

**PARKS, SPORTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks, Sports and Cultural Affairs Committee was held at the William H. Rogers Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Thursday, **June 20, 2002** at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Ginny Fields, Chair
Legislator Cameron Alden, Vice-Chair
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Angie Carpenter
Legislator William Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino II, Counsel to the Legislature
Mary Skiber, Legislative Aide to Legislator Fields
Clark Gavin, Legislative Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Fred Pollert, Director, Budget Review Office
Roz Gazes, Budget Review Office
Nicole DeAngelo, IR/County Executive's Office
Michael Hollander, Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kevin Zanfardino, LICVB Comptroller
Peter Scully, Commissioner, SC Department of Parks
Judy Gordon, SC Department of Parks
Denise Spezio, SC Department of Parks
Greg Lauri, SC Department of Parks
Warren Breining, Athletes Helping Athletes, Inc.
Robert DelRosa, Connetquot School District
Jim Peterman, SC Department of Public Works/Dir. of Design and Construction
Lance Mallamo, SC Vanderbilt Museum
Steven Gittelman, SC Vanderbilt Museum
Bertram Seides, SC Vanderbilt Museum
William B. Rogers, Trustee, Vanderbilt Museum

Minutes Taken By:
Kimberly Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I am going to begin the Parks Committee meeting. I would like to ask you to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cameron Alden.

(Salutation)

I am going to make a motion to take IR 1739 and ask Mr. William Rogers to come up to the front. We would like to take it out of order. I am make a motion to take it out of order.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed?

PRIME IR 1739 Reappointing William B. Rogers as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 4). (Tonna)

Mr. Rogers. Good afternoon. Your name has come up for a reappointment to the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission. I guess I will just ask one very simply question. Why do you want to do it, and why do you want to continue to do it?

MR. ROGERS:

Well, first I want to say I find it very enjoyable and I am kind of anxious to see the project go forth and be there when it is happening. I think I can be of some good, it is as simple as that.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

How long have you been a trustee?

MR. ROGERS:

About eight months. I was appointed to fill someone else's tenure.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Does anyone have anything to ask Mr. Rogers?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Madam Chair. Not so much to ask Mr. Rogers, but certainly as one Legislator, and I know others feel the same way, to thank you for your generous support of the museum. It is something that many of us over a period of years have been speaking from from this side of the horseshoe of having men and women step forward who would be willing to support the museum with their time and with their generosity, and certainly you have demonstrated that better than most. So, I just wanted to thank you – in the brief time you've been there, the great difference you have already made.

MR. ROGERS:

Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I will make a motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. Welcome back. Thank you for coming. **(Vote: 4/0/0/1 Not Present: Legislator Lindsay)**

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Madam Chair. I believe that both reappointment resolutions were approved at the last committee meeting and at the last legislative meeting. No, not Rogers, that was a new one. Seides was approved at the last meeting.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Well, he came all the way down here today. Would you like to say anything? Just your name for the record.

MR. SEIDES:

Sure. I am Bertram E. Seides, and I have been on the board now officially for two years, but it is about two and six months. I just want to say that it has been a wonderful experience for myself and I work with Lance and Steve Gittelman and Florence Ogg and the rest of the wonderful members of the Vanderbilt Museum and it is a terrific exercise for me. For those of you who don't know me, I am involved with a small preservation project in the Moriches, and the Terry Ketcham Inn, which I am working on developing a museum there. All of my experience at the Vanderbilt is a huge learning curve for me and I am frequently called upon to speak at and to other organizations and when I reference the Vanderbilt Museum it certainly does raise eyebrows and makes people listen. It has been wonderful in that regard for developing credibility. I look forward to remaining on the board and working with the museum.

I have also been appointed as building grounds chair and I have the opportunity to see all of the buildings inside and out when the general public does not. It has been a very interesting experience in that regard. I have also volunteered to do the photo exercise for reaccreditation of the museum and so I have taken several hundred photographs so far and look forward to working with Florence Ogg in that regard to see that project through. Thank you very much for my reappointment.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Thank you. Mr. Seides, I just want to personally thank you. I know that I have heard – I know firsthand how you have helped with fundraising efforts with events at the museum and also your love and knowledge of historic preservation has really served the museum well in addition to working so well with everyone. You have really been invaluable to a lot of the trustees because I have heard that and I know how much they appreciate you, and we do, too.

I think sometimes, and I probably should have said it earlier when Mr. Rogers was up here, sometimes we don't stop to thank the wonderful volunteers who are willing to come forward and serve in a voluntary capacity as board members of various boards and commissions in this County. Without that kind of volunteer service, we could never provide for the residents of this County and visitors to this County what we do. So, I thank you.

MR. SEIDES:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Thank you for coming. The next card is Warren Breining. Step up to the plate.

MR. BREINING:

Yes, I will step up to the plate. My name is Warren Breining. I am the Director of Athletes Helping Athletes. It is an 18 year old not-for-profit company housed in Miller Place and also Adelphi University. I am anxious to give some input into your code of conduct bill, which I want to commend the committee for recognizing the need for, and even more so, commend the committee for recognizing the urgency of the situation of which you are trying to have some impact on. I am also a sports parent, which probably qualifies me more than anything to be here, a Suffolk County sports parent. I coach youth hockey and youth baseball.

At Adelphi University, we are constantly getting back information about what a crisis it is in terms of parental behavior. Youth sports parenting is a primary concern of the physical education community at this point. So much so that the New York State Learning Standards have required physical educators to begin to be trained in character education, sort of undoing a lot of the experience they recognize that they are getting at the youth sports level. And unfortunately, at the youth sports level, it gets more intense at a lower level every year. We find that to be a national trend as well.

I do commend what you folks are trying to do, and I want to offer ourselves and our resources at Adelphi University and Athletes Helping Athletes to contribute in any way we can.

The one recommendation that we really feel like we need to tell the committee is that without an educational component, codes of conduct don't work. That is plain and simple. There are codes of conduct on every gymnasium. There are codes of conduct at every youth league.

One of the things I have done as a hockey and baseball dad, and really because this is my life's work in working to improve youth sports environment, has been to create materials that I think are realistic in educating our youth sports coaches on the expectations and limitations on the athletes they are going to coach. So many of our youth coaches don't have an understanding of that. We have also installed some mechanisms, both at the North Shore Little League and Suffolk County PAL Hockey to give parents recourse, to give them a voice. Because one of the major things we find in national studies, when parents feel most volatile is when they feel like they have no recourse or when they feel like they have no voice or they feel like their kids are being dealt with arbitrarily. That is when they really get set off.

That is why we really want to encourage and we are willing to help the committee really make sure these type of materials get out to our youth sports organizations. I am currently helping to write a bill for the Nassau County Legislature which requires that each sports youth organization that uses County fields appoints a fair play coordinator who attends two conferences a year sponsored by the Nassau County Sports Commission, of which I am a member of. At those sessions we will disseminate materials that are designed to encourage this ongoing dialogue and realistic training of our youth sports coaches so that – codes of conduct come from within, come from the youth sports coaches that we train, it is not something that is on a wall or from our County government, that it really comes from them so that they feel invested and feel like they can really process it with their parents. I feel like if they take some ownership in it perhaps, you know, they will be a little bit more responsive to it.

Also, the fair play coordinator is going to really assure that there is an ongoing dialogue in this area, because changing behavior, as well all know, is not an easy thing. It is a process. If we install mechanisms like fair play coordinators and empower them periodically with materials to

promote this type of positive behavior we hopefully will have an ongoing --

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I have two questions. You made a statement that most times when parents become out of control parents that it is because they feel there is no recourse. What recourse do you – that is the first part of the question. The second part is what does a fair play coordinator do?

MR. BREINING:

A fair play coordinator is going to hold training sessions with the youth sports coaches like I have done with our two leagues. We give them some basic materials, number one, to educate the coaches on, as I said, the expectations of the different age levels of their athletes so they understanding what they should be expecting from their athletes. We also give them fair play agreements, which I have given Mary copies of, that are designed for the youth coaches to engage parents at the beginning of every season with their young athletes, to as a team agree to a code of conduct or expectations. And as a team to agree that when we are not acting the way we say we are going to act in this agreement, we are going to address it with each other.

The other thing is to establish a parent representative, a parent rep for each team, who at every game is going to have a complaint form or a suggestion form, that we have used. That way, a parent can feel like there is somebody right there when they are angry about something. They have a direct recourse to address that to the league president. And so they know that they will have a voice or they have a recourse in terms of addressing these things. We have found that to be very important.

These are the type of things I was anxious to share with the committee and offer my help and sharing any of these materials and helping to disseminate them. If you can provide a mechanism like we have suggested in the Nassau legislation to make sure we can disseminate these things, that would be a wonderful part of the bill.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. Thank you very much for coming. Robert DelRosa.

MR. DELROSA:

Thank you, Ms. Fields. I am currently the Athletic Director in the Connetquot School District, and I wish to commend this committee for addressing sportsmanship. I would like to share a few thoughts with you.

First of all, I myself as Athletic Director, am actively involved in sportsmanship both by our athletes, our opposing athletes, as well as our spectators at all of our athletic events at Connetquot, as are most athletic directors in Suffolk County. I also have been fortunate enough to be trained in the New York State Public High School Sportsmanship Program, an extensive eight hour training session on how to train others, and I am currently a trainer, to do sportsmanship programs for community groups and for athletic teams. And I have been active in sportsmanship programs for 12 years trying to encourage coaches, athletes, etceteras, to obey sportsmanship rules.

