

**SITINGS OF MEMORIALS & SYMBOLS AND
NAMING OF COUNTY FACILITIES, PARKS & ROADS COMMITTEE**

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A meeting of the Sitings of Memorials & Symbols and Naming of County Facilities, Parks & Roads Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Downstairs Conference Room of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on March 10, 2009.

Members Present:

Legislator Steven Stern - Chairman/District #16
Karen Klafter - Representing Legislator Lou D'Amaro - District #17
Linda Bay - Representing Legislator Losquadro/Minority Leader
Ralph Borkowski - Representing Department of Public Works
Peter Lambert - Representing Tom Isles/Suffolk County Planning Director
Steve Tricarico - County Executive's Assistant
Paulette Bartunek - Director/Suffolk County Human Rights Division.

Also in Attendance:

Legislator Jay Schneiderman - District #2
Legislator Brian Beedenbender - District #4
Adam Santiago - Aide to Legislator Beedenbender
Tom Ronayne - Director of Veterans Services
Irene R. Donohue - Resident of Southampton
Irene J. Donohue - Resident of Southampton
William Beatty - Korean War Veterans

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:47 A.M. *)

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay, everybody took a look -- everybody is familiar with the agenda for today? So we'll call to order and we'll take up number one on the agenda, *IR 1949-08 - Naming the Fishing Pier at Smith Point County Park as the "John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier" (Viloria-Fisher)*. Anybody?

MR. TRICARICO:

Yeah, we'd like to make a motion to table this resolution, the County Executive's Office. Recently an RFEI went out looking for corporate naming rights for different County parks and associated structures and facilities. We haven't received anything back yet, so we think it's premature for the County to name this fishing pier right now if a private entity would be interested in possibly naming it for themselves and providing additional revenue. So I'd like to make a motion to table this resolution pending the RFEI, the results of it, and see what we get back from the private industry.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Does the administration have any idea what the time period is going to be?

MR. TRICARICO:

We don't have a time period right now. Like I said, just the RFEI had just recently went out, so we're not sure exactly when we're going to get results back. But we would like to, like I said, table this to our next meeting and hopefully by then we'll have a better idea on what we're looking at as for a private entity and if so -- if not, then we, you know, we can move ahead with whatever we decide.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

The fishing pier, this particular fishing pier or any fishing pier is one of the opportunities that the administration believes is going to be up for this type of naming rights? I mean, it's not a park, it's not, you know, a dog run. You don't think you're going to get a private entity to come in and --

MR. TRICARICO:

Well, the County Executive would like to table it and he's hoping -- you know, he's hoping that we will have feedback from the private industry for some sort of corporate naming rights for various things throughout the County to raise some revenues. So he'd like to, like I said, once again, table this resolution.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Before we move on, is there a second to the motion?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I'll second it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I speak?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll come up to the table. I knew Mr. Fritz not extremely well, but I know that he served the County very well as the Chair of the Park Trustees. And this is a resolution that's been in for some time, long before this effort to sell naming rights. And I think it's a sad day in Suffolk County when people who work hard for their communities, spend their life in dedication to public service, can't get things named after them and they go to the highest bidder; I think that's very sad.

I know we have a fiscal crisis and we'll get through it, but I think we need to reward those who

make selfless sacrifice to make Suffolk County a better place. I think it would be very sad if we took this fishing pier and we just named it after somebody, you know, who was willing to pay enough to have their name attached to it, I think that would be really a very bad direction for the County, for so many reasons.

I'm going to ask you not to table this in honor of Mr. Fritz's memory and the family and his work, his volunteer work for Suffolk County. I ask you to respect this and allow it back to the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

This is -- if I remember, this is a resolution that's been around for quite some time.

MS. BAY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Right, I think that really there was just a time element that we were waiting to comply with.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's that six month rule.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

So this particular item really finds itself having come up on our agenda finally, fortunately or unfortunately at the same time that there is this new effort.

MR. TRICARICO:

Well, I --

CHAIRMAN STERN:

It's really just a coincidence of timing.

