

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR COUNTY SITING OF MEMORIALS & SYMBOLS

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A meeting of the Review Committee for County Siting of Memorials & Symbols was held in the Presiding Officer's Conference Room of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on May 17, 2006.

Members Present:

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chairperson
Thomas Isles - Director/Suffolk County Planning
Paulette Bartunek - Director/Suffolk County Human Rights
Ralph Borkowski - Department of Public Works/Landscape Architect
Brian Herrington - County Executive Assistant

Also in Attendance:

Terrence Pearsall - Chief of Staff to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 10:01 A.M. *)*

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I will call this meeting to order. Maybe, Tom, you can -- are you familiar with this, Angela's House?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Actually, not this particular case.

MR. HERRINGTON:

It was brought to my attention, the County Executive's Office attention through DPW that I guess this group or this individual wanted -- was looking to place a monument on County property. He gives a background as to where he got the idea from, there aren't many details as to, you know, funding or any sorts of things like that. So when DPW brought it to our attention, they also told us that there was a committee to review these proposals, so I asked the person in DPW to give me any information that he could on the proposal and we convened a meeting of the Monuments Committee to at least, I guess, review the proposal or determine what more information we needed to get from them.

Because in just reviewing, it wasn't very detailed, it kind of gave you the general idea of whoever came up with the idea and what the memorial would be. As far as hard details as to construction or who would pay for anything, it doesn't go into that depth, but I thought we should sit down as a committee and I guess decide what criteria we wanted to use, if any, do we want to move forward with it, anything like that.

There was supposed to be another one, the Veteran's Advisory Board wants to I guess create a monument for the Gold Star Families of Suffolk County; that they held off on because they were supposed to get a statue donated and the person that was going to donate the statue has now backed off on that proposal. So they wanted to hold off until they decided what the person was going to do.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So the Angel of Hope is more of a private type of organization.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

See, my question is once you start with private on County property, where do you stop? And maybe you can jump in --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Do we currently have anything here for them?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I don't know.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Well, we do have the Ghandi statute.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, that was a private organization.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Here again, it doesn't mean the County has to continue to do it, it's a policy question obviously. But

there are at least that one that I know of.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Was that Vivian's?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Pardon me?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Wasn't that Vivian's, the Ghandi statue? I think so.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I'm not aware of that.

MR. HERRINGTON:

And I think, isn't that temporary, isn't it supposed to travel around?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, I think you're right.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

I thought it was going to end up outside the building.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

There was a whole monument design for the front, just the front entrance to place that sculpture, but that didn't go through. There were plans drawn up and it never got implemented.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So is the Ghandi statute still sitting out there?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's in the lobby of the building, of the Dennison Building. But it's an example of a private organization that requested several years ago the ability to put it in. It's a temporary approval to put it into the lobby, as Ralph said, with the idea of it being moved; they would move it and build a place for it outside of the building.

I have to say that, A, this committee has only met very occasionally; B, it does seem that it's reactionary and that there doesn't seem to be any real set policy. So yeah, I think your point is well taken in terms of what should be the policy of the County.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, well, I am a little concerned about that because -- first of all, where do they want to put the Angel of Hope?

MR. HERRINGTON:

That was the -- they have no proposal as to where it should go, whether it be Dennison Building or someplace else. And that's what I wanted to find out, too, is what has been the committee's policy, was there set criteria or wasn't there?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It sounds like there is not a policy.

MR. MORAN:

(Inaudible).

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It sounds like it was each individual basis was looked at. Like the World War II Memorial, that was obviously, you know, veterans, now we have the 9/11 Memorial which is going to go in adjacent to that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

See, I can understand a permanent 9/11 veterans, anything with veterans. I can even understand any of the world leaders, maybe like a Ghandi on a temporary basis. Of course this is a very delicate subject because, you know, this is a horrible thing, of course, parents having to mourn their children.

