

**PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**of the**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

-  
**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, **May 5, 2004**.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Jay Schneiderman - Chairperson

Legislator Cameron Alden

Legislator Angie Carpenter

Legislator Viloría-Fisher

Legislator Ricardo Montano

Legislator Peter O'Leary

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Legislator Michael Caracciolo - Excused Absence

Legislator Jon Cooper - Excused Absence

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature

Ronald Foley - Chief Deputy Commissioner of Parks

Alexandra Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk - Legislature

Roger Podd - County Executive's Office

Sean Clancy - Budget Review Office

Charlie Bender - Aide to P.O. Caracappa

John Cortez

Emily Botti

Nancy Donahue

Helen Kalbach

Richard Martin

All other interested parties

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MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

**(\* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:40 A.M\* )**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. I'd like to call the meeting of the Parks Committee to order, Parks and Cultural Affairs. I'd like to ask Legislator Cameron Alden to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, if you all will rise.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

For the record, we have two excused absences. Legislator Caracciolo is on jury duty and also Legislator Cooper. Honestly, I'm not sure what the reason is on Legislator Cooper, but I'm granting an excused absence. Okay. We're going to start today with a presentation. This will be by Michelle Isabelle Stark, the Director of the Office of Cultural Affairs, Department of Economic Development. Michelle, if you will step forward.

**MS. STARK:**

Good morning. I also have John Corrar here, from -- he is the Chair of our Citizens Arts Advisory Board. I'd like to distribute some materials to the committee. So I just wanted to give you update on the Cultural Arts Program, the status of the grants. The 77 organizations that are receiving funding for 2004 have been notified by mail of the monetary value of their grant. The contract of 2004 was finalized by the County Attorney's Office April 26th. Eight organizations with grants of less than \$1000 have already been sent their letter of agreement to sign. The 69 organizations with grants of greater than a thousand dollars will have their contract sent this week for signature. There are a few exceptions; those agencies which have not met their

obligations for prior year grant awards.

Also, I'm passing out a spread sheet of the Citizens Arts Advisory Board. We have had three meetings of the board this year; January 29th, March 17th and this morning, May 5th. I created a master schedule of events that have been funded through the Arts Program, and I've developed a monitoring audit form for the Arts Board that they are going to use to go out and, you know, see what the quality of the programs are and report back to me. That quality report will then be used in judging the applications for the organizations for next year. I'm -- I also passed out economic impact analysis of the arts on Long Island. I sit on the Long Island Association Arts Committee, which is chaired by Roger (Tillis). And under his leadership he -- about five groups paid to have Pearl Kamer update her economic impact analysis. And I think -- well, it's astonishing. Of the 56 arts organizations sampled for the report, 50 of those were surveyed, and the data was collected through our office, the Office of Cultural Affairs.

For 2002, the finding was that the net output of all industries increased by 49 million in operating and capital expenditures, and 647 jobs were created. This is all based on spending on the arts. And also in 2002, the net earning increase was 23.2 million. So I think you can see that the spending that we have on our art programs is certainly doing a good job for our economy. That's really all I have to say today. If you have any questions, John from the Citizens Arts Advisory Board or I can answer any questions you may have.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Any questions from the Legislature? Thank you.

**MS. STARK:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. We're going to move right along to public portion. I have several cards. Our first speaker, I'd like to recognize a distinguished member of our community, John Cortez, if you'll come up to the table here. We'll provide you with a microphone so you can address us.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

Good morning. How's everybody today?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Good.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

The reason I came here today was to introduce our program to you; the Town of Brookhaven's Wheelchair Athletic Program. It's a two and a half year old program, and it's very successful with individuals with disabilities. Currently right now, we host five sports. We play basketball, tennis, hockey, softball and hand cycling. The program is open to men and women ages 16 and above in the Town of Brookhaven, and it's cost free to all the residents, absolutely no cost. You do have some literature in front of you with regards to the program. It's a fun and exciting program. But it's not just about sports, that's a message I want to convey to you today, it's not just a sporting program. Yes, we do five different sports, but what we're doing for the individual with a disability is amazing. We're getting them back out of the house, getting them back into the community, they're back to school, they're voting, they're involved in the electoral process, and they're going back to work. They're motivated people now.