I also can say what Mr. Breining said. As a parent there is often a different level, because I myself, as educated as I am, sometimes behave differently as a parent than as a coach or at an administrator at athletic events. But I have found some things I wish to share with you.

The first is most of our students and the vast majority of our parents do not know what

acceptable sportsmanship is. If we asked them what sportsmanship is, what is acceptable, most of the answers they give us without education are incorrect. Booing is considered acceptable. Hazing and harassing is fine. This is what they see on television, this is what they see at professional events. This is what they see when Harvard played Yale. That was all acceptable on the basketball court, in the stands, etceteras. They do not know what absence of bad sportsmanship is.

A second thing, the absence of bad sportsmanship, is not the same as good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship goes far beyond that, just refraining from saying bad things to other teams, etceteras, and we can get to a whole gamut of specific behaviors, but good sportsmanship is way above that and its benefits are so important to sports. They truly make the students feel so much better about themselves.

As a leader in sports I have found that if we do what we have always done, which is nothing, we will get what we have always got, which is bad sportsmanship. Any program is better than no program. The most important aspect of the program is to educate the people about what sportsmanship is.

We started a program at Connetquot through my Physical Education Department. It was just defining sportsmanship, making students write essays about sportsmanship, sharing it with their parents, and lo and behold, 14 months later, much to my surprise, we were rated the number one sportsmanship school in Suffolk County. I would like to take full credit for that, but it is not – our community values it.

I have myself personally done trainings for youth groups and found them to be very informative for the youth coaches. The youth coaches themselves realize that they themselves were not putting enough value onto sportsmanship. So, any program in sportsmanship is pretty successful just by starting it off, probably because we are starting so low in what sportsmanship is.

The code of conduct, we have a code of conduct in our school district, and it is a wonderful thing because when I am at an athletic event it is in my pocket, and if a parent starts explaining to the referee all the ways that they can improve their performance, I just pull out my code of conduct, which every athlete must sign. My chaperones at athletic events do the same thing. “Excuse me. You are not following this code of conduct.” So, whether it is read, ignored, etceteras, it is there, and it gives us the power to say, “Excuse me, but if you can’t follow, I am sorry, you have to leave this event. If it happens again, we have to take other firm actions.” So code of conduct has to have some effect, and it gives the person there – or the youth coach likes it in one of our community youth groups that adopted one because they can say, “Oh, excuse me. I am sorry, but you are not following this code of conduct.” So it is there, it is on paper, it is in writing, and it has been signed. I won’t say it has changed behavior as much as it has given us the power to change the behavior which unto itself then grows.

I guess the greatest compliment I got last year is when I had six parents call me in my office to tell me that one of the Connetquot parents were not behaving right at a lacrosse game, please do something. I was very happy to hear that, because they themselves showed that they understood what good sportsmanship is.

In conclusion, I just wanted to thank you all for valuing sportsmanship and making it much easier for us. I hope you do something in establishing a program. I will be more than happy to

help in any capacity I can. I think your mission is very, very important, so thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Just to set the record straight. The bill when it was first written had a number of different suggestions or mandates, let's say, that we would ask for anyone receiving grant money from the Legislature or using the teams that we have that Suffolk County owns. Since that time it has been altered to read that the teams that use the fields or the teams that receive grant money have to put together their own code of conduct. We have found out that many of the organizations already have a code of conduct, but that we would like to see three basic principles, and those are no cursing, no violence, and no throwing of equipment.

From all of the phone calls that I have received from many organizations throughout Suffolk and in Nassau and everywhere else across the nation actually, they all seem to agree with that. How do you feel about those three things – or can we also see your copy of your code of conduct.

MR. DELROSA:

You certainly can't argue with those three things, and I will be happy to leave you with a copy of mine. Mine is basic also, because this was reviewed by a lawyer as to how far we can and cannot go. We specifically say there is no comments, derogatory comments made to an official, a coach, or an opposing or one of our players. You even get at most youth events derogatory comments towards your own team players, so we have added that. It gives us the power to supervise and to remove this person who does not follow that mandate. No derogatory comments towards officials. I think if you had the legality to do that, it would be an important thing to add to any code of conduct. Especially since at the youth groups the officials are usually volunteer kids or children that are being paid a very marginal salary. We have professional officials working our games, and they still take a lot of abuse from fans and it is not acceptable. So that is one thing that we add. No comment of a personal nature is the we refer to it. So, we have leniency for people to moan and groan a little bit, but they cannot in any way attack an official's character or a person. Certainly that is one thing I would add and I think it is important for people to understand that.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

You said you were given an award for – what was the title of the award?

MR. DELROSA:

Suffolk County Athletic Directors, the 57 schools throughout Suffolk County that regulate interscholastic athletics, has a very in-depth sportsmanship program. Every single athletic event at a high school and junior high school level, the opposing coach rates the other team on the spectator behavior, the coach's behavior, and the team members behavior. Any low rating mandates that the athletic director from one school contact the other athletic director and discuss this issue. It really is a large tool of empowerment for me as an athletic director to come up to a coach, any one of my coaches who did not behave in a good sportsmanship manner or whose team did not.

At the end of the year Suffolk County has some computer program or mathematical formula and determines which school in Suffolk County received the highest ratings throughout the year. We are very proud of our school district, especially since the ratings usually go to the smaller districts with less teams. We have 103 athletic teams, and at the end of the year we had the highest average rating in sportsmanship by our fans, spectators and team members.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Congratulations. Legislator Alden.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Obviously at Islip when I went to school we didn't have that kind of code of conduct and it would have cut down considerably on the conversations I had with my coaches and that they had with me if we had had that, just to mention that. Were you ever a coach?

MR. DELROSA:

Yes, I was.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

You are in section 11.

MR. DELROSA:

Yes, I am.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Does section 11 have an overall code of conduct?

MR. DELROSA:

It has had one for over 35 years.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

New York State Department of Education, do they get involved with codes of conducts and things that you can and can't do at athletic events, or do they give you an overall plan of here is kind of the parameters we would like to see and you can adopt something that is within this or without it.

MR. DELROSA:

Yeah, there are two agencies. New York State Department of Education does not regulate athletics to any large degree. It is mostly done by New York State Public High School Athletic Association. They have general guidelines for their events that they host. Those are state tournaments. The majority of events are regulated by the code of conducts of each individual section and all 11 sections have something.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because I am thinking back, and we are getting close to the 35 year mark, but when I was playing I remember, and they will remain anonymous, a school was placed on almost like probation at that time for their actions at certain athletic events. So, I did kind of remember that and I am glad that you are reinforcing in, that section 11 and New York State does have recommendations that they make on that.

MR. DELROSA:

Yes, they do.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Are coaches required to make the kids aware of those codes of conduct?

MR. DELROSA:

I can't speak for the other 56 school districts, I can only speak for my own school district in that we inform the coaches that they are responsible for the sportsmanship of their athletes and we have it written in their handbook what their athletes must do.

As for requiring, that is kind of a quasi word because what to require, we don't know if it is really being done. Sometimes I don't, you know – I do as athletic director in my particular job, discuss any sportsmanship issue with the coach immediately and I do tell them in a preseason meeting to please stress sportsmanship with your athletes. The coaches are like anyone else, they say yes, and sometimes they do it, and some do, and others will not do as extensive a job. Sportsmanship is like – no one is against it, but certain people value it more than others, so it is important that those values are stressed in the coaching.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

This is an unrelated subject. Is Billy Donaldson still teaching over in Connetquot?

MR. DELROSA:

He is retiring this year.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

He is?

MR. DELROSA:

Five more days.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I played baseball with Billy and he is probably the epitome of a true, good sportsman.

MR. DELROSA:

He hasn't coached for us in recent years, but yes, he is. I happen to know him.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Great baseball player, and actually football and basketball. Great ball player.

MR. DELROSA:

If I could just add one thing. A code of conduct unto itself is really an ineffective tool. It is the follow-up that comes with it and the procedure that each youth organization invokes to try to make the code of conduct work. Most organizations do have a code of conducts and behaviors, but in speaking to them, many times they say well, you know, I have a volunteer coach, what do I do. Do I get rid of him, then I have no team, etceteras. So, sometimes actions by a Legislature puts the clamp down that you have to do it now, and it gives the youth associations a little bit more power in dealing with their own volunteer coaches who are performing a community service.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Thank you very much. Lance Mallamo.

MR. MALLAMO:

Can we speak together?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

He was the next card, so certainly you can speak together.

MR. MALLAMO:

Good afternoon. I am Lance Mallamo. I am Executive Director at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. I hope this is the appropriate forum. I had appeared at the legislative meeting last week to address the concerns of the museum regarding our capital program. Since we did not get the opportunity to address the omnibus resolution at that time, and I am aware that it passed unanimously, we have spoken to the County Executive's Office about the possibility of line item vetoes on several of those, and I would just like to make you aware of some of the problems that we have encountered with those resolutions. I have prepared a brief summary here, and I would like to just briefly discuss them project by project.

(Legislator Lindsay entered the meeting)

The first one was the revitalization of the Rogers waterfront. As you know, this was named for William Rogers, who was here today, and his wife, Mollie, in the year 2001, after their commitment for a million dollar gift to the museum to be used at the seaplane hangar. I would just like to make you aware of what was the donor's understanding and our understanding when that gift was offered and accepted. I have the backup as the last item in your packet, a letter from Mr. Rogers, the resolution of the Board of Trustees, and the resolution of the Legislature that appropriated the money for the seaplane hangar.