Off the top of my head, I would say a permanent place for this is probably -- and please jump in if I'm saying something that you don't agree with -- I would think a permanent place for this is probably not what the County should be doing. However, I wonder if we set, and I don't even know if we can do this, some type of a precedent or some type of a criteria where a group like this can say to us, "We would like to have a statue and celebrate or do this for the month of May which is the month where -- a mother's month, a mother's day month wording. In other words, choose a month and maybe we could give -- have a spot dedicated. I wouldn't go out and the tell the whole world this, but maybe we could have a spot dedicated to organizations like this but on a temporary basis so we're not -- we're not saying to them, "You don't mean anything to us," because we're really careful.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

It says they plan to hold every December a ceremony at the statue, so maybe in this case December would be --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Especially it's Christmas time, December. And I don't know if you can do that but I'm just throwing it out there; how do you feel about something like that?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

You mean being able to have the facility there during the month of the year?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, let's assume it's inside at the Dennison Building; is there an area where we can say -- and it would have to be a movable kind of a statue.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right, exactly.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Since you're going to have a ceremony every December, and we can know as a committee that we have a dedicated area for people in our community. Now, unless we are -- we don't have the authority to do something like that, I don't know. This way we don't tell these people, "Well, you don't really -- you're not important."

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

There might be many organizations that feel they're part of the County. If we have --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I agree with you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

If we have an area that's set aside where we can --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Offer something.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- offer a month every year and your group would come, like you say December; what do you think about something like that? So we're not pushing them away --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's an interesting idea.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, let's think about that; we're not pushing them away but we cannot -- I don't think we can give away an area of the County for all these private organizations. Gold Star Mothers I think you can, I mean, I believe that that's something, you know, their children died in the line of duty, how do you not do that?

MR. HERRINGTON:

When I got the request, too, I walked around the building just to see what other monuments are there and in relation to this one, we -- and I took pictures of this, outside the Dennison Building in the circled parking lot there, there is a monument for Parents of Murdered Children.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

I thought there was something like that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is this murdered children or just anybody that lost a child?

MR. HERRINGTON:

No, this is for anybody who's lost a child. Because that's one thing I called the group to clarify first and they explained to me that it's just for -- you know, it's for everyone, anybody who has lost a child. Because I was hoping that maybe we could put them in touch with Parents of Murdered Children.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

That must have been a private organization.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yeah, and I think the group Parents for Murdered Children is a not-for-profit in the county. So that --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Where is this? Oh, I know, it's on the side there.

MR. HERRINGTON:

It's the northeast corner.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And what are these?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Northeast corner of the plaza.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The names of the kids, I guess.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Geez, that's a big area that they had there.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah. You can see it requires maintenance and I'm not sure how that's handled, if DPW does it as part of the building maintenance and so forth.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

The last one was the dog that went up, right?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Who put that up?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, well, the dogs were the dogs that were in the --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

War dog, it's a war dog.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The war dogs. So again, war, you know, 9/11, the dogs with the feet that were burning.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

One of the conversations we had about the dog at the meeting was would people feel slighted if we say yes to the dog and then no to people monuments, like the animals are more important.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Were these -- and I know this committee is sort of new, too, so were a lot of these proposals before the committee was formed? Because maybe this was all the genesis to the committee.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes, I think so.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Now we said yes to a few groups, how are we going to deal with this going forward, so.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This one is the private group and what other private group, will Ghandi -- well, that's again on a temporary kind of a thing.

MR. HERRINGTON:

What other monuments do we have at the Dennison Building; is there a list?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

We have the World War II Monuments.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

There's the Holocaust.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

We have the Holocaust monument, the War Dog Monument, the Murdered Children Monument, the Ghandi Monument, and I believe that's it.

MR. PEARSALL:

There's one on Raul Wallenberg Drive, that's a veteran's memorial too.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Was there a resolution forming this committee in the beginning?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Can we get a copy of it.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Okay.

MR. PEARSALL:

There had been a plan.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Do you have the resolution that originally formed this committee?

