

***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 Downstairs Conference Room of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on March 19, 2007.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Lynne Nowick - Chairperson  
Carol Walsh - Representing Tom Isles-Director/Suffolk County Planning  
Brian Bielanski - County Executive Assistant  
Ralph Borkowski - Department of Public Works/Landscape Architect  
Linda Bay - Representing Legislator Dan Losquadro/Minority Leader  
Legislator Lou D'Amaro

**Members Not Present:**

Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro

**Also in Attendance:**

Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro  
Damion Sing - Student/Suffolk County Community College

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM\*)

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I will call this meeting to order. And just for Damien's sake, what we do here is that we are empanelled to name sitings and memorials for the County of Suffolk. Legislation comes to the full -- comes to the Legislature with a request; in this case, we have two requests to name the same building. And after the legislation is laid on the table, we -- it's sent here for us to make a decision as to whether we or not we think the name is appropriate for the building or the site that we're naming. We do consider a lot of different reasons why a building shouldn't be named or a site shouldn't be named. Anything we do is not really written in stone because we've decided there are a lot of times where facts -- black and white is not black and white and it's gray, so that's --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

More often than not.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes, absolutely. So that's what we're here to do today. We have a very, very short agenda. Legislator D'Amaro has a piece of legislation --

**MR. MORAN:**

Actually, Legislator Stern's legislation you're talking about?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, that's Stern's, I'm sorry.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Stern is sponsoring the bill

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Are you here to speak on the bill?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, I'm on the committee.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, I haven't seen you here, I'm sorry. You know what, you send your aide.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Exactly.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That's right. I'm sorry.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'm here to vote today.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You're here to vote today. Okay, so now we have -- I'm sorry, I thought you were going to speak on that one.

The first one we have is a tabled proposal, *Proposal to name the Supreme Court Building located on Griffing Avenue in Riverhead the "Alan D. Oshrin Supreme Court Building."* We have had a lot of discussion on this over the past few months. Unless anybody else has anything to say about it, would you like to just vote it up or down or does anybody want to talk about this? Okay.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

We beat it up pretty well.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I think we have.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

A couple of things I wanted to say on that. Number one, I believe the underlying bill is no longer on the agenda in the Legislature because it expired. So it doesn't mean that it expires here, but I guess we're breaking new ground in the sense of having to deal with that when that happens.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All right. Well, I guess it always can be put in again.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But you know what, we'll just do our thing.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Right, I agree.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And I agree with you, I thank you for mentioning it.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I don't think it takes it off our agenda.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Right.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

I think it's still on; unless he withdrew it, it's okay till--

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

When did he put it on?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

October 17th, so --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But doesn't it die at the end of the year?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Not in the mid-term.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

No? Okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

March 17th would be --

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Would be five months.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh, it would be five.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

November, December, January, February, March, April.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, Counsel told me it was off, but we just decided that's not really relevant anyway.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

No, that's a good -- you know, we should know that if that was a fact. So if anybody wants to speak on it any further, because we did beat it quite a bit. Does anybody have a motion?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I'll make a motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm going to make a motion -- I don't know -- let me just explain something. We kind of --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. Go ahead, you make your motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm going to make a motion to vote it up or down now for purposes of -- if there is no motion it just dies, right?

**MR. MORAN:**

Yeah. I mean, you can make the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I can make a motion and we can vote on it.

**MR. MORAN:**

I think -- just for clarification, I think basically where it was left, and correct me if I'm wrong, is that you gave Legislator Romaine an opportunity to talk about potentially amending this or making something different or changing the plan, he decided not to do that and so he accepted whatever the committee decision was going to be.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Right.

**MR. MORAN:**

So, you know, if you just want to finish that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just on a technicality. What we were -- Lou, just to fill you in on it. We discussed this ad infinitum and we came up with different ideas as far as naming the building as opposed to naming the different courtrooms and different libraries within the building because we found that while Judge Oshrin was certainly a very well respected jurist, we also found that there's going to be many, many of them coming along. And there are so many different rooms over the next few years that we could name, that I think -- although we didn't vote on it, we kind of decided that it may not be appropriate, unless anybody disagrees with me on that. So for purposes of a vote, I'll make a motion.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

I'll second the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Second. Now, all in favor?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

On the motion?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Do we give an explanation with our vote?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Because just to say no, it's not our -- we don't have any binding say in this.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Right; good question.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

So just to really say no without providing the committee with some sort of a --

**MR. MORAN:**

Yeah, if I can add. Traditionally with the correspondence that the Legislators send, the Chair of Ways & Means is Legislator D'Amaro and the County Executive, etcetera, there is a little paragraph just explaining what the discussions were and why they reached that decision.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Fair enough.