A program like this hasn't existed since the years when Congressman Rick Lazio was around and put those programs together to get people back to work without losing their benefits. So what is our program hosting now? Right now we're in softball season, and we're sponsored by the Long Island Ducks. We're the only township in all of New York State to administer a program of this type. When we went around and we spoke with different organizations and different businesses, never once did we ask for anything in return, we just came out and told people what we were doing. We're playing sports. And people never heard of wheelchair softball. As I mentioned to Legislator Schneiderman, our softball season starts May 20th, and every Saturday is game day. And we invite you to come down and play with us in a wheelchair and play softball with us. Because I can tell you all about our program and how exciting it is and how people are having a great time, and we have the very first wheelchair softball field on Long Island being built at the Amphitheater in Long Island. It's not the same until you have played the game. And then what happens is when you see someone who is disabled in your area, you will be able to explain it that much because you've lived it. You'll see what we go through day in and day out. And it's just so much fun. One of the exciting components of our program -- oh, hello, Happy Cinco de Mayo.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Gracious. I was John's Spanish teacher.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

I hate to say it, but that's all I learned. One of the most exciting parts of our program is the handicapped awareness days. And this is where our team will go out to the school, and usually they are an hour, hour and a half sessions, where we talk with the kids, we do a basic demonstration of wheelchair basketball, then we bring extra equipment for all the kids, teachers, faculty and staff to sit in and play the game. And it's so exciting. We have just completed our tour of this year, which started in October, and we just ended it last week. And we must have talked with at least seven to 8000 children all across Long Island, we were in New Jersey, Long Island City and New York City, just talking to the different kids about what the abilities of someone in a wheelchair are. They don't see as a negative person, like, oh, my gosh, that person is in a wheelchair. We're a positive influence in the community. We're still -- just because we sit down, our lives have not changed. We challenge ourselves each and every day.

And I'd like to introduce two friends that I brought along, there's Rick and Ron. Those are my two bulldogs. You probably wonder why I call them that. Because whenever there's a problem, they'll pull you aside, because no matter how bad your disability is or something may be going wrong on the court, you are having fun, you're still enjoying life. And they'll tell you that. That's why I brought them with me. They come to everything we do. So the answer to the question that you will probably ask is what can you do for me, what is it that I want from you today? One thing. Go back, and I tell this to the states and I tell this to the counties and different towns, go back to your towns in your area and challenge the leaders to put together a program similar to what we're doing. Our people in the Town of Brookhaven are already doing things. They're already back to school, they know where the services are. You have the services in your area. The sad part is people don't know where there are. I'm the biggest mouth in the Town of Brookhaven. If you've got a service and there's someone that needs to know about it, we'll tell you. Why offer a service if you don't have it?

I'll give you an example of how we're changing policies. Every year the state and the Assembly host a Disability Awareness Day. And last year, I was the recipient of the Senate Disability Awareness Day Award. Last -- this January I went up to Albany, spoke with the leaders in the Senate and the Assembly on both sides, both Republican and Democrat. And I said, you need to change your programs. Because the Senate recognizes me as the leader, but not you as the service provider. The Assembly recognizes you as the service provider, but not the leaders. So we don't mesh. You know, this year, because of one voice, one set of ears and one mind, the

Senate is changing their program. Now they are going to have not only the leaders, but the service providers. So now we can learn from each other and learn what's going on. And we'll be up there, and we'll be proud to be up there, because we were the ones who helped implement that program.

On that note, I know I probably took more time than I was allowed, thank you very much for inviting us here. You have our literature. You have our schedules. We invite you to come out and see what we're all about. It's just exciting times. It's going to get bigger and it's going to get better. And I thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

John, if you don't mind, Vivian Fisher, Legislator Fisher, would like to make a comment.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Actually, I don't know if you mentioned this before I got here, but because you are in the Town of Brookhaven I know a lot about your program, did you mention what it costs the town to have your program?

**MR. CORTEZ:**

Basically nothing.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

How do you do that John?