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yes.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Another point I wanted to make is we did a little mini, unreleased study on this issue a couple of years back when I started getting involved, but we had -- I was curious as to how do other municipalities handle this, we did a search on the Internet so we put together a little report on some of the issues in the County. I just use that internally, we haven't released it, it's something I could take out of the file.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Does Nassau County have something like this where they have monuments?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I'm not aware that they have any sort of set policy or a guide or anything like that. But it was rather interesting to see what other parts of the country did, how they handled it. The issue becomes rather broad in terms of naming issues of County facilities, maintenance issues, the issues of what happens if over the course of time the organization fades away, the monument is there, a lot of these are done on a set time period whereby the County or municipality will allow it for 25 years. But the -- but if you want, I can share that with the committee members, because to me it was kind of a helpful framing how other municipalities look at it, what some of the issues are that they deal with.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think we do have to set a criteria since there is not one.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Having a plan for the property.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I thought I was going to come in here and everything was going to be set in stone, but evidently that's not the case. So I think if we set a criterion, and we don't have to go crazy.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right, keep it simple.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You know, you had some good thoughts there. You have to realize, somebody has to maintain it, what if the organization goes defunked and then you have a monument for someone that doesn't exist, which is why I think on a private organization we might be going towards that --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- we do a temporary thing, something like that. You know, I can certainly -- we can integrate as part of the rules and criteria that when it comes to monuments for our soldiers, our veterans, our war dogs, our 9/11, we understand all that, and how we would word that I'm not sure. But, you know, the holocaust, I mean, that was a part of history --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- that maybe shouldn't be forgotten.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Police officers, firemen, things like that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Police officers and firemen.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Public service.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You know, the WAVES, the WACS, the Red Cross, things like that, we understand all of that and those we can consider. But private organizations, we're going to have to come up with a policy and how many are there.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right. You know, I think, too, that it shouldn't just be random for first time property, it should be -- like you were saying a temporary thing, even if it's just saying, "Okay, this area is going to be our central monument area and we'll work around that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Right, it can be inside the building.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

But some sort of plan.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And with a temporary monument area inside, even if this grew and grew, so what if you put two in on the same month, just as long as -- and then of course you have to figure out what day they can come in.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Even the lobby is quite large and it's not being used for much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, absolutely.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

There's seating there.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

And then as you start to select organizations that can come in, whether it be permanent or temporary, is there any limitation to that? Is there a point where the County would say, "You know what? That's not appropriate." I'm not sure if that line exists or that --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's not an appropriate what?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

An appropriate organization to honor in a County building.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Absolutely, and that's what would be --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

We haven't confronted that yet, but maybe it's out there.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah. You know, that's where we have to come in and say --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Yeah, that's our job, to determine if they do not merit the use of County property.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

And be able to consistently and fairly apply that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's another thing. Is the Dennison Building -- it's probably not closed on the weekend, doesn't he work all weekend?

MR. HERRINGTON:

Well, to get to the plaza level you need to go through security unless you're a county employee, so that does restrict access to the plaza level.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, and on weekends I don't think the security is there.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yeah, on weekends it's not there, that's right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Weekends what?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The building is not open for general public.

MR. MORAN:

(Inaudible).

MR. HERRINGTON:

I mean, we can look into --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We can't do it all, that's the problem.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

If you want it in a County building, the County building is open Monday through Friday. If that's where they request to have it, understand that this is what the County building has, is that okay? You know, we can't open up the building.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

It's worked out good for Ghandi in the lobby with the ceremonies they have there.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We don't have a lot more room outside, and once you put it outside it's going to be permanent.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

If we need to relocate the monument, we need to -- if the County decides to do something else with this property, there are all those issues.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So I see -- Ralph?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Ralph Borkowski.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I see you're making notes there.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I'm just jotting down what everyone is saying.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Maybe you could do that.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

So when my boss asks me, "What did you talk about," I can refer to something.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And you're taking minutes anyway.

MS. MAHONEY:

Yes.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Well, in terms of this particular one, also are we allowed to modify what's already there? Could we suggest they put a small version of the angel and incorporate right on to this site because they're related?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, we have to be careful then because then we're taking a private organization and setting yet another precedent.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So if we're going to make -- what I think we need to do is throw out things right now, all the things that you've said, throw it out there, you've got notes. I don't know how long it would take for us to get a copy of the minutes, and maybe each one of us take the minutes, go back to our offices and pull out what we think would be a good criteria, what we think is important and meet to put the criteria in order. How soon do we have to do this Angel of Hope?

