

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A meeting of the Economic Development Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Maxine S. Postal Legislative Auditorium of the Evans K. Griffing Building, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York, on May 4, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator William J. Lindsay III, Chairperson
Legislator Kara Hahn
Legislator Kevin McCaffrey
Legislator Robert Trotta
Legislator DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Legislator Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair (Excused Absence)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Robert Lipp, Director/Budget Review Office
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
D.J. Russo, Clerk's Office/Legislature
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern
Gwynn Schroeder, Aide to Legislator Krupski
Bob Fonti, Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory
Brian Sapp, Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Zachary Baum, Aide to Legislator Hahn
Zachary Giglio, Aide to Legislator McCaffrey
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
Vicki Fleming, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Patricia Snyder, Executive Director/East End Arts
Mary Kalich, North Fork Community Theatre
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. *)*

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Economic Development Committee hearing. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Trotta.

*(*Salutation*)*

Good afternoon, again. Thank you for coming to our committee hearing. Madam Deputy Clerk, do we have any public comment cards?

MS. ELLIS:

No, we do not.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Anybody in the audience that would like to speak, please come forward. Yes, ma'am. You have three minutes. If you could just stand at the podium there, state your name and address for the record, and we'll give you your three minutes.

MS. SNYDER:

Hi. I just want -- I'm Pat Snyder, Executive Director at East End Arts in Riverhead. I wanted to thank you for holding your meeting here in Riverhead. We're happy to have you out here.

I am the Chair of the Suffolk County Arts Advisory Board, and we are charged with reviewing grant applications from cultural organizations in Suffolk County. We just completed that exercise, and I believe the recommendations are put -- being put on the table on May 10th. But I wanted to thank you for that opportunity to be able to screen cultural organizations and make sure their money is going to them, and we're improving and enlivening the communities.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Great. Well, thank you. We appreciate your efforts. We appreciate you coming in this afternoon. Anybody have any questions? Okay. Thank you very much. I'm sure Legislator Krupski made a call to you and asked you to come in this afternoon.

MR. SNYDER:

He put -- brought it to my attention.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

He's doing a little lobbying to make sure that we continue to have hearings out here. But anybody else that would like to speak from the public? Not seeing anyone, I'll close the Public Portion of the meeting.

We have a presentation this morning. I'm sorry. Before I go on to that, I just want to make an announcement, that Legislator Steve Stern has an excused absence today from committee.

And we have a presentation today by Cornell Cooperative Extension, presenting about the STEM Program. Good afternoon, Vicki. Thanks for coming in today.

MS. FLEMING:

Thank you for having me. My name is Vicki Fleming and I'm the 4-H Youth Development Program Director and Farm Administrator at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center, and I'm here to talk about 4-H Youth Development and our mentoring program for girls in the Longwood School District, that we would also like to extend to other places.

So just a quick overview. I'm sure many of you have heard the Cornell Cooperative Extension mission. We're here to strengthen families and communities, preserve and enhance the environment, foster economic development, and promote sustainable agriculture. And I am specifically tasked with the strengthen families and communities section, as well as helping with economic development and youth, and supporting that agriculture. So we're in several of the -- actually, in environment as well.

So just a little bit about 4-H Youth Development. It is the oldest youth organization in the United States, we started in 1902, and it's one of the largest. We actually reach 6.5 million young people, ages five to 19, and 540 youth and adult volunteers. In New York, that equates to 190,000 youth, and here in Suffolk County, we see about 30,000 at the farm every year.

We have three primary areas we focus on, that's the STEM, healthy living and citizenship. And we promote four essential elements for youth development, independence, belonging, generosity and mastery, and we do this in a number of ways. We're out in the community doing club programming. We have lots of visitors to our farm. As I said, 30,000 visitors come to the farm every year and come via their schools, after-schools, etcetera. We are in camps, we hold camps at the farm and also out in Southold and in Coindre Hall. Those are our marine-based youth programming. And we all -- throughout the United States and New York, we're also on U.S. military installations, and we do see a lot of military youth here on Long Island as well.

So I have a question. Who here can name what the four H's stand for? I actually have a prize. Come on, Kara. Health is one.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Happiness.

MS. FLEMING:

Oh, boy.

LEG. HAHN:

Sorry.