**MR. CORTEZ:**

The program is free to the residents. It's one of the only towns that -- the town has many programs, many services and some fees attached to them. We do not. Why? Because most disabled people are on limited incomes. So we make the program free. How can we do that? We're walking around in \$90 uniforms and most of the players are rolling around in \$2500 chairs. It comes from outside sources. Senator Flanagan assisted us with two grants this year; one to fund our softball field, which as I said, is the first on Long Island, and the second was a 50/50 match grant for equipment. So we have \$23,000 to spend just on equipment this year. Just so you know, there are five professional wheelchair basketball teams in the east coast here. Our budget is bigger than those five teams combined. Also, it's a community outreach. We're the own store basically on the block, we're the only township in this whole state -- and I

don't know how many towns there are -- that offer this services. It's a great program. We're the only sports programs. We're motivating disabled folks to enjoy their quality of life, go back to school, go back to work. They're not a burden on the taxpayers. They're contributing to the tax rolls. Why would they not want to get involved in the best program? It's just -- companies like Pepsi Cola, Clare Rose, LSB Capital, Plaza Sports, Long Island Ducks, the list just goes on and on, civics and chambers, rotary clubs. We are everywhere telling people about our program and never once did we ask for anything.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Didn't you bring in some federal monies too?

**MR. CORTEZ:**

Not to date. We haven't yet, but we are working on that. Every elected official that we have spoken to says, yes, we want to help. We appreciate that. We really, really do. Because funding is what makes the program grow. And the more people that we have, the more funding that's needed, the more equipment we want to buy. These people are coming down, they're playing the sports, and I have to tell you -- and this is on the record -- they're the most uncoordinated people that play sports. But guess what? They're happy, they're out of the house, they're enjoying their quality of life, they're having a little athleticism, they're getting a little exercise. It's socialization, it's a combined package. So it's a win-win situation in the Town of Brookhaven, and we are just so darn proud of everything we're doing. In fact, we just received a letter yesterday from Assemblyman Englebright, and he has put through, so long as the New York State budget passes, a \$2500 grant for our program.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I think you should speak with the Chair of this Committee, Legislator Schneiderman, regarding those beach wheelchairs.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

Yes.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

But not right now. Sometime, you know, you should tell him about that program, because that's another interesting program.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do we have sufficient amounts of them?

**MR. CORTEZ:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No. Okay. We can talk about that.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

We can set up a follow up meeting. Another thing we're doing in the Town of Brookhaven --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You can talk to Commissioner Foley about that.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

One of the things we are doing in the Town of Brookhaven is we're modifying the parks, making them more wheelchair friendly; rubberized matting, increased parking, wider walkways, more adaptable equipment. The town has a budget that we can tap into for this modification. It's just -- we're really broadening our scope of what we can do for the disabled individual. And it's rewarding, because especially when you see the young children who are going to the parks and it's sand, and they can't get through. So that's -- in addition to sports and recreation and, you know, the different affiliations we have, we also take on different programs with our handicapped awareness days, modifying the parks. We are just a full service program. And we would just like for each and every one of you to be a part.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. I appreciate it.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thanks, John.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you, John.

**MR. CORTEZ:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Our next speaker is Emily Botti.

**MS. BOTTI:**

Good morning. I was hoping to see one of my former students here, but Joseph Caracappa, I guess, doesn't serve on this committee. So please say hello for me. I was really hoping to see him today. I'm an enthusiastic supporter and a volunteer at Deepwells Farms County Park in St. James. And as you consider where you are going to be putting some of your hard earned County dollars, I hope you'll consider some funding for Deepwells. I'd like to make you aware of some of the work that that important site does. Debbie Powers is their coordinator of programs, and she works tirelessly and energetically to bring the best that she can in each of the categories and make them relevant to all visitors that come there. There's an enthusiastic volunteer staff that also works and intergrades very well with the paid staff at Deepwells to make memorable, memorable programs for all of the public.

There are two programs that I'm especially interested in. One is the Deepwells Fall Festival, which is a country fair which entertains over 5000 people annually. The events include a craft fair, demonstrations that range from wood carving to pottery arts, continuous family entertainment all day long and hay piles for children to be active in and a hay ride. As a retired teacher, the program that I'm most interested in is the student program. These programs are set up in conjunction with the Cornell Extension Services, and they provide the kids with a hands-on experience from -- in the Colonial times from washing on a washboard to milking a cow.

History is a hard sell. Any elementary school teacher will tell you it's not easy to get kids interested in American History. Any help that you can get outside of the classroom to help foster this in kids, is most welcome and most appreciated by any public school teacher. Deepwells does a beautiful job in this area. I remember taking kids on trips all around the County and in Nassau County too. And when I would sign up to take my classes there, I got a list this long of all the things the kids couldn't do and a list this long of all the things the kids could do. So when I volunteered at Deepwells, I said what can't the kids do, now that I'm going to be working with them over here. And they said, the kids can do everything here. They're allowed to put their hands in water, they're allowed to work on the washboard, they're allowed to milk a cow, not a

real cow. But they're allowed to do all of these things.