I know there is some confusion with this. We have two different capital projects. Mr. Rogers' gift was to install the dinosaur exhibit that is opening at the museum within the seaplane hangar, but I know he was particularly interested in the waterfront area and when there was a naming opportunity we had discussed that with him. It was under his expectation that that project was going to be up and running within a three year period, and we are concerned now that it was delayed last year, and now if it is again delayed beyond 2003 to 2004, we are outside that period and –

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Excuse me. Can you suffer an interruption? Legislator Alden would like to –

MR. MALLAMO:

Certainly.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I have a question of the Chair and possibly of Legislator Foley, because he chaired Public Works prior to this, a prior year. This presentation should be made to the entire Legislature because if there is vetoes, line item vetoes, I don't believe it comes back to us. I believe it just goes back to the entire Legislature.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

That is a point well taken. Speaking before us it would be worthwhile – I don't know whether or not one of the questions will be whether you have contacted the County Executive's Office and what indications there are from his office, what he intends to do with these particular budget line items. If he sees in his estimation that he wishes to veto these, then certainly Legislator Alden's

remarks are well taken to attend on Tuesday.

MR. MALLAMO:

I certainly will –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Which I think you would anyway, but it is for the record.

MR. MALLAMO:

I wasn't sure what the proper forum was.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

It also might be important, well, it is important to hear it today and then this will, in turn, engender a response on why things may have been delayed in a number of projects that are already on your plate and whether or not you can do as many in the very brief period of time or whether or not there needs to be some kind of let's call it sequencing of projects. Because we find problems in other areas of County government where they are trying to do too many projects in a confined period of time, and there is just no way. I am not saying in your case, but in other cases, other departments can't just do – hold chock full of projects within a two to three year period. And given all the projects that are on your plate already, I think the issue becomes whether or not they all can be done within a timeframe that has been expressed or has been delineated in the capital program, that many projects in such a short period of time.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

One other – just a kicker to that also is I don't know if you rely on DPW for engineering work or contract work and things like that, but they have related to us, and that is why I asked Legislator Foley, why I addressed the question possibly to Legislator Foley, because they have come in and said that they really can't handle much past what they have got already. And as a matter of fact, some of the projects that we have passed and though they were crucial are put off two, three, four years because they don't have the personnel to do it.

MR. MALLAMO:

And that is certainly a big part of our problem because we rely totally on the Department of Public Works.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

One of the big issues, if I may interrupt, through the Chair, and it is something that this Legislature on a bipartisan basis, particularly this year, well, in past years but also this year, has taken the Executive Branch to task on the issue of how we have over the years approved a number of capital projects for a whole host of departments. We have done our thing, we have done our responsibility, which is to approve these, to put them in the pipeline, and then the departments for different reasons can't move the projects along.

So, with that being the case, we had to ask ourselves, particularly this year, the question of whether or not to continue with the same treatment of projects as we did in past years, or to have a more orderly timeline of projects to progress in a fashion that will allow them to move forward as opposed to what has happened up until this point, which is we approved the project, we do what we are supposed to do, and then on the other side of the street, so to speak, the

projects don't move forward.

Now, I know in your case and with your department, with the Department of Parks, that the Commissioner is doing his level best, and that is not where the problem is. The problem is elsewhere where this logjam is. And that is part of the issue, is the logjam of capital projects. We have had to, and I don't mean to go on with this, but if I may for a moment. We have had to once again inject ourselves into the management of government, because what we have seen over a period of years that we have done our legislative responsibility, but the mission of completing the project has been stymied or has dragged on for well past the time that we were told that this projects were going to be completed.

MR. GITTELMAN:

However, this is a special case, Legislator Foley. At least in one of these projects there is an instance of a contribution by a private party who in essence came to the Legislature and said I will contribute a million dollars and the Legislature will agree to do a certain performance. And at this juncture the – Mr. Rogers has put in the money as scheduled, but the money hasn't been spent, and now in the omnibus resolution you are delaying legislatively whether or not the money should be spent.

So what you are saying is, is that we accepted a contribution from Mr. Rogers, and now what we are doing is saying that we are going to change the terms by which we will perform on our side of the table. This speaks very loudly to the ability of the museum to raise funds. If the Legislature is going – and you are fabulously in support of us, but in this particular case it is a unique situation. If the museum goes out and gets a contributor and goes to the Legislature and the Legislature agrees to the terms of the contribution, then I ask the Legislature to look back at that agreement before making a change, a unilateral change in the terms that will be followed in the future.

In other words, what you have done is you have said this was supposed to take three years. The waterfront was to be completed in three years, 2000, 2001, 2002, okay 2003. Now you are pushing the start of the waterfront to 2004. So when Mr. Rogers expected to see it finished in 2003, and won't see it start until 2004, if that happens. That may be because government as it is management in terms of performed, not legislatively, has not performed the project. But what you are doing now is putting the project on the back burner even though there is an agreement with an outside party, and they are not in default.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Steve, let me interrupt. I think that what people have suggested here today is that the best venue would be to come Tuesday before the full Legislature and present your proposals and your reasons for wanting the money to be refunded. At that point, if there are vetoes or anything else you might have an opportunity, you know, from the rest of the Legislature. It is not before this committee and it will not come back to us, so –

MR. GITTELMAN:

Legislator Fields, I understand what you are saying, and I agree that we could come before the full Legislature. I have been working as a volunteer at this museum for 13 years, and during that process one of the things that I have learned is that by the time the omnibus – if there are vetoes and if there are planned overrides, they will be decided before the meeting, okay. The Legislators will have discussed it fully. So any avenue that I can get as President of the Board I would like to take. I mean, you can't blame me for wanting to present our arguments now. You

folks will talk to each other and you will come to some conclusions between now and then.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

If I could. Steve, I don't think anyone is blaming you for coming here. I think what was being – what they were trying to do is to say to you even though you are making the case now and this is where you are going to have your majority of support because it is the Parks Committee, that it needs to be addressed before the full Legislature. I don't even know if the vetoes will be ready for the Tuesday meeting. Has anyone heard? Paul, have you heard anything?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, technically because we met on the 11th and the bills don't get over until the 12th, the deadline for issuing them is the 27th. So, we certainly haven't heard as of this date, number one. Number two, I am not even certain if there are going to be vetoes. But, number three, contrary to what was stated, the decisions really aren't made until the day of the vote. Suffolk County does things a little bit differently than Nassau. The votes take place on the day.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Paul, allow me to change my statement. The decisions aren't made, but opinions are formed.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

And also, too, I think it would be important because at this juncture the County Executive has the opportunity to veto any of these projects, and that really is where you are going to have to take your feelings because at the full meeting where we adopted the omnibus resolution, I know that Lance was there and I know at one point I had to step out of the room, but did you fill out a card?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I did fill out a card. I was one of the first speakers that day. Usually there are a few hundred, I think I was number eight that morning, it was about 9:10 a.m. when I spoke.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

And these facts that were raised now –

MR. MALLAMO:

I did what I could within the three minute period.

MR. GITTELMAN:

This committee has always been an advocate for the museum, and what I need here is to give you some of our problems with what has happened in the omnibus. Basically there are four issues. One of the ones that I think will have the greatest ramifications will be if we – if it stays the way it is and the waterfront does not proceed, then there is no reason for any future contributor to accept our word that we will perform on our side. In other words, if we breach this agreement now, then why should we – how can we approach a major contributor in the future. And we need you to advocate, if you could, amongst your colleagues between now and the next meeting.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

I just have a question for Counsel. Would the actions of the Legislature in adopting that omnibus

resolution and because of whatever scheduling determinations were made to push that off a year, would that be considered a breach?

MR. SABATINO:

I don't believe so. I mean, I will go back and take a look at what was agreed to. I think that at the time that that whole arrangement was worked out at this committee, actually, it was explained that the capital and the normal budgetary process is a year to year situation. What is in the out years is a blueprint, it is a model, but the out years are not a binding obligation in non-Vanderbilt Museum situations let alone Vanderbilt Museum situations, plus – we don't need to talk in terms of binding agreements because by way of example, the million dollars that you provide in operating money each year, you know, has been conditioned in the past on certain things taking place, but they don't take place and the Legislature still has renewed the \$1.2 million on an annual basis. So, it is a two-way street between the Legislature and the museum. We don't like to talk in terms of breaches on things which are susceptible to the vicissitudes of the budgetary process. But clearly what was done here wouldn't technically breach anything that I am aware of.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Paul, thank you. If I could just continue. I think that that is important, and I know your passion for the museum. I know how devoted you are to making sure that we can do everything we possibly can for the museum. Perhaps there will be an opportunity to change this now, but absent that, I think it is very important to be realistic in what we can do and not talk in terms of breaching any kind of agreements because we have done a lot with the museum. I know when I was on that board there what has been accomplished since then is absolutely extraordinary compared to what had been done in years previous.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Again, I want to correct my word. Breach is inappropriate. Good faith might be more appropriate. Because certainly you can see that in the resolution that the Board voted to the Legislature there was the statement of three years and we did make it clear that that was the discussion. We provided you with that resolution. In the resolution that the Legislature completed, it was clear that the Legislature intended to move forward with the waterfront. In Mr. Rogers' letter to the Legislature making his commitment, he also expressed similar timeframes.