MS. FLEMING:

Anyone? Anyone in the room? Four H's.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Yeah, the Jeopardy girl will have it.

MS. FLEMING:

Go ahead.

MS. HARRIS:

Head, heart, health, hands.

MS. FLEMING:

Yes, very good. Head, heart, health and hands. I have a little 3-D printed pic for you.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

That's why she was on Jeopardy.

LEG. TROTTA:

What are the four H's? I missed it.

MS. FLEMING:

Head, heart, health and hands. There's actually a pledge that goes along with it, and that -- it used to be hustle, the last H used to be hustle, so -- but as the years went on, they changed it to health.

So why is 4-H unique? We have a number of things. You know, we have a number of youth organizations out there. We have our -- are you smiling at the picture? Isn't that an awesome picture?

LEG. HAHN:

I am smiling.

MS. FLEMING:

She is so happy, she loves her goats. So there are a lot of youth agencies out there, but some of the things that we do, we're co-educational. We do this in a family environment, so a lot of our -- similar to the Scouts, the families are sort of guiding the process. But through a Tufts University study, we have learned that 4-H'ers that are engaged in programs at least twice a month are four times as likely to make contributions to their communities, twice as likely to be civically active, twice as likely to make healthier choices, and twice as likely to participate in science, technology, engineering and math programs during out-of-school time.

And you can see in the corner our logo, "4-H Grows Here". It's actually a new campaign, and, hopefully, you'll start to see PSAs out there for our "4-H Grows True Leaders," and that's the goal of 4-H, is to grow true leaders and adults who are going to go back out into the community and make huge contributions, which is what economic development is all about.

So this is what 4-H looks like in Suffolk County for the past five years. Just a quick overview and some sound bites. We've had 78 youth in our Livestock Program. That's an opportunity, that connection to agriculture that they may not get through other programs where they actually lease one of our animals and learn how to show them. And we take them up to the fairs and we make that connection. So the girl with the goat is one of our participants in that program.

Through our pumpkin catapult contest, we've flung 195 pumpkins. And this is all about physics and teamwork. So the teams build catapults or other devices, bring them to the farm in the Fall and fling pumpkins. And it may sound frivolous, but it actually is a huge engineering fete. And to watch the teams compete and then share their knowledge with each other that day is pretty impressive in the teamwork frame of things.

We do a program called Public Presentations, and that is the cornerstone of 4-H. It gives the kids an opportunity to speak in front of the public, similar to what I'm doing today, having that confidence of being in front of a group of people and being able to express their opinions, and any sort of information that they need to disseminate. So they can -- they pick a topic between 5 and 15 minutes, and they stand up and they have evaluators, and they gain confidence in that.

We had over 2,916 youth visit our camps, and we distributed 9 -- over 9,000 eggs to schools, where they incubate in their classrooms and learn about the life cycle of a chicken.

So let's move on to STEM and girls, which is the focus of this presentation. So from a White House paper, we know that today there are a half a million unfilled jobs in information technology across all sectors of the economy, which reinforces the notion that computer science has become a basic requisite for 21st Century jobs. I remember when I was in college, we started to talk about the

importance of knowing computers, and it's just becoming more and more an issue. So economic projections indicate that by 2018, there could be 2.4 million unfilled STEM jobs. Women and minorities, who comprise 70% of college students, but less than 40% of STEM degrees, represent a largely untapped talent pool.

And you can see there are some other statistics up here as well, that 21% of girls say that their parents encourage them to become an actress, and only 10% of them have encouraged them to go to STEM careers. And in that 40% of the total U.S. workforce, you can see that the numbers of -- for the percentages of who are being scientists is very low.

So the way we were addressing this issue is through a program. It's a grant that we got through the National Mentoring Partnership, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National 4-H Council. We're in our third year. They've actually been in it for six years, but we didn't come into it until three years ago. And the purpose of the grant -- there's a number of pilot programs they're attached to, but the one that we've chosen is to take STEM-based materials and programming and connect them to girls in the Longwood School District. So we have 64 participants. They're 5th and 6th graders. We run two after-school clubs during the school year, and then we also make connections with them out of school with their families. We have family workshops. They come to the farm and experience other programs during the summer, all around STEM themes, and then they attend a week-long camp that's all free to them. And we try to do it in a number of different ways. We present different topics, and then we present them in different manners, so that we are impacting them on a lot of different levels. So things include robotics, electronics, rocketry, coding, forensics, environmental sciences, we did aquaponics.