They also did a wonderful tour of the house for the kids. And if you take a minute sometime to come over and watch as the classes go through there, it is truly wonderful. There is a famous historic truism that says, we will know where we are going when we know where we've been. Deepwells provides a unique way for children to learn where we've been. Let's please fund this. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you. Our next speaker, Nancy Donahue, representing Sagtikos Manor Historical Society.

**MS. DONAHUE:**

Good morning. First, I'd like to thank you for saving Sagtikos Manor. It was a very important historic site that this County Legislature did bring under the auspices of the Suffolk County Parks Department. We can trace our history so far back, back before Suffolk County, back to the late 1600s. It is important that there is funding to continue preserving this important site. As was just said, we have to instill in our young people a sense of history. And Sagtikos can do it. It can do it by bringing them through the different years. The funds that you have given in the past have helped repair the posts on the porch, have helped get research done so that we can bring an accurate history to the general public. Please consider restoring those funds. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'd like to recognize Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to note that on the agenda today, coincidentally, we have a resolution authorizing the use of Sagtikos Manor by the Historical Society. They are having a fundraiser there, an antiques show. And it just seems most appropriate as someone's coming forward to ask us to fund these important historic sites, that the community is out there doing their part, running events to help in the fundraising efforts. So it's really a partnership. I just wanted to publically thank Nancy and everyone else involved in the Historical Society.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you, Legislator. Okay. Our next speaker is Helen Kalbach Representing the Yaphank

Historical Society.

**MS. KALBACH:**

Good morning. I'm President of the Yaphank Historical Society. And the society in partnership with Suffolk County Historic Services maintains and preserves the Robert Hewlitt Hawkins House on Yaphank Avenue within the Yaphank Historic District. The society is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. We're planning a fundraiser in early August, which will not only celebrate 30 years of preserving local history, but also the continuing restoration of the Mary Louise Booth House. The architect for this project has been supported by the funding provided by the Suffolk County Hotel-Motel Tax as well as the graphic designer for the Booth House exhibit, which will be available for future educational tours at the site as well as elsewhere if necessary.

The approval of this budget is critical to this effort. The society's partnership with the County has provided a unique opportunity for community based efforts to preserve County history. We envision a historic area where residents can stroll through time to understand how far we have come as a society and as a community. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you. Our last card is Richard Martin, Suffolk County Parks.

**MR. MARTIN:**

My name is Richard Martin. I'm the Director of Historic Services for Suffolk County Parks. And I just hope you can realize all the support that this hotel-motel monies are giving to our historic sites. These funds are being distributed by the Friends for Long Island Heritage at the direction of Historic Services and go to many of our historic sites. I think many people know the programs and the activities that we run up at Deepwells. That's where we started, but we are looking to expand our programs at other sites and also our restoration program. And these funds help us to do that work. And also, if anyone has any questions I could answer on how these funds are being spent.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

First I'll recognize Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you Legislator Alden. Hi. How are you?

**MR. MARTIN:**

Hi. Good.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I have a question about the impact on Deepwells of the Cultural Center in Stony Brook which now has, you know, these historical dramas, you know, or -- I'm not sure what to call them. Has there been any impact on Deepwells?

**MR. MARTIN:**

I'm going to say no. We really run a unique events at Deepwells. And because of the ambience at Deepwells, being the historic site that it is, people really want to go to Deepwells. So I don't think that it does.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Good. I'm glad to hear that, because it is a very wonderful place, and I always enjoy going there for the dramatizations. Thank you.

**MR. MARTIN:**

Any other questions on the farm?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Hi. I'm just concerned with one thing that you said. The money that comes in from the hotel-motel tax, that goes through the Friends?

**MR. MARTIN:**

Well, about half of it that we get from the Suffolk County Parks Department, we spend through the Park's budget and the other half we grant to the Friends. And this is the resolution that's before you, you know, then those monies we spend on special projects and events that we have at these various historic sites.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. But that money goes to Suffolk County Department of Parks and from there it branches out.

**MR. MARTIN:**

Yes. Right.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So if we choose to do it a different way, like, get a different contract vendee so to speak, we can do it that way also.