So, from a good faith standpoint with a major contributor, since nothing has been spent on this project and since three years was the timeframe kicked about, delaying it legislatively for another year and perhaps having its completion go to the fifth, sixth, or seventh year, would start to feel very uncomfortable and would make it very difficult for the museum to approach another major contributor.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I have a question for Budget Review. In the original capital budget that was submitted by the County Executive, was this project listed in '03?

MS. GAZES:

The only thing that was proposed in 2003 was \$125,000. Originally last year's adopted, the 2002, 2004 program had \$560,000.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Okay, so that money wasn't –

MS. GAZES:

2003, but that was the program adopted last year. The most current program reduced the 2003 amount to \$125,000.

MR. GITTELMAN:

In other words, it has been – this is the second change in the schedule.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

The problem that happens now, though, is last year's was for an out year; correct? The proposed spending was for an out year?

MS. GAZES:

In last year's adopted program –

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

It was for 2003?

MS. GAZES:

In 2003 there was \$560,000 –

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

That would have been an out year. There was nothing that was allocated for 2002 to be spent?

MS. GAZES:

I didn't write-up the project, I am going by what our report says, but that is what it says.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

No, but what I want to get to is, and I don't know if it would be characterized as a technicality and I don't want to be over technical year, but to Paul Sabatino. Even if the County Executive vetoes parts of that budget, it still doesn't restore funding for a project that was never in the budget.

MR. SABATINO:

That's correct. The veto would just revert it to whatever its dollar amount is, and if it is \$125,000, it will go to 125,000. The veto can't be used to increase or decrease.

MR. GITTELMAN:

At least we could be back on track. It is a good faith measure. It is being able to say okay, you know, we did not delay this.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Okay. So the 125,000 was included in this year's proposed budget for 2003 spending.

MS. GAZES:

That's correct.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Okay. So that's basically all that could be accomplished, if the County Executive will veto it and

then –

MR. GITTELMAN:

We don't know that.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

And then we would have to not override that.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Right.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

And then it would restore 125,000. It sounds like planning money.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, we can't move forward without –

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

That is what I am saying.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I know you understand this.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Through the Chair, if I may. What year was the construction funds placed in the proposed capital?

MR. MALLAMO:

In 2004?

MS. GAZES:

There was some money – half a million dollars for construction in 2004, 550,000 in 2005, and 480,000 in subsequent years.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

And that was the proposed program?

MS. GAZES:

2003-2005 proposed, yes.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

And what was last year's adopted for those years?

MR. POLLERT:

That is what I am looking up.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

While he is looking, just to – well. Okay. So what was the adopted last year?

MS. GAZES:

In 2003 there was 560,000, which is what I said previously, and the balance of the funding, which would be \$940,000, is in subsequent years.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Okay. Just a few points that were made, Dr. Gittleman. Number one, whether this is moved by a year or so or whether there is a veto and the veto is sustained so you have 125,000 next year, but even – let's say the veto is overridden and we are talking about \$125,000. One of your major concerns is how you can you go to other benefactors under that cloud. You didn't use that word but I think that is what you were inferring. My point would be that you can – whatever happens on Tuesday, I believe that you would have the full ability and confidence to be able to still go forward to seek monies from other generous donors. Because the fact of the matter is while it may be delayed by a year or not – it may not be delayed, we may override a veto – we may sustain a veto.

The fact of the matter is by having in the program, by being part and parcel of the capital budget, that is an assurance that whether it is a sooner point or a later point, the fact of the matter is by having the program that work will be done on that given project. So, there shouldn't be any loss of confidence of any potential donor that because of either a delay of a year or an amendment to a capital program, that somehow that is going to cause a project to be lost. It is not going to cause a project to be lost. I think the more germane – if I may put it this way. The more germane point to ask is to ask the Executive Branch the question that when the Legislature places a capital project in the program, why is it delayed on the administrative end by upwards of five years. We have had that occasion in the Public Works Department, we have had that occasion in other departments as well. So, to me the key issue here isn't so much where the Legislature places it in the capital program, because as you know, we have been strong advocates for the Vanderbilt over the years.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

The real issue is what happens once we approve the capital program. And when you put it that way, what you are going to see is that we may say construction is in 2004. I will give an example. We have other projects where we approve monies a certain given year. We appropriate monies in a given year so construction can begin. Do you know what has happened? Some of those projects, even though let's say we appropriated the monies in 2002 for a particular capital program, they may not get to it until 2005. So, while it may appear that yeah, 2002 is a construction year, when in fact the actual spade in the ground doesn't occur until three years later. And that is not a legislative problem. Let me finish the point. That is not a legislative problem. That is a problem of executing what we have approved and that is a severe administration problem. And I will say it again, will all due respect. It is not an administration problem coming from the Department of Parks. They are doing their level best. The problem is that the other departments, whether it is – particularly in Public Works, they are hard working people, but there are far too many projects in a short period of time for them with their given staff levels to move those projects along in a timely basis. That is the real issue at hand here.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I certainly would, you know – I know that the museum works well with DPW, but right now I am not speaking to DPW. I know you are, but I hope they are listening to you. But when we go to

elderly contributors, and Mr. Rogers in this case is 83 years old, and we tell them we'll have something done in three years and now it slips to a seven year schedule, their answer to us they are potentially not going to live to see it. Okay, and so what you are doing is literally putting that on the line and you can't say a year or two doesn't matter. It does.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Let me put it this way. We could move up the schedule, but the practicality of the situation is we'll move it up legislatively, but administratively it will still be backlogged by two to three years. That is our point.

MR. GITTELMAN:

You know I understand your point.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

We are trying in effect, although we haven't said it – it is almost as if we want to call it truth in advertising. We want to be able to say that if the administration is stating that a given year is the construction year, we appropriate the monies in that given year. If we are going to appropriate monies in that given year, well, then, gosh darn it in that given year they should start construction. The problem is we have projects that are two to three to four years after we have appropriated. And the way that we have heard it from our Budget Review Office, it is called authorized but unissued debt. What that means is we'll authorize the project, we'll appropriate the monies, but it is unissued because the project hasn't been undertaken – sometimes as much as seven years.

So what I am saying, and I am not being defensive. As you are trying to educate us, which is fine, but we are trying to inform advocates as well is that we will do our level best to have a capital program that matches not only the year of appropriation, but also the actual commencement of construction of a project. So, half of your work is being done here by coming here today. The other half, and to be the more pertinent half, is to get the administrative side to follow through on a capital program that we approve.

MR. GITTELMAN:

We agree, but we can't do anything if you don't leave it in the budget. If he gives you the veto –

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I am going to interrupt. I think we know your position, we know what your needs are, and I think that the panel here has made it clear about some of the other components of that. I would suggest that you do come back on Tuesday, and both of you try to talk to the whole full Legislature. I don't mean to cut you off, but we will take all of this into consideration that you've left us today also.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you for the time.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you for the time. We realized we used more time than normally allocated.

MR. MALLAMO:

I know we had intended to have a meeting on Vanderbilt issues hopefully by September. So, please, I have included a number of items in the backup material. Please keep them with your

file and take the time to look through them because I think you will be well prepared the meeting.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I will.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

On Tuesday you are going to be given probably three minutes. If you can't get it all in in three minutes, one of us will ask the question was there something else that you brought before this committee that you would like to speak so it will give you a couple of more minutes to answer that question with whatever other information.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I greatly appreciate that. Thank you very much.

MR. MALLAMO:

I appreciate your time.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

You just gave out all the secrets. Thank you. I guess I am going to ask if we can get the – well, he is not here. The Commissioner is gone? Mr. Hollander, I saw him.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Would you like to give a little brief synopsis of how you are doing?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Sure. Good afternoon. My name is Michael Hollander and I am the President of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. I guess one of the things I should just talk a little bit about are some of the things that we do and how it has been going. 2001, even though 9/11 was a problem and occupancies dropped-off in the fall, was a very good for Suffolk County and for the Bureau. In fact, in 2001, we produced about \$25,434,000 worth of economic impact business for Long Island. That would include meetings, conventions, sporting events, individual travel, and touring travel or motorcoach business. It has been very good.

In fact, this month, in this past May, in meeting and conventions alone we did about {\$1.2 million, 666,000} in business with companies like {Robocom}, Group Leaders of America, New {Canaan} Society, GE Financial, the New York Press Association, Dictaphone and Corporation, the Community Health Care Organization, Computer Associates, WSHU Public Radio, National Estates. So, it has been going pretty well for us and going very well for Suffolk County.

I think that one of the things that, you know, I would like to make sure that you know is that we spend about 70% of our funds on sales. A lot of people because they see us in newspaper and

radio a lot think that we are actually spending a lot of money on promotion. But in reality, most of the promotion we get on Long Island is free. So, the radio spots that we got on Long Island or the television spots or the newspapers, we are not paying anything for that. We are just getting that by being out there and pitching stories and pitching ideas. Most of our money is spent on sales.

The organization has been doing really good. We hit in the month of May we did about –

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Can I just interrupt? What do you mean on sales?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Well, what we do is we work at bringing meetings and conventions to Long Island. So, for example, we'll go out and talk with Michelin Corporation in Chicago about coming to Long Island and holding their meeting. And when they come here and they hold their meeting and they buy rooms and they have breakfast, lunch and dinner and they buy souvenirs and they visit the various attributes we have and things like that, we call that sales.