In the school -- in the field trip program, they were traveling all over Long Island, doing different projects. And you can see that in the picture, they're actually doing some space-related rocketry things.

And in that same White House paper, they kind of outline some strategies for how to reach youth. And so one of the things is to make the information very relevant. So we try to bring all of -- we try to bring current events into the way we do things. So you can see in the picture that we have one of the girls using a hair dryer to blow a block of ice. And we actually froze Legos into blocks of ice, and we related that to the -- it's the findings that were -- it was in 1990, they found a frozen man in the ice, and they did excavations, and then they subsequently have, as technology has gone, been able to get more and more information from him. So we made those direct connections.

We had just finished up a unit in forensics, which is another thing that we can do to get them excited, is to look at current media, like bones and CSI, and say, "You're interested in these things. How can we bring this to you?" So we took those forensic background -- the forensic background that we had given them and we did this excavation with them, talked about archeology, and, you know, made those connections for them.

So we continue to make things fun, which is part of that debunking the STEM stigma and misconceptions, that science is boring, science is hard. So by making it fun, they don't even know they're doing science. And I included that, "And they don't even know they're doing STEM," on my last little bullet, because one of mothers actually said that to me, that her daughter came home and was talking about what she was doing and didn't even realize that it was something that was going to be relevant to them later.

So a couple of weeks ago we held a STEM-based celebration. It was -- we had several vendors and our pumpkin catapults. They were actually throwing cabbages this time of year, because pumpkins are not in season. And the girls kind of had a little science fair, and they all got to choose their own topic into that public presentations mode that we have. And so you can see on the far left is Grace,

and she did a Rube Goldberg. I don't know if anybody knows what that is, but it's kind of a challenge every year that you use a variety of objects to do some task. And so it's like zip a zipper or open an umbrella. And this one is actually -- she's taking that liquid and pouring it into two different funnels, so that you can fill up multiple things. But a marble drops down, it propels a cog and wheel, and it was kind of a complicated thing. There was a battery in there, and so -- but she went home and did that on her own. This was outside of school. This is something that she got excited about.

The girl in the middle -- a lot of the girls chose fashion design, and so we make those connections to STEM through new technologies with using conductive thread, or using recycle concepts, so that we can make that connection to the environment.

And then the girl on the far right is -- was really into engineering, so we did a -- one of our projects was to build a marble roller coaster, and so she got excited about that. And so she took some everyday items and made -- you can see the little race cars, made a track for them.

So even if they don't like coding, they might like the engineering. If they don't like the engineering, maybe they like the forensics. So we're -- by giving them multiple things to think about, we're able to make a lot of great connections for them. And we're hoping that as time goes on, that we able to follow them and get them connected up to Cornell, and to participate in some of our other programming as well. And we'd like to expand this, obviously, from Longwood to other locations as well with the success that we've been achieving with them. So are there any questions?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thanks, Vicki, for the presentation; very informative. I have a couple of questions for you. Given the proximity to Cornell with BNL, do you coordinate anything, any of these programs with BNL?

MS. FLEMING:

We have made some connections. There's a WISE Program, which is Women in Science, we've tried to make that connection. PSEG are -- have made a partnership with us. And the really nice thing about that is they actually send women staff members over, so they're actually making those connections. Stony Brook also has made some connections with us. We've -- we had a presentation from the Neurobiology Department, who came in and talked about brains with the kids, and we're going to go visit them at their site as well.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay, great.

MS. FLEMING:

Yeah. We want to continue to make those, though.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And my other question was just a simple one. How do -- how do kids sign up for these programs?

MS. FLEMING:

Well, this particular one was through a grant, and so we actually just made a partnership with the Longwood School District. They had reached out to us --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. FLEMING:

-- for some programming. But beyond that, you know, just my contact information is in the folder.

They can give me a call and we can see if we can maybe write another grant together.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. FLEMING:

Because there are a lot of partnership grants for schools to do things like this. Brentwood reached out to me recently about doing K-12 stuff with them.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Are they always through the school districts? There's nothing independent of the school districts?