**MR. MARTIN:**

It's possible, yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Other questions? Thank you.

**MR. MARTIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Let's move on to our agenda.

### **INTRODUCTORY PRIME**

**1351-04. Authorizing use of Sagtikos Manor by the Sagtikos Manor Historical Society of antiques and collectable show. (CARPENTER)**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Any Opposed?  
Passed and carried. **APPROVED (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**1359-04. Appropriating funds for improvements to HYO Suffolk County Complex Field, Town of Islip. (CRECCA)**

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion and a second. All those in favor? Any opposed? Passed and carried. **APPROVED (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**1388-04. To establish Community and Youth Services Program at Sheep Pasture Road in Port Jefferson/Setauket, New York. (VILORIA-FISHER)**

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Mr. Chair, I need to table that resolution. It has to appear before CEQ.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. We have a motion to table and a second by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor of tabling? Any Opposed? Okay. Resolution 1388 is **TABLED (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**1426-04. Authorizing the use of Indian Island County Park by Birthright of Peconic Inc., for their annual walkathon fundraiser. (COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion and a second, all in favor? Any opposed? Passed and carried. **Approved. (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**1431-04. Accepting the donation of two Land Rover sport utility vehicles for use in the Suffolk County Parks Department's Piping Plover Monitoring Program. (COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Seconded by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor? Any opposed? Who is donating those? I think the company itself. We thank the Land Rover company for that donation. So that passed.

**APPROVED (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo).**

**TABLED PRIME**

**1027-04. Establishing a turf policy for athletic fields in Suffolk County. (BISHOP)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I believe the sponsor wants this tabled. I'm sorry, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I though he wanted it moved. But I have a question on this. I think his intent was changed, right, because this just deals with a sports or an athletic field over in Town of Babylon? It doesn't change the whole policy to Suffolk County. And I believe it's a one time waiver, because I think we have a limitation of \$100,000 in the Open Space Active Acquisition Program. And I think that this just doesn't change that permanently, I think it just changes it for this one project and brings it up to \$250,000 contribution or whatever you want to call it.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I thought it changed the cap for all to 250. Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes. I had this specific conversation with the sponsor. And he had indicated this isn't a one time, this is for a permanent upgrade of matching funds from \$100,000 to 250,000 for each project.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't think that's this piece of legislation, is it? I think that's a different piece. It's not this one that's been tabled a couple of times.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

This is a different piece of legislation.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

This is not the one with the matching funds?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

This one doesn't have any dollar limits or anything like that and it's not specific to anywhere. I think he was intending to submit something new in place of it.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Which number are we looking at now?

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

1027.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There was an amended copy.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

This would increase the cap to \$250,000 from \$100,000.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Mr. Chair, could we pass over this until -- I don't have the most recent copy, I'd like a minute to look at it before we vote on it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I think there's a tabling motion. In light of the circumstances, perhaps it's best we table it, and we'll get it and look at it at a future date. Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is there a particular hurry on it?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's what I wanted to find out, because it involves one -- I thought it was one specific project in Babylon, now it's two projects.

**MS. KNAPP:**

Two different resolutions.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Can we pass over it for a minute it?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Why don't we table it. If we want to untable it, we can reconsider it. So there's a motion to table and a second. All in favor, aye? Any Opposed? So 1027 is **TABLED (VOTE:6-0-0-2)**

**(Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

1097, confirming the Commissioner of the County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. This has been amended from the original.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I have a question, Mr. Chairman. Did Mr. Levy sign the legislation that was passed at our last General Session?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Question of Counsel. Counsel, as you recall, we had a passed an amendment to the County Charter eliminating residency requirement for the Parks Commissioner position. The question by Legislator Alden is has that resolution been signed by the County Executive.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Does the Commissioner know?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't.

**MS. KNAPP:**

I don't know the answer to that, but I can find that out in just a moment.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Could we skip over this one?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**1207-04. Establishing a task force for ATV park use in Suffolk County. (CARACCIOLO)**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All in favor, aye? Any Opposed? Actually, I believe this was withdrawn. So we don't need to table it if it's been withdrawn.

**MS. KEYES:**

It's been withdrawn.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Let the record reflect it's been withdrawn.