MR. TRICARICO:

I'm sorry. I'd like to just reiterate, we're not opposed to naming structures, however, we just think it would be premature because of the fiscal crisis we find ourselves in and everybody's -- we're all trying to find ways. The County Executive would like to give this a chance. We're not opposed to Mr. Fritz, but we are opposed to approving this right now. Rather, we would like this tabled, just to see what happens with the RFEI, see what kind of interest that we can spark and we can move on from there. So we're not opposed to that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I would like the things, though, that were in the pipeline prior to this new effort to be able to move forward. There's been a lot of effort behind these things and there's a lot of emotion attached, families and the community members who recognize the work that these individuals did, and I think it would be a real mistake to not allow these few that are out there to move forward.

There's a lot of other structures in the County that can be named, that can go through this process. But there's a handful of resolutions that predate this effort and I think that they should be fully vetted and looked at on their merits and not just simply tabled in an effort to sell all the naming rights.

MS. BAY:

And I agree wholeheartedly with Legislator Schneiderman. And because we don't have a timeframe, I mean, this RFEI, this could take three or four months to --

MR. TRICARICO:

I can't speak to that, I'm not sure.

MS. BAY:

We have no concept of time. I would agree with him; I actually would like to make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Motion to approve. Is there a second? I'll second the motion to keep the discussion going. Anybody?

MS. BARTUNEK:

Has there been any commitments made to the family?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, the family is excited about the prospect of something to be named after him. You know, he was instrumental in a lot of environmental protection, you know, and stewarding our parks for a number of years. And yeah, I know the family really is very hopeful that his name will live on in some small way.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Did he visit this location, fish on the pier, or was attached to it?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's the area where he is from, the community that he comes from. And yeah, I believe he was involved with the review for this. I know he was also -- he had been working on another similar pier out at -- what is it, Meschutt?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Meschutt Beach.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, he was doing -- they're working on a pier for ornithology, bird watching.

MS. MAHONEY:

What is it, ornathology?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Ornithology; that's a technical name for bird watching. And he had brought me out to that area to show me where he wanted to construct this pier, he said it was a very special place. I'll remember him hiking in that area, showing me those things and his -- how he really lit up as he talked about the possibility of creating this pier and, you know, his face brightly smiled and, you know, he had this vision of how our parks could better serve our communities.

MR. LAMBERT:

Do we know what the fishing pier is like, does anybody know?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What it's like?

MR. BORKOWSKI:

The one that's out there?

MR. LAMBERT:

Yeah. I've never seen it, so I have no idea.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's a wooden pier.

MR. LAMBERT:

There's no structures, it's just an extension of --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

You can walk out and go fishing out on it. You can go straight out a couple of hundred feet maybe.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, it's right adjacent to the parking lot.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I haven't seen it.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's on the north side of Smith Point, the large parking lot over the bridge, the parking lot on the north side. The south side is the ocean.

MR. LAMBERT:

Right.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

This was a suggested. You know, I had thought that other pier possibly, but this is -- I think what Legislator Fisher, I think Legislator Eddington and Browning were involved with this and I think this is what everybody agreed made the most sense, this fishing pier.

MR. LAMBERT:

To honor this man.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

To honor this man.

MR. TRICARICO:

Once again, I mean, I'd like to say the County Executive's Office is not against not honoring this man, we just feel we owe it to the taxpayers to explore all possibilities. And by tabling this resolution, we're not essentially saying this isn't going to happen, we're just saying give us a chance. Give us other options here, see what else we can do to help the fiscal climate at this point.

So to constantly say that we're not honoring this man, it's not what we're not -- not what we're doing, we're just trying to find, you know --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I know.

MR. TRICARICO:

And I think everybody understands that's what we're looking to do.

So once again, that's our position on --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think it actually helps the taxpayers when we recognize volunteerism. You know, when somebody takes so much of their own time to do good things for the community, that has a fiscal benefit. You know, we don't have to pay for the labor. It has a domino effect, you start giving and other people start giving. Once we start saying that, you know, only those who are in a financial position will be able to be remembered and not those who sacrifice their time, I think that's going to have a negative impact in terms of the economy.

