanks for having me.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Thank you. We really appreciate your volunteering to be on this board.

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**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Oh, you're welcome. Thanks for appointing me.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

Our pleasure. I'll call the vote at this time. We have a motion. We had a second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0) Congratulations.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

You don't have to come out on Tuesday, Deb. The committee meetings are sufficient. We'll have the resolution in front of us on Tuesday. And I have a strong feeling it will be unanimous. And so we'll make sure we get the schedule to you about the next committee meeting and we'll get you all signed up and get the oath and all that stuff done. Thank you again.

**MS. SCHAARSCHMIDT:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:**

There are no procedural motions. Absent any additional comment, this meeting's adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:19 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**