MR. HERRINGTON:

There's no set time limit. They had sent a proposal in to DPW and then the person actually contacted me last week to find out where we stood, I said we were meeting this week but that, you know, the committee hadn't met in a while, so we might have follow-up questions, we might need more information, but we would need to meet first to figure that out.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, I really --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

It's supposed to be 90 days subsequent to the receipt of the request.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And when did we get this request?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

That we make the recommendation.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Do you know? It says March 21st it was faxed to me, so I'm not sure when DPW received it.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

No, I just got a call to attend this meeting. I know the letter went out from Bill Lindsay March 16th, '06.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This came in on March 16th?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

No, the letter went out to the committee.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Was that specific to this request?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Oh, this is a letter to you from Bill and that's assigning you to the committee.

MR. HERRINGTON:

So it was probably aren't March 15th that we became aware of it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So March 15th let's say there was --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Two months ago.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Oh, 3/20/06.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Wait, 3/20, okay.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

So we have until June 20th.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So we have until June 20th, but we might need more time than that because we're not going to be -- so can we get an extension?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

So we want to establish criteria first and then review this.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I really think -- don't you think that's a good idea?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I think that's a good idea.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And the 90 days is in the -- where is that 90 days?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

In the resolution, the second RESOLVED.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Usually these clauses -- can't we do anything to --

MR. HERRINGTON:

Well, it says review it.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Maybe it means 90 days after the request comes to the committee.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

"That the committee shall review or request", okay, so that's what we're doing. But the written report, "It shall issue a written recommendation to the Ways & Means Committee, or any successor committee, no later than 90 days subsequent to the receipt of such request." So that's June 20th; March, April, May, June, right, June 20th? Now, is there a way -- Terry, you may know the answer to this; is there a way that we can get an extension on the 90 days?

MR. PEARSALL:

I think you could just send a letter to the Ways & Means Committee informing them that your recommendation is that additional time is needed to study the proposal.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. All right, so why don't we do that. And also, I would have to also tell what's her name -- oh, Bob _Belicastro__. I think we'll just be honest with the situation, the committee is forming the criteria and it's going to be --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Oh, that's Bob Castro? I know him.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think we'll just be honest, the committee is meeting -- starting to meet again, needs to sit and form a criteria. We will be considering this within the next how many days, we'll pick out when we're going to meet, and maybe even if we have the criteria at that meeting we can go ahead with this.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Review of this, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And then we can submit a written review.

MR. HERRINGTON:

We might even have the veterans memorial, too, by then, the Gold Star.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The Gold Star Mothers, which I really do like that idea. Yes, I think that's very important, and I can see that right where the other veterans monuments are.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yeah.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, I really can because that's important, and there's probably going to be more and more of them, unfortunately.

So we all have some ideas for criteria. You give us the minutes of what we -- does anybody want to throw anything else out there now? Because we'll put it on with the minutes and this way we have some time to digest it. So criteria being --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Well, the issue of who's going to pay for it, how large it is, you know, there's all issues regarding landscaping and how big the memorial is. There are things, people might want to put irrigation

systems in, you know, all these things that come up when building something. Do we want to allow that, how far we want to go, do we want to give limits to sizes?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, and also we have to see what we have out there.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, well, there should be a County inventory to keep a record of what we actually have approved in some central place. Because we get these requests in County parks all the time and different County buildings.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

For monuments?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Well, it's all different variations. Putting in trees dedicated to people, park benches. I don't think all these come to the committee, I think they may be handled -- some of these are handled administratively. I remember we had one before this committee to put in daffodils at Southaven County Park.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yes, I remember that.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

After 9/11 I think it was.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That came to the committee?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, that actually came to the committee.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, I remember that.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

That might be -- here again, I'm not sure if that really needs to come to the committee, something like that, that's not permanent.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, who chooses when it comes to the committee?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