So, what it means is, is that it not like we are just out there running an ad that says come visit Long Island. That is one of the things that we do. But more importantly, and what we spend most of our time on is selling, marketing. But the marketing resulting in sales. So, we go out and we visit various motorcoach organizations and they in turn decide they are going to come here and bring a motorcoach to Stony Brook Museum or to Northport Village or to Tanger or to the wineries or to the farms. And we meet with all of these companies and we convince them that Long Island is the better destination.

Most of our time is spending in branding Long Island in terms of the fact that we are better destination than Cape Cod or the New Jersey Shore or Lancaster, Pennsylvania. So, we go out and we sell that, and at the same time we talk about the fact that the reason you should come to Long Island is because we have the beaches, we have the wineries, we have the Hamptons, we have the shopping, and we have all these attributes that make your vacation worthwhile. It has been working very successfully.

To the extent that in May – we have done in May in excess one million hits on our website, and in the month of June we will also be in excess of another one million hits. We answer about 35 to 40 phone calls a day on where to go, what to do, and where to stay and what is happening on Long Island. Our calendar of events on our website is now the most definitive calendar of events on Long Island. It is used by Cablevision as well as News 12. When News 12 is talking during the day of what to do, they send you to their site. When you get there, you will see our CVB logo and you click on that to get to the rest of the information.

We run the chalet, we run the train. We have an information center at MacArthur Airport. The train probably does in excess of 35 to 40,000 people a year who stop there for information on where to go and what to do. That's the mode that we are in.

Some of the things that we've done, just to give an example, is we run ads in the Ladies Home Journal, and in this case it is just a brochure ad that talks about if you are looking to take a vacation contact our organization to get information. And when they call us for information, we will send them the things that I have shown you up there, and we also have in excess of 200 other brochures that are on individual hotels, restaurants, or places to visit and see on Long

Island. We also do ads in the Southwest Airline Spirit magazine, and that would be an example of an ad that we ran. And all of these types of things we track individually, so we can tell that from this last year we did 4,000 hits in one month. So, we had 4,000 inquiries based on that. And when we see magazines that aren't producing what we want, then we change it around.

One of the things we just did, it just came out, it just hit the newsstands, is the summer fun guide for New York. And inside they ran a New York – an exit guide to the LIE and they talked about all the things to do on different exits and we took this ad in the back, so we are a part of that. An ad like that costs about \$9,000, and we were able to get, because of our matching funds program because we advertise as a region, of the 9,000, 3,000 was picked up by the State. Part of it was picked up by American Express, and the other we split fifty-fifty between Suffolk and Nassau. It is great exposure for us to be in this type of magazine with this type of product. And that is sort of like an idea of the things that we do.

We have also made some changes on our advertising based on some of the conversations I have had with Cameron. What we have done is two different things. One is, we have certainly made the Suffolk County in the ads larger so it is more visible, but we have also changed the wording in the ads, so now it talks about Long Island goes to great lengths to get you to come out more, Suffolk County is chock full of memorable places.

So, we have done those two things in the ads to enhance it a little bit more, but we still concentrate on the branding of Long Island as our major brand because that is what our research shows us is best promoted out there. It is also how we get significant money. This year it will be almost \$310,000 from the State in promoting regionally.

I think that sort of gives you an idea of some of the things that we are doing. It is pretty black and white. Right now we are doing very well. It is a pretty good success story.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Hi, Mike. I have a couple of questions. The first one because you – it is not in any order, but the exit guide to the LIE that you just mentioned. That is giving all Nassau and Suffolk attractions. Now, when you said that the ad that you took in there, that generated additional calls to the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau?

MR. HOLLANDER:

We don't know that yet because it is just hitting the stand this week.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Oh, okay. But what is it designed to do, to have more calls –

MR. HOLLANDER:

Well, what it is designed to do is to create more calls for people to call in and get more information in this ad. So that if you are looking at this guide to the LIE and you say, well, you know what, I don't notice anything on ecotourism, they could give us a call and we can tell them where hiking, camping, and those things are.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Good. Now, on the hits on the website that you mentioned before, and you said how many hits was it?

MR. HOLLANDER:

I said that in May it was in excess of a million.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Is there any way that you break down whether they are corporate calls or whether they are individual calls?

MR. HOLLANDER:

On the website we can't do that. On the website the best information we get is where it came from, and because of the dominance of AOL, most of them come from Vienna, Virginia. So that when you log on, that is the way it routes itself to us.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

But there is no – we don't have a triggering device whether, you know, you represent a corporation check here, or whether you are an individual making –

MR. HOLLANDER:

On our site where you have a form, you put down the name of your company and your e-mail address, and we capture that information and then we use that information to send out other direct mail pieces.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I was just confused about something that you just said. You said because of AOL it comes back as Virginia. Does that mean that people from all over the United States went into it but because it is AOL and it is located in Virginia it shows up as Virginia, so you have no way of determining geographically.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Unless they fill out the form. We have a reply form you can use, and if you put the information in there we can capture it.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

The 35 calls a day you get, that is to a live operator?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Do you have somebody trying to identify whether they are corporate or whether they are individual type of –

MR. HOLLANDER:

Most of them are individuals, and those we can identify all of them. When we are dealing with sales that have to do with corporate, we give them a totally separate number and direct them specifically to real sales people. We have about 13 people full-time presently on our staff, and 9 of them are involved in direct sales. So, the person who is in charge of meetings and conventions gives out her number and her extension. You call her directly, you don't get voicemail.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Under your business plan, what is our situation as far as – and I guess I will ask, you know, there is two answers, really. Overall Long Island and Suffolk County, do we have enough beds in hotels for attraction of major things like a convention or a big business coming out there and holding their convention?

MR. HOLLANDER:

We are really not in the convention market at all. We are mostly in the meeting market. Three years ago you guys had a proposal up to do a feasibility study on a convention center, but at that point it didn't go on. I guess it died after two years and then it didn't come back.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Well, then, rephrasing the question as far as your marketing the corporate and you want them to bring a business meeting – say, for instance, a safety meeting by Boeing or whatever. You would want them to hold that in Suffolk County because we have all these attractions.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Exactly.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Have you done an estimation as far as do we have enough beds in the hotels and what size we would have to target?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Presently we have enough beds for what we have. The biggest example of that would be the Suffolk Community College multipurpose building in terms of using it as a trade show. Because there are now so many hotels in the 110, Exit 68 area, we can accommodate most everything that would go in there as a trade show. If it went in there as a convention we would have a problem because we would probably need a five or a 600 room hotel. But a 500 and 600 room hotel won't make it only on that. It would need something else to hold it home, like a convention center or something like that.

In the area of Riverhead, they could still use a hotel or two. The Hamptons, clearly yesterday I was going out north, and again, I know there is people who don't want to see development out there, but certainly on the north shore, the North Fork of out east, they could use another hotel out there, you know small and dignified, but they could use a couple of hundred rooms out there.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

By Suffolk County Community College.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Well, you know, if we were to think about putting a hotel school out there. A restaurant school, a hotel school, and you know, let them intern in the hotels and the shops and also have – I mean, that would help.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Do you also structure it when you are talking to these corporations, trying to get the business meeting, for lack of a better word, you know, because we can't really accommodate a full blown convention. The feedback from them, why they wouldn't chose or why they didn't chose Suffolk County and –

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Do you include that in an annual report or some kind of report so that we could take a look at that? Because if they are identifying weaknesses in Suffolk County, I think it would be important for us to just look at that.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yeah. The major reasons that we have problems with booking stuff, because we look at this twice a year specifically, prior to last year would be that rates were high. So, in some cases our rates compared to other destinations were higher than someplace else. Prior to last year it was also availability. In other words, if there weren't enough hotel rooms. Prior to two years ago we didn't have the Hampton Inn at 63, we didn't have the Holiday Inn, we didn't have the Courtyard, we didn't have two more Residence Inn. That has only happened maybe in the last 18 months. So lack of availability was a big thing.

The other thing that comes into the sports market is we were looking at the NCAA Fencing Championships to come to Suffolk County. And what you have to have, whether it is swimming, diving, track, you have to have a local club, and we didn't have a local club in terms of fencing. Even though we have been reaching out to universities to see if they can start some type of club that would help. Those were mostly the biggest problems.

Sometimes we hear about transportation, but we have been able to get past that. Our answer to that one is the HOV lane, that if you two or more people in a car you can zip from one end to the other.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

When you mentioned cost, your members are hotel operators and owners. Have they come up with on their side a flexibility as far as pricing that they would offer?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Well, they are really into supply and demand. So, when there weren't a lot of hotels, the prices were way high, and we all saw that as they moved their prices significantly over three years. Now, since 9/11 the prices have come down significantly. We can see that because we call it conversion rate. When we are taking in \$25 million of Suffolk business and we are booking 9 million, then we are at a 33% conversion rate. Well, we are already up, too, for 2002 and 2003, a 53% conversion rate, which means they are making more hotel rooms available for us to book into because there are more.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Now, your agreement with Suffolk County was extended – or not extended, a new one was entered into this year. That is a one year agreement or is it a multiyear?

MR. HOLLANDER:

It is multiyear.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

How many years?

MR. HOLLANDER:

I believe it goes through 2005.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because I have spoken with a number of other Legislators and I think what one of the themes that I am getting from it is that we would like to be more involved with identifying or creating the identity of Suffolk County, what it is known for, and a little bit more involved with you as far as overall type of philosophical, you know, ideas as far as how to promote and what to promote and things like that. Would you be amenable to –

MR. HOLLANDER:

Sure, yeah.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Good. Without doing a new contract or anything of that nature.