**1232-04. Authorizing contract with Friends of Long Island's Heritage to provide interpretive programs at County historical sites.**

**(COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Mr. Chairman, could we just ask the Commissioner to come forward.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Commission Foley -- Acting Commissioner Foley.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Chief Deputy Commissioner.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Carpenter has a question.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

On this resolution, I had spoken with the Commissioner earlier and had just asked that they look into trying to keep -- and I think Legislator Fisher might be interested in this -- the Holiday Showcase they had at Deepwells. It seems that perhaps that's not going to be something that's going to be going on in the future.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I was still trying to read the bill.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

The Holiday Showcase at Deepwells that has taken place the last couple of holiday seasons, it looks like with the adoption of this resolution, that won't be taking place.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I would --

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Not characterize it as such?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Not since our conversation, no.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay. Good.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We would like the resolution adopted so that we can move this money. There are people whose jobs depend on it, programs that can't go forward without it. We are, though, looking at the entire distribution of this money to figure out best way to do it. Everything is on the table. We have talked about changing the program at Deepwells, the Holiday Program. I think we can find some other money to put into it so that we can preserve that and still spread some of this money around.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay. That sounds great. Terrific

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We have a motion then.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I'm sorry. Just a bounce off of what Legislator Carpenter said. So it does not specifically threaten the Holiday Program.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It doesn't threaten the elimination. We would like the opportunity to look at it and reassess its effectiveness and maybe change it somewhat if we deem that's appropriate.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Because as far as I've seen, it's a very, very popular program and it's usually sold out. I mean, you know, it's certainly subscribed to greatly by the public.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

And we'll take all of it into consideration. And if it shouldn't be changed, we won't change it.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Just to pick up on that too, as I was saying to the Commissioner earlier, I had an occasion to go there for the first time to the Holiday Showcase last year and was very impressed because you attract people would not normally think about going to a museum. But they're going there, they're shopping, the boutiques are there, and yet they are absorbing that history and that culture. And I think it's very important. So I would just for one ask that you try to preserve it.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I agree with that. And we would like the same thing to happen at other places too and get some new people in other locations. And I'll come back to you with something that tells you where we are in our analysis.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

That would be great.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I don't have it with me, but the backup to this resolution had specific programs and actually,

specific funding levels, so that backup is irrelevant?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That was a handout we gave you to -- as an example of what we did with the money in the past, what we were planning to do until we heard some of the concerns here. I don't think we're bound to any of those things when you adopt this, it just gives us the ability to move the money.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It wasn't part of the resolution or it was not intended to be.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Then there's just a second part to this question. Last year we went through, I guess, a quite in depth analysis of how these folks handled some of our rental properties. Is that issue still being analyzed by you, and is that still open as far as who we're going to go with in the future to manage some of those properties?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

The issue of how they're managing them is still open, yes. I didn't know that we were directing it toward finding another operator, but certainly that's not off the table. This money is separate from that, it's not tied up in that property management question at all.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

If we give -- we're giving you the ability to direct the dispersal of some of these funds. Now, when we go to this organization, how much of a percentage of these funds do they take for management?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I don't think they take any percentage of these funds.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So 100% of these trickles down into --

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I was wrong, it's 8%.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's why I have a little bit of a problem with this resolution, in that, you know, if we think that they're mismanaging the property or there's a question as to how the property is being managed, 8% of the funds are not going to go to programs here, they're going to go to the organization that we've been looking at for over a year now and challenging as far as their competence and possibly the way they manage the properties.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I certainly understand your concern. It's offset by the need to deliver these programs. I don't know that there's a speedy way to do it another way. We have two separate contracts. One with them for interpretation and programs, where this money goes. A separate one for the properties that they manage for us. This will go through the interpretive program. I'm certainly not arguing with your concerns, it's just a matter of expediency at this point.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

They actually run the programs, or do they hire outside vendors to come in? You've got somebody behind you that's making signs.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It's a combination of things, but there are some --

**MR. MARTIN:**

Just to explain a little further. All the hiring, all the programs, all the direction comes from the Division of Historic Services. Basically we just -- the Friends help us out with the accounting and the bookkeeping and paying for the staff people. We direct -- we tell the Friends in a sense who to hire to run these programs, and we initiate all the expenditures.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

But then we're giving them 8% of the total dollar amount to just do accounting and bookkeeping basically.

**MR. MARTIN:**

Which was cut down from their normal percentage of 18%. Normally they -- when they run

something directly themselves, they charge 18%. We ask that they only charge 8% on this because we are really running the programs, the Parks Department is running the programs.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What's the total dollar amount on the programs?