So I don't -- yeah, there's going to be plenty of things that can be sold that are much more visible that corporations or individuals are likely to pay more significant amounts of money for than the fishing pier. So I just ask that this and the other ones that predate this new effort to sell naming

rights, that they move forward and let the Legislature make that decision.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, I -- I have a question there. There is -- there is this effort on the part of the administration, sending out this inquiry as to whether or not there are certain private entities that want to participate in this way.

I think that there's a resolution before the Legislature, or coming before the Legislature, that would -- that would look into the feasibility of this kind of a process. I don't know if you can answer it, maybe anybody here can chime in, but the question I have is whether or not the administration -- let's assume that there is a private entity that comes back and says, "We're interested in this particular pier and we're willing to pay X-amount of dollars a year for the naming rights." If that is an agreement that the administration can enter into without the approval of the Legislature, or if this effort on the part of the administration is premature, before the resolution that's coming before the Legislature is actually voted on by the Legislature, I think there are two tracks going on right now and to tell you the truth, I don't know which one comes first, which one is dependent on the other. My fear is that, not knowing that answer at this point, that we're going to have a battle of two competing measures and two competing procedures; who knows how ultimately that's resolved and when it's resolved. In the meantime, we have these items that are now finally on our agenda that have been waiting for months and months and might have to wait for several more months until this becomes solved.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the process that was set up with this committee, with the wait period, we've done several things at the Legislative level to address the idea or the issue of naming things. We set a procedure in place and we're following that procedure and waiting patiently.

I want to make one other point about naming things. This is history, we're making -- we're leaving landmarks. And the idea -- even if somebody said, "Okay, I'll pay \$20,000 for a naming right," I don't care. We have -- not that I don't care about the \$20,000, but I think that suddenly when you allow history to be manipulated, you know, by money, I think that's -- you're mixing two issues that I think you're walking kind of a slippery slope. If you're going to set up a monument, basically, a fishing pier, it ought to reflect a certain history here to honor an individual who spent a good deal of their life in service to the County; that makes sense, and I'm not sure I want to trade that for, you know, a small sum of money. I think that's a discussion we need to have at the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I would agree. I mean, I don't really know how colleagues of ours are going to come down on this issue, but it's a very important issue that has to be vetted in the right forum. Anybody else?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I just urge you not to table and let the legislature decide these few -- these few applications, resolutions that predate the new effort to sell naming rights.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

If this is approved out of this committee today, it will come before the Parks Committee at our next session --

MS. BAY:

Next week.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

-- and it will be on the floor for the General Session at the next meeting.

MS. BAY:

If it's approved out of committee, right.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Isn't the job of this committee to determine the worthiness?

MS. BAY:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Not set the policy?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I mean, I would leave it to others to comment who've served on this committee longer than I have. I'm sure everybody has their own opinions about what the purpose of the committee is, but that's essentially correct. Does anybody know what the status of Legislator D'Amaro's bill is, is it going to come before the Parks Committee this cycle?

MS. KLAFTER:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It was just laid on the table, wasn't it?

MS. KLAFTER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

So it's going to come before us this cycle.

MS. MAHONEY:

Karen, I can't hear you.

MS. KLAFTER:

Yeah, I think it is coming before the Parks Committee.

MS. BAY:

It is.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

The question then is whether or not to debate this process prior to having a specific example before us, or to have a specific example before us to debate.

MS. BAY:

But is it for us to debate?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I mean, when I say us, I think the Legislature.

MS. BAY:

The Legislature.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

To debate whether or not this is a road that we as a County want to go down.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

This committee is created by the Legislature, right, or by Executive Order?

MS. BAY:

No, by the Legislature.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

By the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Does the Legislature hold this debate about the issue that Legislator Schneiderman raises about whether or not this is a process that we want to follow with no specific example before it, or does this debate take on that much more when we're debating a particular project or naming situation that happens to be before us.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

If Legislator D'Amaro's bill is approved, I think that does change things, but right now it's just a bill that was just laid on the table. So we're working under the old set of rules, in my mind.

MS. BARTUNEK:

Perhaps part of the debate are the things that came prior to the naming.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, that could be an element of the debate, which I think is an important element. Anybody else?