MR. HOLLANDER:

I mean, I have always been that way. So, if someone just calls me on the phone I will come over and see how I can fit what you want to fit into our whole thing.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Good, because what has happened in the past, you have deal with the County Executive's, I guess it is Office of Economic Development?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yeah, now and Peter Scully.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

And now you are over with Pete Scully, right. But I think that there has been some expression, because I did hold that one hearing where you come down and generated from that a little bit of an interest as far as us participating a little bit more with you and you have just indicated that you wouldn't mind –

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yeah, we would do that. And most of that stuff I have to take back to the board. The 39 people on our board represent the entire industry in Suffolk County, so it has to fit in with our overall themes. I know that Peter and I reworked the whole advertising scheme that had to do with ecotourism in Suffolk County, and we came up with some great stuff and that has been running and doing really well. He and I also reworked the entire Suffolk Leisure Program and that has been doing pretty good, too.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

The reasons that you are here is because there was an audit done, and what we found was that when audits were done the chairperson of that committee did not necessarily have the people down and didn't discuss it and things that were suggested and recommended in the audit were not fulfilled. So that is basically the reason.

But as an aside, I don't know if you are aware that I have been trying to fight for Suffolk Trap and Skeet to be reopened, which is a facility where people came from all over to shoot at. But I got an e-mail from a gentleman who doesn't live in Nassau or Suffolk. He can provide me with receipts from one year where he came down with his wife and his two children and he stayed in

hotels, motels, ate breakfasts, lunches or dinner, because they competed and they did it also as a family. And his wife and kids went to Tanger Outlets. He can provide me with \$10,000 in receipts that he spent right here on Long Island. And after speaking to these shooters, women, men alike, that get involved in the competition and in trying to improve their skill, they spend a tremendous amount of money. So hopefully if we can get this facility reopened, that may be something that you want to market throughout the United States because they have told me they go all over the United States to compete against each other. A lot of them have a tremendous amount of money. So, that is just something –

MR. HOLLANDER:

And that is exactly what we would do. Once we have a grasp on it, more so than we would have this particular second, that is exactly how we would zero in on it.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Eventually hopefully we will have that conversation.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I would like him to just, while he is here, page three there is a summary of significant audit findings. If you could just address --

MR. HOLLANDER:

Sure.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Well, one of the comments that were made regarding the Suffolk County Tourist Information Centers and that there were deficiencies. We would just ask where we are with that.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Is there a page that this was on?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Actually it is on seven, and it is just a general that they visited Suffolk County Tourist Information Centers. It is the next to last bulleted item.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Next to last?

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Right.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Okay. Most of these have all been taken care of in terms of –

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Where are we with the Suffolk County Tourist Information Center? Because you made reference to the railroad car.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Well, first of all, so we are clear on it, the car is sort of Suffolk County's, and the land is the State, and we just occupy the space. But what we have been doing is taking care of the car. So, for the most part we take care of it and not the County. The car, as you probably all know, is

umpteen years old. It is peeling, it is rotten. The fact that it is still standing is a miracle. So we do as much with it as we can. We have replaced the carpet inside of it, we replaced the air-conditioners. We have painted the inside. We've looked at changing the glass, but the glass is smoky, and if you take the glass out the window is going to fall out. We have rebuilt the deck so that it is strong and when you go up the steps or down the back ramp it is solid. We clean up around it. As you know, in the first year you guys paid for the bathrooms, and then we started paying for the bathrooms. So we pay for the bathrooms to put the porta-potti out there. But, you know, in terms of safety, we fixed all the safety issues so that there are no outstanding safety issues that I am aware of.

As far as appearance goes, we continually try to do stuff to make it look better, but there is only so much I can do with the train. In fact, we just finished redoing where the map is and it says Welcome to Long Island. We just did that little peaked roof.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

It certainly appears to look a little bit better than it did, but what is your involvement, LICVB's involvement, with the State in trying to move it forward to replacing it.

MR. HOLLANDER:

We have been to every one of their meetings. We have been pushing to get it replaced. As a condition of trying to get it replaced we have agreed to manage it for them because one of the problems – one other Convention and Visitors Bureau did it upstate and it worked, because the State doesn't want to put the money in to manage it and it costs them too much to do it, so they are willing to do it as long as we are willing to manage it. So, we have agreed to do that.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Can you address – I read or heard somewhere that it was rumored that there was going to be a fast food restaurant there. Is that true?

MR. HOLLANDER:

No fast food. It is going to have bathrooms, vending machines, an office for us, a police presence still to be determined, an area for the State to do highway inspections. That is all that is in that building.

You should also know that the Bureau is not concerned about the truck stop. The contentious issue is the truck stop. If we can build it without the truck stop, it is okay with us. We are not fighting for a truck stop. We are only fighting to replace the train with a building, that if the building went up – see, the biggest problem now is those woods behind the train, and if they put in the new building, all the woods get cleared away and everything gets to become prettier and safer and nicer. We are not trying to build the truck stop.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Since you have been at all of these meetings, and the reason I am asking this is that I know that there is a resolution that may be before us on Tuesday, a Sense resolution opposing the rest stop. I just think it is important that we have as much information on it as possible. Would they be doing landscaping and buffer zones and everything there so these derelict woods where people may be going and doing less than appropriate things would not be there any longer and really would be a safer, cleaner environment, and certainly a lot more welcoming tourist center for Suffolk County if we are truly interested in trying to market our County and let everyone know how wonderful it is as you first enter Suffolk County coming from Nassau. It certainly

seems to me that an attractive, tasteful building would go much further than what we have got there now.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Definitely everything you said I agree with. The problems that we have now are because the place is filthy and dirty and stuff like that. And I would suggest that if we were going to do a Sense resolution, maybe that your Sense resolution be in favor of the facility but you would like to see the truck stop somewhere else, okay, because we are not fighting for the truck stop. We are saying the information needs to be there. See, if people can't get information there, they are going to get off the highway and go into all the back streets. People don't understand that they are going to start looking all over the place for information on how to get where they are going to go. By having them stop there they get where they are going in a more direct way.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

And I think, too, if I remember correctly, the resolution spoke to, you know, being opposed to having a rest stop in a residential area. I don't – you know, maybe I am not seeing things clearly, but the last time I looked the Long Island Expressway was not exactly residential.

MR. HOLLANDER:

That is correct. And also, the facilities are there now. So, if we don't make new, it is going to stay just like it is –

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Probably get worse.

MR. HOLLANDER:

It is going to get worse because there is no lighting or anything else and there is no police presence and our presence isn't there after regular hours.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. Legislator Alden, what was your original question? I'm sorry, I thought it was going to be a quick –

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

On page three they raise a couple of points that you didn't meet your performance level expectation as specified in the '97 business marketing plans.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Okay. One of the things that they spell out in their report, first of all, is that for the most part the Bureau has significantly met its contractual obligations. What this refers to is that when we do a marketing plan, when we do a document, we do it 100% like it is a real business marketing plan. We don't sit there and try and figure out that okay, let me put ten items in that make the County happy, that is the ten things they think are important, complete the ten and we are 100% okay with each other.

This marketing plan had almost 200 goals and objectives in it, and of the 200 goals and objectives, we achieved almost 97% of them according to the survey. So there was some that we didn't complete – so, for example. One of the objectives that we didn't complete in '97 was we were going to see souvenirs in the train. We found out that it was illegal to sell souvenirs in the train. We try to make as many of the goals as we can, but we make way, way more – I mean, we just make a tremendous amount of them.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Actually, this goes back to '97, but the more important question is under the new contract you are not required to give us a marketing plan?

MR. HOLLANDER:

No, under the new contract we do give you a marketing plan, and we did.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

That was one of the things that was raised by this report.

MR. HOLLANDER:

We give a marketing plan every year. You guys get a marketing plan. It is full in detail of all the things we are going to do. You have a representative in the way of Peter or Judy who attend all of our meetings and are there when we are discussing all the issues that are in here.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

You reporting requirements, you have tightened that up?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Oh, yeah. In fact, what they said in the report, that was – Kevin and I have only been there since – Kevin Zanfardino, the comptroller – since '98, but they said that since '98 that everything has been dotted and crossed in the t's.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

And as far as for W2 wages, are you going to follow that?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Oh, yes. In fact, we fixed – why don't you just talk about that.

MR. ZANFARDINO:

I think that there was once instance in '99, I believe, and then in 2000 we fixed it as soon as the auditor decided that that was the way to go.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

You were issuing 1099's and W2's, and the suggestion was that you put everything on a W2.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Right. And we did that.

MR. ZANFARDINO:

We actually even changed the compensation. It is all salary now, so that even eliminates the problem.

MR. HOLLANDER:

But everything was reported 100%.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I just have two questions. One was on the LICVB could not provide us with the purchase orders for three of the 60 transactions tested, and they could not provide us with cancelled checks for two of the 60. It is on page 19 it looks like. I don't think there are 19 pages, but maybe there are. It is probably the second to last page and it says compliance.

MR. ZANFARDINO:

This basically talks about prior to 1997.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. Prior to 1997. It doesn't indicate that.

MR. ZANFARDINO:

Yes, I think the pages you are referring to talk to prior to 1997.

MR. HOLLANDER:

I think if I got this right on that page that the three purchase orders that were not located, we did find that it was made out to the postal service, purchase power, and Newsday.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Right. Okay. And then the only other question I have is you get – the money that we get for this is out of hotel and motel tax.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

How do we know that all the hotels or all the motels are present and accounted for and that we are receiving that revenue?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Peter brought up that question also to me, and he and I have talking about it a little bit. I believe last I remember we are going to set up a meeting and go talk to the Treasurer's Office and find out what they can be doing in terms of helping us to find who is complying and who is not. Do you want to say anything else?

COMM. SCULLY:

Mr. Hollander is correct. I had raised the issue in a meeting involving the Treasurer's Office and the Comptroller's Office. We determined that there isn't any real enforcement arm with regard to the hotel/motel tax. My staff has undertaken some random sampling of entities both which are remitting the tax to the Treasurer's Office against entities which are doing business in Suffolk County. An identified list of those which are not currently remitting as far as we could tell on the face of it, the hotel/motel tax in the Treasurer's Office has undertaken a review of that and is notifying those entities. We were going to generate a report and submit that to the County Executive's Office as a result of that work, and I am hoping to have that drafted within the next several weeks.

The other issue that is out there that I think will probably be raised in that report are the State and local laws which authorize the hotel/motel tax and the definition of business entities which should be remitting revenues under that tax. I think that hotels and motels are pretty clear,

convention centers are indicated. I don't know to what extent there are convention centers in Suffolk County, beds and breakfast, and there is another term in law, both the State law and the County law, the term tourist home, which I think is a very interesting term. I don't know exactly what was intended because there is no definition section, but in a broader sense one could take that to mean homes that are rented for the summer. And if, in fact, that definition were found to be accurate in the case as a whole market or segment of the economy that is not currently subject to that tax which might well be. So, that is one of the issues we will be raising in the report that we generate to the County Executive .

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

It is possible that we are not receiving, you know, maybe millions of dollars or upwards of million dollars possibly.

COMM. SCULLY:

I would hate to guess on a quantity, but significant amounts of money maybe.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

What is the percentage that is taken out from each rental?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Three-quarters of one percent.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

And if you are going to look at the homes out east, they rent those out at substantial amounts of money, so that could add up to a lot of money.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

If someone rents a home, they have a house in the Hamptons and they rent that home for the season, July or August they charge \$50,000, do they pay sales tax? I don't think so.

COMM. SCULLY:

I don't know the answer to the question on the sales tax. I didn't want to make the joke about the income tax. But I think that the term tourist home is an interesting term. Our review of both the State law and the County law showed that it is there in addition to beds and breakfast, hotel and motel, so it has got to mean something different in those terms. The question is what it does mean. It is an interesting part over an overall review of the way in which the tax is administered. Importantly, for those of you who were around back then, you are probably aware that in other counties in the State and under the authorizing legislation for Suffolk County, the County has the option of allow the or asking the State to actually collect the tax rather than the County, but currently the taxes are remitted to the County Treasurer.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Kevin just reminded me, after 90 days it is considered a resident, and then they are not subject to tax. So if you are renting out east for an excess of 90 days, you wouldn't be subject to the tax.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

That would preclude a lot of people, then, because if they rent from May 31st to September 4th or whatever, Labor Day, that is more than 90 days.

MR. HOLLANDER:

If it is the same person, yes.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

If it is the same person, correct. Good. Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions?
Thank you.

MR. HOLLANDER:

I am just going to leave this. Our audit came this week, so I am going to leave a copy here for you.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Good. Thank you. We will make copies for the rest of the committee. Jim Peterman. Hi. I am sorry to keep you waiting. I believe you are here on 1543.

MR. PETERMAN:

That's correct.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

What we had suggested last time was that when Legislator Towle was here that he felt that the Smiths Point parking lot should be resurfaced or paved, and we suggested that perhaps that was premature because the building may have to be moved and then we would have wasted that money.

The there came some conversation about how about it be done in certain segments, and beyond that we said, well, we are already into the summer season and let's ask DPW.

MR. PETERMAN:

We are progressing on the study. We do recommend some work be done out there. We do have a large flood problem in the middle of the lot. I don't know if you have ever been down there after a rain, but it is almost like a lake that extends from well after the rain event to actually the next rain event. We would like to go in there and take care of that drainage problem immediately.

As far as resurfacing it, we would like to actually let a job out in the fall to do that, and not to get involved in the summer crunch over there. As far as the building location for this redevelopment, that has not been decided yet where the best place that would go. But, in fact, if it is moved to the parking lot side, really the impacts to the work that we would do on the resurfacing would be very minimal. So we would recommend that the resurfacing be done in the fall.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

In DPW's schedule of events, when was the surfacing of this County park, when was that scheduled for?

MR. PETERMAN:

It is not on a schedule yet. We would like to do the drainage work under our requirements contract, you know, within 30 days after we get the award or the approval for the money. Then we would like to do is put out a separate contract to do the resurfacing schedule for like the month of October.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Can you give me a rough idea what you think the drainage work – is it real involved, a lot of money?

MR. PETERMAN:

It is about \$150,000 to do the drainage work, crack sealing, and preparation, you know, for low points, leveling – there are probably like 12 or 14 puddle areas that we would have to level to get rid of them.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

So that would be what you would like to do ideally first, just get rid of the puddling and then look at resurfacing. Can you give me a ballpark number as far as how much it would cost to resurface?

MR. PETERMAN:

About 500,000.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

\$500,000. I just wanted a rough ballpark because there is other County facilities that I am aware of that actually generate a lot of cash almost on a year round basis that need to be resurfaced also. So, I am just wondering where this fits in on a schedule and you indicated that it wasn't really on the schedule yet.

COMM. SCULLY:

Thanks for asking the question. I think Mr. Peterman is at a little bit of a disadvantage because typically the way they approach paving projects in the parks is that we are able to get funding in Parks either capital program or most recently {G} money in the operating budget or the {Q} money in the capital project. Then we would go to them looking for help. So we are not on part of their – we are not on their road schedule, so to speak , and –

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

I guess what you are saying now from DPW's point of view, don't resurface something in the middle of the summer while we are trying to use it. It would be better to do it in October. So you are not really putting on a priority list, you are just saying that if you are going to go forward with this or consider it, consider doing it in the fall or in an off-season type of situation.

MR. PETERMAN:

That is correct.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Okay. Now I understand.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

And now that brings up another question. So if this committee were to approve this bill, then I guess you would do it October. If it did not, would it then be necessary to put a bill in in August or something to get it in October?

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

If I may answer it. There are a few different things. Number one, as was mentioned earlier, this is not part of the capital program as we speak. It wasn't put forward by either the Parks Department or by DPW last year when the capital program was put together for this year. This is

an amendment submitted by Legislator Towle and the concern, whether I discuss it now or later, the concern that I have, and that was what was just from Mr. Peterman. I know for a fact that the standing water problem has been there for a long period of time. I will just get back to my original point is that if, in fact, the amended masterplan will be completed by the end of the year, since we have waited all these years to correct the flooding, the puddling problem on the large parking lot, to me it would make sense to wait until the masterplan is forwarded. Then we can do it even next springtime prior to the summer season.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. Thank you very much. Yes, Bill.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Correcting the puddling problem, I mean, aren't you going to have to do some resurfacing in connection with that?

MR. PETERMAN:

Yeah. There is a combination of we will be installing two leaching basins at the low point and actually there is about a six inch drop where that puddle occurs, and we will be leveling that area. The combination of all that work, crack sealing, the other 12 locations where we do have standing water, that work will be approximately about \$150,000.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

So there will be some resurfacing in connection with this.

MR. PETERMAN:

Correct. That is called {truing} and leveling when you talk out all the unevenness, so you can just go over it with three-quarter of an inch and you won't have any puddles afterward.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Thank you. Thank you for coming down and answering our questions. Okay. We will move to the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

PRIME I.R. 1028 Requiring Anti-theft surveillance cameras for County park concessionaires. (Caracciolo)

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Motion to table.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1276 To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. (Fisher)

Commissioner.

COMM. SCULLY:

I would recommend tabling at this time. We are waiting for an answer from the Ward Melville Heritage Organization on their willingness to forego the installation of the remainder of the fence at that property, hopefully getting a favorable determination.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? I am going to abstain from that one. **(Vote: 4/0/1/0 Abstention: Legislator Fields)**

PRIME I.R. 1337 Amending the 2002 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of Smith Point County Park. (County Executive)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to table.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1394 Authorizing, empowering, and directing Suffolk County Parks Department to secure acoustics evaluation for trap & skeet shooting range near Southaven County Park in Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven. (Fields)

I will make a motion to table.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Before we move on, could I ask the Chair why we are not ready to move forward with that yet?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Which one, is this 1394?

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Well, we actually have had part of – well, this one actually has not been done yet. We have had the environmental consultant come to Suffolk Trap and Skeet, and that part of the consulting work has been done, but this has not been done. So I want to keep it on until it is done.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

How long are we from reopening? Maybe the Commissioner could answer or someone could answer.

COMM. SCULLY:

Just real briefly. The legislation in its intent and effect had been advanced, I guess, and completed via an amendment to a preexisting resolution of Legislator Towle's where in Legislator Fields and Legislator Towle agreed to some amendments to the Towle bill, which has since been, I think, passed with a CN and signed.