We ended up having -- I know Paul Sabatino and Commissioner Foley and so forth on some of the Park's Department issues as to what requires committee review and what doesn't.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Did you know any recommendation is not binding, it's just purely advisory?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

To the Legislature, yeah. This has been pretty dormant for a couple of years, so it's not --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

"RESOLVED, that no resolution authorizing such placement, siting or installation of memorials and/or symbols on County-owned or County-leased property shall be considered," so that's memorials or symbols; so is a daffodil a symbol?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

That might have been a very broad interpretation of it. I didn't see any further daffodil request come to the committee.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So what we have to consider when we start with our list of criteria is private organizations as opposed to any service organization, veterans, firemen, police. Size, do we have to start thinking about the size?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You know, how tall.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Just to go along with the organization, we talked before about going defunked, there should be some sort of review of the organization, its financial standing, is it a reputable organization or not.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That would be something --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I think that's real important.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yep, who are we dealing with.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Did they just spring up, you know, this year, or have they been around for 20 years?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And these, I would suppose, would be not-for-profit; would they have to be a 501(C) kind of organizations? We need to get that.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Who we would accept requests from.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm sorry?

MR. HERRINGTON:

Who are we going to accept requests from? Does it have to be sponsored by like a County advisory board, can it be not-for-profit, can it just be a citizen of the County?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And the way we should -- we should also determine that is by seeing what we have and who they

are. I would think that the Murdered -- I don't even know if that's an organization, Murdered Children.

MR. HERRINGTON:

I pulled up on the website --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

That is a big one.

MR. HERRINGTON:

I pulled up a website for a group called Parents for Murdered Children, so.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And what kind of -- is that a 501(C), is it just an organization?

MR. HERRINGTON:

It didn't say on the website, I didn't see it on there, but I can find out. And I just assumed that they were the ones associated with the monument, I didn't want to call them until --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Do we have anything out there with MADD or SADD? Because, you know, opening the doors to organizations like that and when do we stop because we run out of room? Which is why I'm thinking about a temporary kind of --

MR. MORAN:

I passed out to you, just along the guidelines thing, this is the bill that's currently tabled on the floor of the Legislature by Legislator Cooper that Tom had mentioned when we started. And I was just talking to Terry, Chief of Staff to the Presiding Officer -- and again, it's up to the committee -- but it certainly seems that perhaps that should somehow be incorporated into the guidelines of this committee so when it does get to the floor of the Legislature, maybe it will have this certain criteria that's already been met.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This is for individuals that --

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

To name a County building.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

County facilities in honor of distinguished individuals.

MR. MORAN:

But if nothing else, maybe it presents some ideas as far as some of the criteria that's put into place for that specific charge so that it doesn't conflict in any way if, in fact, it does move forward, or perhaps as Terry suggested, maybe it could be consolidated into the mission of this committee.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So these are things we can go over when we come back next time --

MR. HERRINGTON:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- with our ideas and try to establish maybe five or six or seven different criteria of what we think.

And of course, Tom, you will know a lot of the nuts and bolts of why we should or shouldn't. And again, we have to look at what's over there and see what we've already taken, and also the amount of room left over there, it looks to me like it's filling up.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right. Like should this front area be reserved for a specific organization.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

This shows some of the monuments, to the north side is the World War II, Korean, the plaza.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What are you looking at that you see that, you can pick that out?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

This over here along Veterans Memorial Highway?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

This should definitely be reserved for veterans organizations.

MR. MORAN:

That's got to be veterans.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's veterans, okay.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

And that corner is the 9/11, the corner is going to be the 9/11 here which is not built yet.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's pretty substantial, too, isn't it?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's pretty big, yeah. That whole corner is going to be --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

And the Holocaust is right in that circle.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Isn't there one up on the steps there, next to the steps as you go in through the circle here?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

There's a little granite marker, yes; I don't know what that is.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is there anything else here, private?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Private? Well, there's the War Dog.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This over here is where?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I'll show you, that's right here. The War Dog is right here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, that's right, I did see that.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

The War Dog is right here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The dog is there?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, right here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All right, I saw it over here.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

And then Ghandi is inside.