MS. KLAFTER:

I have a question. When you talk about how this particular naming was -- has been in the works for a while and now this is coming up, but was it valid to be named or were you waiting for a waiting period?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Oh, it's -- the six months period, the wait period is over now.

MS. KLAFTER:

Did it just end?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't know on what day.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

It must have just ended because I think on this one, that's all they were waiting on.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Whether it's valid is something I think that's germane to this committee to say okay. I think it's going to be easy to determine, I think, that this person spent a lot of time in service to the County. Whether it's appropriate to name a fishing pier after him or not, I think that's the debate you have to have. Is this the right structure to name, is he worthy of having a structure named after him? That's what you're here for.

MS. KLAFTER:

I'm just trying to get some clarification on the semantics of saying something that was already in the works, and do we count it as being in the works if it wasn't applicable to be named at this point?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, does anybody have a comment as to -- setting aside the administration's position for now, I guess the question is how do we feel about this particular naming? Let's start with that issue first before we get to the next issue.

So I guess taking a straw pole here on naming the fishing pier at Smith Point County Park as the

"John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier", the threshold issue is how does the committee feel about that particular item before us?

MR. TRICARICO:

Are we sure that the six month period, waiting period is up on this? I'm just asking before we move ahead.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, do we have the resolution?

MR. TRICARICO:

We do.

MS. HARRIS:

Yeah, he passed away in September.

MR. TRICARICO:

Okay, so it's been six months.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you.

MR. TRICARICO:

Just for the record, I want to make sure that it has been six months.

MS. HARRIS:

It's right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

What does everybody think about the substance?

MR. LAMBERT:

Tom Isles, Director of Planning, indicated to me that he's in favor of it, based on the number of years of service of this person and he was very well liked.

MS. BAY:

The only thing I can add, I don't know him personally, but in the four or five years I've been covering committees, the man never missed a Parks Committee; he was always there, totally dedicated to what he did.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Any other comments? So as a threshold matter, based on the comments that have been made, those that have chosen to comment on the underlying substance here, it's a good naming; correct?

MS. BAY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. So the question then is whether or not this committee wants to send this issue to the Parks Committee and then to the Legislature with the understanding that there is a debate to be had on whether or not this is a process that the County wants to follow, that is --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right, whether they want to instead sell the naming rights.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Just speaking for myself, this is going to be an important debate. This is going to be an important issue that this Legislature is going to take up. We are in dire need of additional revenue, I think we have to be creative and get it any way we can. Whether or not this is going to be the right road to go down, I don't know yet and I'm looking forward to presentations on every side. It's going to be an interesting discussion.

MR. TRICARICO:

Well, I mean, this is going to come up as a discussion, the RFEI, whether it's with Legislator D'Amaro's bill or the administration's stance. And like Legislator Schneiderman was saying, I'm not debating the merits of the gentleman at this point.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Understood.

MR. TRICARICO:

We're more debating the merits of the RFEI and if we act too prematurely, what could come and what may not come.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Right.

MR. TRICARICO:

So that's kind of the administration's stance.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

That's why I wanted to take that informal straw pole, because everybody agrees that that's a good naming, now the question is whether or not to hold this up at this level pending, you know, the outcome of whether --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

What's the length of the RFEI?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

-- it's administrative or Legislative.

MS. MAHONEY:

Only one person at a time; sorry.

MS. KLAFTER:

A question on the naming with the County Executive's proposal. Would a sponsorship overshadow the opportunity to name it after a person also, couldn't it be both?

MR. TRICARICO:

I can't speak on that, I'm not quite sure on what the exact --

MS. KLAFTER:

Would it be like an either/or?

MR. TRICARICO:

You know what? I'm not sure, I can't speak on that. I'll have to get back to you on that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I mean, I don't think the County is going to find itself short of things to sell naming rights to. It's got lots of bridges and roads and buildings; I think there's going to be plenty of naming

opportunities, even without the few that are in the pipeline. So I don't think it's going to make a big economic difference to the County.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I'll just say what my personal feeling is here. This is an important issue that we need to pursue, it's an important issue that needs to be debated. I would also think that a specific example such as this would lend itself to a better debate if we have something specific to take a look at. Because this would give us the opportunity to choose which way we want to go as a County, are we either choosing A or are we choosing B? And having a specific example to look at I think will enhance that discussion.