**MR. MORAN:**

In this case, if I recall, a lot of the detail has been that there may be other jurists who have served even longer and had a longer tenure dedicated to Suffolk County, and so that was brought up as an issue at the time; Judge Stark I believe was one.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, we had so many of them.

**MR. MORAN:**

So those have been the issues

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And we also wanted to be very careful with due respect, you know, we speak about a jurist, they all deserve it, it's just that it's one big building. So I have a motion and a second. All in favor of this, in favor of naming it the "Alan D. Oshrin Building"?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Oh, I thought the motion was to -- oh, it's to approve? Sorry, go ahead.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All opposed? Okay, this fails.

**MS. MAHONEY:**

All opposed?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All opposed. *Failed (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present: Linda Bay).*

*Number two, Proposal to name the new Supreme Court Building in Riverhead the "Distinguished Military Veterans Supreme Court Building".* I'll make a motion for purposes of discussion. Do I have a second?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah, for purposes of a discussion.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

I'll second it for discussion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. So when we were last here we spoke about naming it the Distinguished Military Veterans Supreme Court building, and my opinion was, and there was some agreement on it, that while that is certainly an admirable thought, the building itself is a court building and we were thinking of alternatives. Because certainly you don't want to not give due respect to the military veterans, we thought maybe, because we're going to have a lot of different judges along the way, Administrative Judges along the way, but we thought there are going to be so many different judges, Administrative Judges, people that are directly involved with the courthouse, that maybe we would save the naming of the whole building until the appropriate person comes along. However, there would be maybe room in -- I don't know if there's a rotunda or a lobby in there, and maybe name something like that for the distinguished veterans Supreme Court Building or Supreme Court -- Distinguished Veterans Supreme Court Lobby or whatever it is and they would get the recognition they deserve yet we would still be holding off naming the entire building. Because once you name the entire building it's done, and you don't know if somebody is going to come along. Now, I don't know who agrees or who disagrees, but that was my feeling on it. Yes?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Can I chime in on that? I agree. I reached out to the sponsor on this bill and said -- gave my opinion that as Legislator Nowick is saying, that there may not -- knowing whatever say that we should not recognize our veterans in every possible way that we can, but this particular building is a Court Annex and it's probably more appropriate to do some type of naming either internally for vets or some other facility and I spoke to the sponsor of the bill, Legislator Stern, and he agrees with that.

You know, what -- anyone else is free to make their proposals going forward and we can consider them, but I don't think that it's -- I don't think this is the most appropriate naming, taking veterans on to a court facility. There are plenty of other locations and considerations for them and I think that's where we need to go with this. So I'm not going to support the motion to approve this.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And I obviously would agree. Does anybody else want to comment on it? So I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

No, you're not in favor?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

This is in favor of approving.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You are in favor of approving.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, one is in favor of approving. Opposed? Okay, *that motion also fails (VOTE: 1-5-0-01 In Favor: Brian Bielanski - Not Present: Linda Bay).*

And good news, folks, that's that. Sure, you missed the long ones.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Knowing when to show up.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

And better news yet; we don't have anything on for a while.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Can I just raise one piece of business? I know that I had sent an aide here, one of my Legislative Aides here last time and she -- was it Melissa or you,

**MR. LITTELL:**

It was Melissa.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, was not permitted to vote and I understand that. And the reason was that the authorizing resolution said --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

-- that our designee was not in there? Are we putting in a bill to change that or --

**MR. LITTELL:**

I believe Jon Cooper did.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Jon Cooper did it? Okay. And I just would like -- I haven't read the bill, believe it or not, but is this Chair of Ways & Means the only one that doesn't have a designee permitted?

**MR. MORAN:**

I think that might be the case.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Well, you know, Lou, you want me --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I mean, I'll attend the meetings.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- to check with you about attending -- you know, when we make up the meeting, this way I'm sure that you're there, I think we can work around your schedule.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

No, I appreciate that. I would rather amend the bill. I mean, my intention is to come, but if there's a point where why hold up the committee's business if we can send someone in as my designee, why not?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

The Chair and the Ways & Means Chair are the only two that don't have a designee.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

They don't.

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

Everyone else is allowed to send a designee.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Well, that's up to you to put in a bill.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay, yeah. And also, I just wanted to tell the committee that I didn't realize that, so I apologize if I wasted your time at some other meeting. I just really thought that we had the authority to send a designee.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We went along without you.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay; easy enough to do. Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay, so motion to adjourn?

**MR. BIELANSKI:**

One other quick question. On the agendas, can you put the Laid on the Table dates? Because I think it's important for a couple of reasons; one, because they're expected to hear from us within 60 days or 90 days as well as when we know that they're about to fall off. Second the motion to adjourn.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay.

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