**MR. MARTIN:**

It's 130,000 that we're talking about right now.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So almost \$10,000 you are giving to them to do bookkeeping. Have we looked at the possibility to hire, you know, like, either a part time bookkeeper or something in that category?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

You get some other advantages here. They can -- although we direct everything they do, they can hire the employees much more quickly and readily than we can if we had to go through the system. Same with purchasing and delivering programs, things like that, there are some advantages beyond just bookkeeping. But, no, we haven't looked at somebody else. We have a contract with these people. We're trying to get this moving. We are looking at everything they do, trying to tighten it up. You've got my assurance that we will correct every situation we find.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. If we pass this and -- all right. You know, I'm leaning towards passing it because you are actually asking to get this money out there and get these programs going, and I don't want to see people hurt, because you have indicated there are other people that would be hired that would do and provide these services, but I would like your assurance that you're going to look at possibly doing this in another manner in the future, whether it be running in totally in-house or, you know, some variation of that. Because I know some towns do it differently, and I think New York State does it a little bit differently too.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

And I have some ideas along those lines. Yes, you do have my assurance. It's not a promise that we'll change it, but we'll certainly look at it. And I do have some ideas I'd like to get before you some time in the future.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I make a motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator O'Leary. All in favor, aye? Any opposed? Resolution passes. **APPROVED (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**1319-04. Authorizing use of Gardiner County Park by Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation Inc., for their Annual Paws to Remember Dog Walk Fundraiser. (COUNTY EXEC)**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second. All in favor, aye? Any opposed? Passed and carried. **Approved. (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Going back to 1097.

**1097-04. Confirming Commissioner of County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. (COUNTY EXEC)**

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I have received notification that the bill has been signed into law.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Congratulations.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'd like to make motion on 1097, seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor, aye? Any opposed? Congratulations. **APPROVED. (VOTE:6-0-0-2) (Not present; Legis. Cooper and Caracciolo)**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

One step closer. Now you have to get passed the rest of us.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Mr. Chairman, I would just ask if the Commissioner can come forward, I just have a question on something else that we've been grappling with for the last number of years, and that's Trap and Skeet.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm sorry, Legislator Carpenter. Can we take a look again 1027? I think Legislator Viloría-Fisher had some questions. If we're going to reconsider, this I'd like to do that first, then we'll move on to the trap and skeet issue.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I'm not going to make a motion to reconsider at this time, I just have questions about it, if I may, Mr. Chair. And perhaps both Mr. Foley and Ms. Knapp can help me with these questions. And I apologize to my colleagues. Because the title of 1027 was about turf and it became such a completely -- completely different hybrid of what the original bill was, I didn't recognize which bill this was. And I have questions about some of the language in this bill. One of the resolves says that it would be in the amount of \$250,000 or 50% of the cost of the project. This is in the infrastructure improvement funds of Greenways. Now if I recall, I had sponsored, when we had the Wedge in Mt. Sinai, that was providing some infrastructure improvement monies. At that time, I thought it was 50% of the matching municipality's grant. Mea, would you have any knowledge as to how Greenways read with regard to this? Was this language based on the Greenways infrastructure improvement?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Well, the original Greenways Charter Law where we issued the \$62 million in bonds, that one I remember very well, because I worked on that bill with bond counsel. This -- this other fund came later. And while it is related to the extent that it refers to properties acquired under the

Greenways Program, it's not part of the original charter law that passed in '98, '99, I think it was.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Do you have -- is there any knowledge of what the language was in that infrastructure improvement resolution that provided for \$100,000 or 50%? I didn't -- I don't recall if that was 50% of the cost or if it was a 50-50 match with the local municipality or the local sponsoring agent.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I can't answer.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

We had some discussion with Legislator Bishop about this. I had -- in my recollection, it was 50% of the -- and I thought that we could clarify that on the record.

**MS. KNAPP:**

Now, the bill that you have in front of you, the new version of 1027, copies from the resolution that set up this new fund, which was Resolution 372 of 99. And I understand it was sponsored by Legislator Haley and Legislator Bishop jointly. And this is the first resolve clause that you see here in front you. The only change that is being made is we're going from the original 100,000 to 250,000. Now, is your question --

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Actually, you just answered my question, which was does it change anything other than the amount. The language was 50% of the cost and not 50% of the local contribution.

**MS. KNAPP:**

The only thing that was changed is 250 instead of 100,000, otherwise it's a word for word replication.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to reconsider this resolution with that information. I'd like to make a motion to reconsider.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

May I just provide what I hope is an update here. The Legislator has presented 1386 under the Environment Committee as a substitute for this, I think. I don't believe he intends 1027 to go anywhere.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Then we'll leave it tabled. Thank you. It gets trickier and trickier. Thank you for your indulgence, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator Carpenter.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I just wanted to ask the Commissioner to give us an update on the reopening of the trap and skeet. I had someone come in the office this morning who's quite anxious, one of the members of the clubs, I guess that frequent it. And he said he had called the County Exec's Office and was told there's no way there's anything happening this year. He's quite upset, so I wanted to, you know, get on the record exactly where we are in the process, what we can expect, what can I tell him.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

I expect that it will not open for use this year, so that part of it's true. Going on right now is DPW hiring a consultant to do an engineering survey, which is what you funded a month and a half or so ago of \$50,000. That will determine what sound levels are allowable there or aiming to reach, how we'll do that, what technology will be used to get the sound down to what it's supposed to be. The scope of the project, the original study, said some areas of that facility needed to be eliminated or changed the redirect the sound. So this survey will help us figure that out an, what the final construction will look like along with preliminary sketches. The prediction is that will be done in 90 to 120 days, then we would go out to bid -- we would come back to you --

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Wait, wait. Stop. It's going to take three to six months?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That's what DPW tells me.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Are we giving them that range or is it, like, as long as it's done within that range, that's acceptable? Is there any way of impressing upon them how long this has been going on and how we'd like it done in 90 day time frame and not the six month time frame?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

There's a meeting coming up in a week and a half which will be our introductory meeting with them. I will press for a quicker turn around on it. But the 90 to 120 days is what DPW told me this morning.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

It's actually three to four months.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

If we can get it done quicker, I'll get back to you after we have this meeting. But I think even if we got it done more quickly, I don't think you would see the place open, because -- any sooner. We're shooting for summer '05 to have this open and available. I think a month quicker on this end wouldn't change that.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Well, summer '05 -- this is not a seasonal operation. Is this not a 12 month operation?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

It is, but you have to take into consideration construction, what the weather is in the winter. There's only so many ways you can speed that up.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Well, if they do it in 90 days, then the recommendations hopefully would be in hand by August. Certainly you are not going to be seeing winter weather that's going to affect construction until December.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

We'll do everything we can.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

So, I mean, it is possible that we could see it sooner than summer of five. If we're putting that out there that that's what we're aiming for, it will wind up being fall '05, and that would really be unacceptable. And I hate to see us sitting here listening to hours and hours and hours of testimony again by the users of -- or the potential users of this facility who feel that they've been very, very patient. They want to see it open again.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

And I want to see it open again too. We'll move on it as quickly as we can, but we have to make sure we do this right. There's some neighbors involved and we've got to treat them properly. But we'll move it along as quickly as we can.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yes. I'd like to comment with respect to the trap and skeet in Yaphank. And you just raised the issue concerning the surrounding neighbors who live in that area. The trap and skeet, as you probably know, is in my district. And I have met several times with the residents in that area -- in that immediate area. And their major concerns, as you probably can imagine, is adherence in compliance with the noise decibel ordinances that have been established by the County as well as the town. Now, I'm aware of the fact that prior -- the former Legislator Fields was able to have the County decibel level of 65 waived with respect to this particular facility. But I want to make you aware of the fact that the town ordinance is still in effect and still will impact the engineering study, hopefully, that's going to be undertaken with a keen eye towards that, that adherence to the town decibel level of 55 decibels, whatever recommendations are made by the engineer performing this study, that he would take into account, of course, that particular level to be adhered to.

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

Yes, we will.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Is that your understanding of what's going to occur with respect to the engineering study that's to be undertaken?

**CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOLEY:**

That's my understanding. That's my intention. We have not communicated those standards to them yet, but when we have this meeting in a week and a half, that's what we'll put on the table. That's our goal. If they tell us that's impossible, then we have to go back and figure out what is possible, and we'll let you know if we have any problems with that.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Any other questions or comments from the Legislature? Thank you, Mr. Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We are adjourned.

**(\* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:30 P.M. \*)**

**{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**