If there isn't any other further comment, I'll call the vote. The tabling motion takes precedence, so on the tabling motion we'll call the vote. All in favor of tabling? Two. All opposed to tabling?

The tabling motion fails (VOTE: 2-5-0-0 In Favor: Mr. Borkowski & Mr. Tricarico).

Okay, there's a motion to approve. Everybody in favor of the motion to approve? And all opposed? Any abstention? Motion carried.

Approved (VOTE: 5-2-0-0 Opposed: Mr. Borkowski & Mr. Tricarico).

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you. You did the right thing.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

IR 2050-08 - Renaming the Industrial Park at Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach the "John T. Donohue Industrial Park at Gabreski Airport" (Schneiderman).

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Stern, I just want to point out that the family is here. The widow, the daughter.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Welcome.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They are both Irene Donohue.

MS. BAY:

I'll make a motion to approve for the purpose of discussion.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Motion to approve. Is there a second?

MR. TRICARICO:

I'd like to make a motion to oppose the resolution on behalf of the administration.

MS. MAHONEY:

Table?

MR. TRICARICO:

I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

You're making a motion to table?

MR. TRICARICO:

Yes. I'm sorry, I meant tabling. The County currently right now is in the final stages of selecting a developer for the Industrial Park.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Before we go on, I'm sorry to interrupt.

MR. TRICARICO:

No problem.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

We need some seconds.

MR. TRICARICO:

Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Is there a second to the motion to approve?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

To continue the discussion, I'm going to second the motion to table for discussion purposes. Sorry. Go ahead.

MR. TRICARICO:

No problem. The administration suggests tabling this resolution because the County is in the final stages of selecting a developer for this industrial park and the County Executive believes that the developer that is chosen should be consulted with prior to its naming, whether it be named for Mr. Donohue or for whatever the naming eventually will become. We feel that since it is in the final stages of choosing a developer for the park, that he, she or the developer should be involved in this decision making process. So we would like to table this motion -- this resolution.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I believe it's the same issue; I serve on the Economic Development Committee and I believe that the administration -- I think it was Carolyn, if I'm not mistaken, I think it was the same issue -- said that perhaps we should wait on naming the facility for two reasons; one was pending the selection of the developer; and two, that this -- the intention here, of course, is make this, you know, a regional center.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Really a hot bed of economic development. And the question was raised whether this was going to be an appropriate name that was going to fit with the effort that they wanted to make in promoting what's going on at the airport in a regional way, and I think the discussion stopped there. It wasn't a very lengthy discussion, I just remember her mentioning something like that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

And that maybe it should -- you know, we should discuss it further, you know, what the grand vision is for the airport, the type of economic development we would like to have there and what the identity of that facility and the operations within it is going to be as a selling point, not just here but in the much broader region. Again, that's where the discussion was.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. No, I actually expected this conversation. Certainly at the airport there are potential for a lot of various naming opportunities, there's all kinds of new streets going in, there will be a new

terminal at some point, a new tower, the industrial park itself, there's various buildings.

This came to me through the family. As you know, Mr. Donohue sat in my seat, he is a former Legislator from the 2nd District. He did a lot of great things for the area. Certainly, you know, Gabreski Airport, he was very involved at the airport and the idea of redeveloping the airport and using it for, you know, economic stimulus. So, you know, the family had suggested the industrial park. We could bring them into this conversation, because I think that they would like to see their memory of their loved one carried forward. I don't know how strong the attachment to this particular industrial park is or whether something else might be appropriate or -- you know, can we ask for some comment, is that possible?

MS. IRENE R. DONOHUE:

Well, from what -- I was very little when he was a County Legislator. So after -- when he was sick, we were doing some research on his work when he was a Legislator. He did -- he was I believe into alternative energy, solar energy, I think he saw the economic potential of the industrial park as what could be there; it's an untapped resource, the jobs that could be developed there, its access to the airport. He had an interest in economics for eastern Long Island in Suffolk County.