MR. PEARSALL:

I think this is a World War I Monument entrance.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

This part of ours, this property is ours?

MR. PEARSALL:

That is ours.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Oh, right, there's one out --

MR. PEARSALL:

There was plans at one time to move this into the Armed Forces Plaza.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So we have this property here and this is going to be taken and this is going to be taken, this and this and this and this and this.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Like we said before, that front has to be reserved for veterans.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, it's Veterans Plaza.

MR. HERRINGTON:

With any monument we probably are going to have to be sensitive to how close we put it to someone else's monument.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

There is room for a small monument over here to balance this, if we want to put something there.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What if a fire department or a Police Department, that wouldn't be in Veterans, or I don't know. You couldn't put that with veterans because they're not actually veterans.

MR. HERRINGTON:

We might have to ask the Veterans Advisory Board maybe for some feedback --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah.

MR. HERRINGTON:

-- as to what they would be open to going in there.

MR. MORAN:

It does beg the larger question of any County facility, not necessarily the Dennison building, correct?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Well, there is a new memorial --

MR. MORAN:

Somebody might want to have it in their park.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Are there any other County facilities that would be appropriate for monuments?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

At the Police Headquarters there's a new memorial.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, that's fine, I was thinking about that for police, that's fine.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

That's for future --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You know, and FRES would be -- I don't know what's over there, but FRES, if there's any type of fire, we could think about anything --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The Riverhead County Center, a different County park.

MR. MORAN:

I can just see the potential of a County park, especially if you're saying these private organizations, there's a local neighborhood and it's a localized issue, they might ask to have it in a County park.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, we're going to have to be careful with these private organizations.

MR. MORAN:

You have to be careful because they might ask to have it in their County park.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think somebody has to take care of them, as you say.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

We also have to be careful with how we define the private organization, because even some of the veterans groups could be private non-profits.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, you're right.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

So when we're talking about things related or not related to government it's different than necessarily banning all private --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, how are we going to define that?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The Parks Department, maybe we should ask the Commissioner of Parks if he could attend the next meeting because they deal with this all the time. They have a case now I guess with the -- I think it's been approved, to name the campground at Cathedral Pines County Park for an individual who --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Which park?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Cathedral Pines County Park for an individual who was apparently instrumental in the camping programs in Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Where is that one located?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's located in the Longwood area, it's near the high school, Cathedral Pines County Park. It's more Middle Island, that's where it is, a beautiful park.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

I think rather than just say private organizations, we may be able to actually define exactly what we allow related to veterans, related to -- you know, we would have to look at any exceptions to the --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Public service.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Right, public service.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think we're going --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

And then it would be, as Lynne said, a temporary thing for not-for-profits, what we see today, that kind of thing.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think once we get all of this, too, maybe it would be a good idea for us to talk to Counsel for the Legislature to get some -- to write it up a little for us -- maybe that would be one way to go, too, so we don't --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Get some feedback legally, draft something and run it by them for their review.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, yeah, once we get all of this information and we put everything together at our next meeting, I think -- and maybe they can sit in with us too and then they could come back and have it written out clearly and more with a legal mind.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Set policy and legal --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think we should.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

-- consistency.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, because your question was really good, some organizations are veteran organizations but they are private as well, so we have to decide.

MR. HERRINGTON:

I'll speak to the County Attorney's Office too and see if maybe in other -- maybe not monuments, but other areas how does the County determine between private organizations and public.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So maybe we're better off with a representative from the County Attorney's Office rather than the Legislative Counsel. Maybe could you arrange for our next meeting having somebody here? And you can feed them all the information --

MR. HERRINGTON:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- that we're going to and maybe they can come up with something.

MR. MORAN:

While you have an issue before you with regard to this specific thing, it sounds like you need to go back and establish what the committee's roll really is and what your guidelines are going to be, and then start to address the individuals.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, what we're going to do, Greg, we read this and within 60 days, 90 days of the request we're supposed to have a written --

MR. MORAN:

Recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- recommendation submitted to I think Ways & Means?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Ways & Means. Well, we're not going to be able to do that, so I asked Terry what he thought was proper and he said, and maybe you can make a note, a letter from this committee to Ways & Means saying it is our recommendation that we need to establish more of a criteria, since this has not been an active committee, and we will be needing another we'll say 90 days or we'll say 60 days from the date of our next meeting to make a decision, and it could be earlier. So if we can do that, we can do that and also a letter to this gentlemen saying something to that effect, we are establishing criteria and we will extend this to such and such a day and consider this at whatever meeting.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We might be able to do it at our next meeting, I don't know, but at least we'll give ourselves another 90 days. And from then on, once we establish that criteria, then bang, bang, bang, it will be easier.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Absolutely.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I have seen articles in the paper on this organization, they actually buy houses and they actually retrofit them and create a place for these children that are severely ill and handicapped, so I think they're legitimate. You know, we can check them out, but --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

They build homes for children that are severely ill?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, I think that was a big thing recently, about a year ago they established -- actually they bought a home or they created a place just for these children that are so severely -- they need such care.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Do they bring in medical staff?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yes, I think so. I think they have people that take care of them because it's such a burden on the parents, these children.

MR. HERRINGTON:

An organization like that, if they own a house and they own property already, I mean, you have to say no to this but if they do own property, maybe it's more appropriate for them if the memorial to be on their property.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

From what I recall, it was just like a residential house in a neighborhood.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It sounds like they want to bring attention to their organization and that's why they want to do it through the County.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Maybe that should be another criteria is does the organization own property? So that we know whether, you know, they have an appropriate place for it themselves or, you know, what's the rationale behind --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Because this gentleman's child died of -- you know, that's what gave him the motivation to do this.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah. I think this is interesting, too, because I think about this organization and wanting to join with the other organizations like the children's wish, so we really do have to establish guidelines.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

You can go on and on, diabetes, leukemia.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You really could. And this is kind of a delicate subject --

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Of course.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

-- because anybody that has children, you just want to be very careful. It's a painful thing anyway so you don't want to say to them, "Well, you don't matter," but if you're able to work with whatever we establish, if you're able to within our discretion say, "Let's give them a month because it is so more important."

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, it's a good idea.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So that's what we need to be working on. And we'll get the minutes, we'll all digest them, pull out of the minutes what you think is important, we'll come in here with the County Attorney and we'll pull out what we want and what they think that we have to have. Can we get a list of everything that's out there; Tom, can you get a list and bring that?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I think that's a good idea, I don't know if one exists.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

An inventory of the memorials?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Monuments; it would be both Public Works properties as well as --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

You mean County wide or just here?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think it's got to be any type of a monument that is part of a County -- you know, the County giving them on County leased or owned property.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I'm not sure that such an inventory exists, but it would be between Public Works and Parks.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I know I can import what I know.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Whatever you can get.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I can give input but I may not be complete.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

There must be a list somewhere if we take care of these monuments, maybe not; maybe there is a list, maybe there isn't.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I think, here again, Ron Foley would be a person to talk to.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

I'll see what I can do, see what information he has.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And then after it comes out of this committee it goes to Ways & Means; if it gets out of Ways & Means it goes to the full Leg.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

With our recommendation behind it, yea or nay.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So let's decide when we want to meet again with all of this. We meet here in the morning. This is May -- what's today, May what?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The 17th.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The 17th. What did you say, we were supposed to have how many meetings? Did somebody mention how many meetings we were supposed to be having?

MR. HERRINGTON:

No, I think it's just based off of when you get a request.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All right. So let's go into June, we have a Legislative meeting on the 13th; what's on 14th? A CEO meeting. How about June 14th in the morning, same time, same place; can we do that?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I usually attend the CEO meeting.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

CEO should be the 21st, I think, no?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's the third Wednesday.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Why do I have it on the 14th?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Sometimes there's an exception.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Because -- I know why it's not the 21st, because we have committee meetings for June 21st.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So you cannot make a meeting here.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I usually attend CEQ, so if it's after CEQ.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, after CEQ. How about June 15th in the morning?