The department has brought onboard at the Legislature's direction two consultants to review the operations of the trap and skeet site, one doing acoustic work and the other taking a look at operational and environmental issues. The kick-off meeting with the consulting doing the operational review was last week, and the kick-off meeting with the acoustic consultant will be next Tuesday or Wednesday. They will be test firing on the site to measure sound levels at the site and in the adjoining neighborhood.

We are hopeful that those two processes will come together in the middle of August, at which time I think the contract calls for one presentation from each consultant to the department and one presentation from each consultant to the Legislature. The most practical approach to that seems to be to bring those consultants before this committee as opposed to the general Legislature. If things progress accordingly, we could hope to have an RFP on the street by the fall with an eye towards reopening in the spring as long as the findings of the two consultants don't raise any issues that would preclude us from reopening the site.

The committee meeting at which many of the users of the facility turned out to voice their support for its continued operation I thought was telling. Even the residents who have the most vociferous or vocal concerns about the operation of the facility said at that time that they pretty much had no problem with the site reopening as long as their concerns on noise were addressed and health issues.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

But doesn't this resolution authorize the studies that you are talking about?

COMM. SCULLY:

They were both authorized – Legislator Towle had a resolution that was a cycle ahead of this in the legislative pipeline. Rather than wait for these to become ripe, I think that what happened was that they amended a preexisting bill of Legislator Towle's to give it much of the mechanical contents of this resolution. I think that is how I have an understanding. Correct me if I am wrong.

MR. SABATINO:

Mr. Scully is absolutely correct. The two versions that Legislator Fields had filed, that merged into the Towle-Fields version, so it was adopted one cycle before these to do it on a consolidated basis. Those studies are going forward on that basis. These two bills are just hanging out there because –

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Is this still necessary?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I would just feel comfortable one more time around to make sure everything is done.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1397 To establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket, New York. (Fisher)

COMM. SCULLY:

I recommend tabling. We are still awaiting the receipt of a plan and review by Council on Environmental Quality.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Motion to table. Second. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1402 Authorizing, empowering, and directing County Parks Department to secure environmental evaluation of trap & skeet shooting range near Southaven County Park in Yaphank, Town of Brookhaven. (Fields)

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I will withdraw this one now because that part of it has been done.

PRIME I.R. 1501 Establishing a committee to study common sense alternative funding mechanisms for the Suffolk County Parks Department. (Fields)

We did put in a corrected copy. I don't know if the committee has had an opportunity to look at it, but with some suggestions that Legislator Alden gave I did amend that. Legislator Alden is chomping at the bit here. Go ahead.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because I really didn't see the revised copy, but it includes some money people and some management type people? Good.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Could I ask what the Commissioner's view of that is?

COMM. SCULLY:

I think that getting involved and taking a look at the possibilities is a productive and desirable thing to do. There was a 1994 study completed by the Planning Department on the parks policy plan which essentially evaluated the resources available to manage the park system in Suffolk County, which was large at the time in comparison to other park systems in the region. It concluded that the department really was under resourced and suggested looking at alternative

mechanisms to fund it, one of them being, I think, a district or an authority.

That idea has lain fallow for several years, but I think it is still something that is worth at least looking at. If the findings of the 1994 study were valid, the Legislature – the County Executive and the Legislature are pressed probably to acquire tens of thousands more acreage of parkland since then and, you know, it is just as valid today if not more valid. So, I would support that.

MR. SABATINO:

It is going to three positions. One is Director of Legislative Office of Budget Review or designee. I'm sorry, it is two. And the second one was to have an individual with a background in either finance, municipal budgeting, or federal or State fiscal matters.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

The coversheet says there were three new members, so which is the third?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I think three changes was what –

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

This adds three new members.

MR. SABATINO:

The other change was – those were the two financial people. The third change was that there was some – well, the committee was going to jump to 20, for one thing, which was a little bit unwieldy, but the second thing was there was a little bit of overlap because there was a representative from the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning Policy Commission, and simultaneously there was Pine Barrens and Autobahn Society. So, the third change was that those were deleted and then a substitution was made of one environmental representative – to be environmental representative at large as opposed to being specifically the Autobahn Society or Pine Barrens. This way the committee stayed manageable at 17 instead of 20.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. I am going to make a motion to approve just to see if we can look for something else to help out.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1543 Amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds for resurfacing of Smith Point County Park parking facility. (Towle)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to table.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Motion to table. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1644 A Local Law to establish Code of Conduct for sports and recreational activities on Suffolk County Property. (Fields)

I will make a motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed?

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Abstain.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Abstain.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Then I will make a motion to table.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Second, reluctantly.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 1701 Authorizing use of picnic area at Lakeland County Park by Daphne's Divine Dance and 3-D Studios Creative Arts Foundation for festival and fund drive. (Fields) (Ways and Means Prime Committee)

This is in the Ways and Means Committee. I will make a motion to defer to that committee.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Deferred. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Is this two separate groups, and are they not-for-profits?

MR. SABATINO:

1701 is a not-for-profit, and 1703 is the fire department.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because just as a reminder, at the general session I said that if not-for-profits are going to use, we might want to revisit what our policy is as far as – this would probably include some kind of charge to them?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Because we might want to just revisit our policy and/or create a new policy whereby if they are a not-for-profit they would get use of County facilities for free. I know that Paul and I have spoken about this in the past, and there is an issue as far as giving away of the people's money and things like that.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

There may have to be a nominal fee.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Right.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Apparently there is nothing that says that you have to charge it, you know, a basic amount, and that is something that I think that we probably should visit.

Motion to approve – no, motion to defer, we did that.

I.R. 1703 Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property by Mastic Beach Fire Department, Inc. for Fourth of July Fund Drive. (Towle) (Ways and Means Prime Committee)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

PRIME I.R. 1712 Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to County Campgrounds (CP 7009). (County Executive)

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to approve.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

On the motion.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Yes.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Commissioner, which campgrounds, and will the work be done within the next year?

COMM. SCULLY:

I am pleased to tell you I think the answer to that question is yes. We have designed or are finalizing the design now for installation of electric and water for a portion of the Indian Island campground. We have been working on it for two years, and that we do hope to have that available for the next season on the construction portion.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Legislator Carpenter made the motion and Legislator Foley seconded. All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

If I could just, Madam Chair, I just wanted to on the record commend the Commissioner. I had a break between committee meetings yesterday and took a ride through Blydenburgh Park. The camping spots were really – I was just surprised at how lovely it really was. There is a little cabin there where a couple meet people and sell them green keys. I mentioned this to the Commissioner earlier, in speaking with them yesterday, they had said they get a lot of requests for do you sell soda, do you sell water, do you sell ice. If there is some way that we could do that, even those that ride, you know, go horseback riding through the park, have often stopped there and asked them if they have bottled water. So if we could at least get some sort of vending machine in it might be worthwhile.

COMM. SCULLY:

Thanks. I'll look into that.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Thanks. But, again, congratulations, it looks great. The picnic area, the playground area.

COMM. SCULLY:

That is the land, really, making us look good, and the vision and the foresight people had in acquiring those properties. It is the property itself, although I have to tell you that the staff at Blydenburgh which manages a number of different sites works very, very hard. I will be glad to pass that along.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

It shows, it really shows.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Thank you.

PRIME I.R. 1713 Appropriating funds in connection with the construction of improvements to County marinas. (County Executive)

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion.

LEGISLATOR ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Didn't we have something like this that we approved or no?

COMM. SCULLY:

It might have been the SEQRA.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

Motion to approve. On the motion. Commissioner, will this work be done within the next calendar year? This year or next?

COMM. SCULLY:

There is a combination of things we'll be funding with the appropriations, and I think that the construction portion would not be completed until next year. We are hoping to upgrade the electrical service at the Shinnecock County Marina, and Marina at Meshutt Count Park, and that will not be completed this season.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

What other work is envisioned with this resolution?

COMM. SCULLY:

Planning for, at Shinnecock, again. At Timber Point we have recently completed the new bulkheading there. The place is still a little bit rough. We are completing water installation and electric there now. We are moving on to begin planning, reconfiguration of some slips, and possibly installation additional slips at Shinnecock at Meschutt and some landscaping and parking there with the planning portion. The construction money will be used at Shinnecock to upgrade the water and electric.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

As far as parking, not to get too involved, but as far as parking, do you look at using blacktop or some kind of stone so that the water goes directly – you know, the water doesn't stay on the asphalt but with the stone it goes through.

COMM. SCULLY:

Where we have paved areas this is an issue that Legislator Fields has been focusing on and speaking with me about. Where we have existing paved areas we certainly would like to go with pavement, but we will be careful. We are trying to design those in such a way as to channel road runoff away from and make sure it isn't discharged directly into surface water because we know that is a serious environmental concern and an issue that is of importance to the Legislature.

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

I know in other areas they use some kind of either blue stone or another kind of stone in order to

prevent that kind of flooding.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

I agree that that's a tremendous way of trying to mitigate the problem, but when you have expensive boats at marinas and somebody steps on the gas a little too hard or kids start kicking the stone into the boats and at the boats, it could create a big problem. So, there are ways that we can mitigate it –

LEGISLATOR FOLEY:

We'll need to have a conduct policy at marinas as well. Why don't we amend the resolution?

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Okay. I will make a motion to approve. All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5/0/0/0)**

1739 we already approved.

LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRWOMAN FIELDS:

Motion to adjourn.

(The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.)

{ } Denotes Spelled Phonetically