From what I learned from people who worked with him, he had -- I guess the Suffolk County -- the Solar Energy Commission was something he was very committed to, bringing alternative energy to eastern Long Island. He had gone to Washington DC, it was the training institute, I think he was bringing to the park. He saw it as an untapped resource and wanted to really use it to his advantage.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

How attached are you guys to the actual industrial park being named after him? There is a valid point that we have, you know, a big contract out, you know, I think \$100 million or so being invested into this area by {Regla} to develop this industrial park. There's going to be a big hotel there, apparently green industries which tie in. But we're going to I think run into some controversy, at least early on, in saying, "Okay, we're going to name it now before the park has actually been developed."

MS. IRENE R. DONOHUE:

I don't think -- we were very honored to even be a thought.

MS. IRENE J. DONOHUE:

Considered.

MS. IRENE R. DONOHUE:

That something would be named in his memory.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I would like to see something named in his memory, this may not be the right choice.

MS. IRENE R. DONOHUE:

I understand that the economic potential from the developer, from naming the park or the highest renter there. We're not attached to the industrial park, but we are very honored that he's being --

MS. IRENE J. DONOHUE:

Memory.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't know if this committee is the right committee for this, but could we -- maybe this committee could explore what might be a more appropriate naming, if it's not going to consider the industrial park itself; maybe something, you know, within the airport or within the vicinity that might be appropriate?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, I think there would be something appropriate, I mean, we should all be mindful of that as we go down this road. And I think that whether it's Parks, maybe it's Economic Development and we'll work with Carolyn as we continue to go down this road and look for more --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's multiple streets within this industrial park, maybe that central street.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

There has to be something that we can do, something that would be appropriate, and then when the time is right and we have a better idea of exactly what it's going to look like, I think perhaps that's the appropriate time to take it back up.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And I can explore with the family some other suggestions as to what's not likely to be included in the R --

MR. TRICARICO:

RFEI.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What is it?

MR. TRICARICO:

RFEI.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

RFEI.

MR. TRICARICO:

Requests For Expressions of Interest.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

We can look at what's within that RFEI, what's covered and what's not covered. Maybe we can come up with something that we can move forward with, I'd be willing to do that.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

So let's do that, yes, from multiple angles and we'll continue to work together and come up with something that's appropriate and meaningful.

MS. IRENE R. DONOHUE:

Okay.

MS. IRENE J. DONOHUE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. We have a tabling motion that is before us; I'll call the vote.

All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 7-0-0-0).**

IR 1062-09 - Accepting the donation of a Gold Star Families Monument and authorizing the placement and siting of the Gold Start Families Monument in armed Forces Plaza (Beedenbender). To put it out there, I'll make a motion to approve.

MR. TRICARICO:

I'll second that motion.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Second. Legislator Beedenbender?

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Good afternoon, everybody. Just for a matter of background, we handed out a packet with the picture, I think everybody should have it. The front is just a picture with the wording of what the monument is going to look like. The second page is just the dimensions; there's just a word different on the second page, but if you're looking for the exact wording, it's the wording that's on the front.

So just for a brief -- it's kind of -- the resolution is a little different, but just for a brief background. Myself and three other Legislators are using CSI money to donate to an organization that's going to pay for this and then give us the monument. So that's why it says donating and accepting, I forget the actual language, but that's why it's worded in that manner. This is something that the veterans community and the Gold Star Families Organizations have been pursuing for quite some time. So it will go in Armed Forces Plaza in front of the Dennison Building. It will -- DPW is going to install the footing and the electric for the lights that will go for the monument while they're doing the 9/11 Memorial, so it would be on that side of Armed Forces Plaza, the side that the Korean War Monument is more prominent at this point. So they'll simply just add an additional concrete path and footing for the monument which will then be donated. Bill, do you have anything? This is Bill Beatty from the Korean War Veterans.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Is this granite; this is made of granite?

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

It's -- I believe it is made of granite, yes.