MR. HERRINGTON:

I can't make June 15th.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You can't make June 15th, okay. CEQ goes how long?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It usually goes till noon.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Till what?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Till noon is the latest.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

To noon. What did we say, Thursday you couldn't make it?

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yeah, I can't make the 15th.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Friday, Environmental Trust Review. How about Monday morning, can anybody make Monday morning, June 12th?

MR. HERRINGTON:

I'm not going to be able to make that.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You're not going to be able to make that.

MR. HERRINGTON:

I'm sorry, both.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

I didn't transpose my calendar from my office, so I'm good so far.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Yeah, the only two dates in June that I can't do.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What is it?

MR. HERRINGTON:

I said those are the only two dates in June that I know that I can't do.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All right, so let's go to the next week.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The 19th?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The 19th.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's a committee week.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

How about Monday? How about Monday, June 19th in the morning?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

That's the EPA Committee.

MR. MORAN:

The Environment Committee meetings on Monday.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

On Monday morning? Well, who goes to -- oh, son of a gun. What time does that meet, 10:30?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yes, 10:30.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. How about Tuesday, June 20th, at -- no, huh? Okay.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

It's the Long Island Regional Planning Board, ten o'clock here in the Legislative Building.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What time is yours?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Ten o'clock, the Long island Regional Planning Board, right here.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

How long does it take?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

No more than two hours.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, okay. How about Friday morning?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Friday the 23rd?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Bingo.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Bingo, the 23rd, ten o'clock, 10:30?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Any time.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I have 11, does anybody want 11?

MR. HERRINGTON:

Ten is fine.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

How about -- let's do it Friday at 10:30, is that good? And if, you know, anything comes up, 10:30, Friday.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

The 23rd, right?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The 23rd; what did I say, 10:30?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

It should only take us an hour, I would think, maybe a little more.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

The location is here again?

MR. PEARSALL:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes? And what are we calling this?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

The Memorials Committee, that's what I call it. I think it has a much longer name than that.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Siting of Memorials and Symbols.

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Review Committee for County Siting of Memorials and Symbols.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Again, for that day on the 23rd, before that we'll get out all the minutes. And before that, if we could, just to make the meetings run more smoothly, if each of you can take what you think is going to be the important criteria and then we'll come here and we'll put it in the middle and --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Are we going to have the legal advisor?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

The County Attorney will be here. Angela's House will be put off for the 90 days, we'll take care of that.

MR. MORAN:

Some correspondence to Ways & Means and Angela's House.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yeah, we're going to make it 90 days. They don't observe or whatever it is until December you said?

DIRECTOR BARTUNEK:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

December, so if we were going to do it we would have plenty of time to do it for December. So does anybody else anything else they think we should come to that meeting with on the 23rd?

MR. HERRINGTON:

If you want to maybe speed it up, if you do have ideas, if you want to e-mail them to me, I can get them to whoever in the County Attorney is going to handle it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's an excellent idea.

MR. HERRINGTON:

And this way they'll know -- they'll have more of an idea on what we're thinking of and maybe I can research further.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Give us your card with your e-mail on it.

MR. HERRINGTON:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We'll choose what we feel, you all choose what you feel are the most important, we'll send it to the County Attorney. We'll come here with our list of what's already out there.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Do we want to keep it at a certain vagueness as far as requirements, are we going to state anything specific?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Maybe a little vague so it gives us discretion.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Absolutely, we are just advising and it says here --

MR. MORAN:

Hopefully the Legislature is going to make the decision.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That's right. It says here that we don't have --

MR. MORAN:

It's really an advisory, but we should have a basic framework to keep it consistent.

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Right.

MR. MORAN:

But ultimately they're going to make the decision.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We're purely advisory in nature. But if we consistently advise with some type of a basis, we should be better off, and they'll listen to us.

Okay? Everybody is good with that?

DIRECTOR ISLES:

Yeah, that's great.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM*)*

*Legislator Lynne Nowick, Chairperson
Review Committee for County Siting of
Memorials and Symbols*