MS. FLEMING:

We do run a STEM camp every year --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. FLEMING:

-- as part of our summer programming.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Over the summer?

MS. FLEMING:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. And that's open to kids from anywhere?

MS. FLEMING:

Yup.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

MS. FLEMING:

Yeah, absolutely.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Great. Maybe if you can provide us with that information, we, as individual Legislators, can put it out over our social media just to help advertise it.

MS. FLEMING:

Great. In your folder is our camp brochure for this year.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Oh, okay, perfect.

MS. FLEMING:

And our educational programs for youth, which include all of our -- all of our programs, which include a lot of STEM-based things.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Great. And I'll have my staff go through it, and maybe we could just pull a link from your website --

MS. FLEMING:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

-- and help promote it for you, because it's a -- obviously, it's a great program, and I think it's really good for the kids throughout the County to get that kind of background, that hands-on type of education, so thank you.

MS. FLEMING:

Great.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Anybody else have any questions? Okay. Thank you again, Vicki, for your presentation.

MS. FLEMING:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Good luck to you.

MS. FLEMING:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Even though the Public Portion is over and we closed it, I'd like to make a motion to reopen it, as we had somebody come in late that would like to speak. Can I get a second?

LEG. TROTТА:

(Raised hand).

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Trotta. All those in favor of reopening the Public Portion? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. The Public Portion is reopened. **(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**

Ms. Mary Kalich, if you could come forward. Thank you for coming in. You have three minutes to speak on any topic.

MS. KALICH:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're welcome.

MS. KALICH:

My name is Mary Kalich. I'm here representing the North Fork Community Theater. It is an all volunteer live performance musical theater on the eastern end of Long Island in Mattituck. We put on five plays and musicals a year. And if you haven't been down there, I hope you come.

Like I said, we're all volunteer, and our focus is to provide an opportunity for people both to see and participate in live theater, and, also, really to build a community and have a place where people can gather, build both skills and relationships. We engage both the young and old people, from the Youth on Stage Program each summer, all the way to a lot of the seniors who enjoy a lot of our shows.

I'm really just here to say thank you, and that we have received an economic development grant for the past couple of years, and that's really helped us be able to put on our shows and our musicals and our plays, particularly, like I said, we are all volunteer. The cost of our shows are currently 15 and \$20, so we try and keep it as minimal as possible to be able to be as accessible as possible, and the money from Suffolk County helps us greatly, so I thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

You're welcome. Any questions for Ms. Kalich? No. Thank you, Ms. Kalich for coming in and speaking.

MS. KALICH:

You got it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. I'll make a motion again to close the Public Portion, second by Legislator Trotta. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We closed the Public Portion. **(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

And moving on to our Introductory Resolutions, starting with **1329 - Reappointing member to the Suffolk County Landbank Corporation Board of Directors, which is Tom Cilmi (McCaffrey)**. Motion by Legislator McCaffrey, second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**.

Introductory Resolution 1361 - Reappoint Naomi Hogarty to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. TROTТА:

(Raised hand).

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Trotta. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**

1362 - Reappoint Steven Taub to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**

Introductory Resolution 1390 - Appointing Vincent Butta to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (Co. Exec.). We're going to have to table this, because he was not able to be here today. So I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is tabled.
(Vote: Tabled 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)

Introductory Resolution 1391 - Appointing Alan Inkles to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (Co. Exec.). Same thing, we're going to have to table this, because he's not able to attend as well. So same motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is tabled. **(Vote: Tabled 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)**

Introductory Resolution 1398 - Authorizing Suffolk County to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Suffolk County Landbank Corporation (Co. Exec.). Katie, I believe, on the County Exec's request, we're going to table this as well. You guys are going to make some changes to it. Okay. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Hahn. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is tabled.
(Vote: Tabled 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)

And I.R. 1403 - Reappointing member to the Suffolk County Landbank Corporation Board of Directors (Hahn). Who is the member, though? I don't have it on the agenda.

LEG. HAHN:

DuWayne.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

DuWayne.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

DuWayne Gregory. So I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That motion carries.
(Vote: Approved 4-0-0-1-0/Absent: Legislator Stern)

And that is it for our agenda. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m. *)