MR. BEATTY:

Yes. It's pretty large, as you see, it's six foot six and it weighs pretty close to two tons. So it's going to --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

You've got a good foundation.

MR. BEATTY:

I hope so. I hope so.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Well, and DPW has all the drawings and all the specifications and everything and we made sure -- I spoke with Lou Calderone and made sure that he had everything that he needed. And he said that as they're doing all the -- the stuff for the 9/11 Memorial, they'd be able to put this footing in. We're hopeful that we could have a groundbreaking of some sort in May during the festivities -- well, the ceremonies we normally have during May, and then if everything goes into place, hopefully it can be standing where it's supposed to be standing in September. This was -- this is actually -- it's to Bill's credit, this is something he's been working on for a while and finally -- I think you brought it up to me Memorial Day last year.

MR. BEATTY:

Yes.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

So just under a year later we're moving ahead.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

That's good for government.

MR. BEATTY:

When I -- when this came to my mind, I went and I walked the whole Armed Forces Plaza, and right now there's a statue of the Women's Memorial and I looked at it and I said what I would like to do, what I would hope to do is to have the Families Memorial, have the Mother facing that with a little bit of symbolism. I'm not really a symbol-type guy, but I've seen that and I thought that that would be the ideal place for it. Now, everything depends on the people who are going to put the foundation in and everything like that, but if possible, that's what I would like to see.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

And Lou said it's still possible.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

You don't want block the views --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Right.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

-- you know, to those structures.

MR. BEATTY:

That's another thing, too. On the way here this morning, when I stopped in traffic I looked across and the Women's Memorial is there and I said to myself if I -- if that -- if this memorial comes in from the street, from Vets Highway, you'll actually block the Women's Memorial.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

Yeah, that was my question.

MR. BEATTY:

So that gave me second thoughts.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

I don't think you want to do that.

MR. BEATTY:

If possible, some way, not to any blocking, I don't want to step on anybody's toes or the Women's Memorial. All of them --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

As you drive by on 347 --

MR. BEATTY:

Yes, yes.

MR. BORKOWSKI:

-- the view to that, the statues, you know.

MR. BEATTY:

And all you would see is the back of this memorial.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Well, what Public Works said initially, because the 9/11 Memorial is over to the left by the Korean, it

will be over further to the left, to the left of the Korean Memorial if you're looking from 347. They were originally going to put it over there, but they did say they would look -- because they're going to have all the equipment there, they're going to have all the concrete and the material. So I guess my question to the committee, this is the first time I've been there, we don't have to approve the exact placement in Armed Forces Plaza, do we?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

That was going to be my very same question. And I think, looking at the resolution, it merely states Armed Forces Plaza, so I guess the specific site is going to be --

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Which is why I didn't specifically -- yeah.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Yeah. So that's how I read it anyway.

MR. BEATTY:

Well, I'm certainly not going to be hard-nosed about it.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Well, what I can tell you, Bill, is that we've spoken to Lou about that. Because my initial -- I mean, I know you had said that to me, so my initial suggestion was, well, let's just put it there. And he didn't say no, but he said, "Well, it may be easier if we do it there," but we can continue to work with him and see if there's a suitable place that wouldn't block it that would work over there as well. So I think we can approve this and still keep moving forward.

MR. BEATTY:

Well, like I say, just that little stop this morning kind of gave me hesitation to say, "This is where I would like to see it, period", that's not going to be --

MR. BORKOWSKI:

It's going to take a little thought, you know, for the right spot.

DIRECTOR RONAYNE:

In the interest of moving forward, provided we get through committee today, we can continue to work with DPW. I can certainly walk the site with Lou Calderone and assess what the most appropriate location for it would be. Not blocking other monuments, memorials, keeping in mind the logistics of what's involved with the electrical and the footing work and so forth. I think we can probably come to a pretty reasonable accommodation on those issues.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. Very good. Anybody else? All right. Very important work and good job, Legislator Beedenbender and everybody else.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Thank you too, Steve; you were one of my colleagues that helped.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

So we'll call the vote; all in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 7-0-0-0)**. Very good.

Anybody else? No further business? We are adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M. *)

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically