

PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on December 14, 2005.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman • Chairman
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick • Vice•Chairperson
Leg. Cameron Alden
Leg. Angie Carpenter
Leg. Jon Cooper
Leg. William J. Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mea Knapp, Counsel to the Legislature
Alexandra Sullivan, Chief Deputy Clerk
Ronald F. Foley, Commissioner of Parks
Charles Bender, Aide to PO's Office
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Frank Tassone, Aide to Majority Leader

Eric Brown, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Greg Moran, Aide to PO's Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Losquadro
Paul Perillie, Aide to Minority Caucus
Vito Minei, Director of Division of Environmental Quality
Ed Hogan, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Terry Pearsall, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
Warren Greene, Aide to Leg. Alden
Barbara LoMoriello, Aide to Leg. Cooper

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus • Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

(*The meeting commenced at 11:13 AM)

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Good morning. I'd like to call the meeting of Parks & Cultural Affairs to order. If you all will rise and join us for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Nowick.

Salutation

Okay. We have a short agenda today. This meeting should move quickly. I only have one speaker card; Steve Gittelman, if you'll come forward to the podium. Mr. Gittelman, you have three minutes.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I'm here in support of two Capital Projects scheduled for the Vanderbilt Museum. And I need to bring across the message that the museum has a long•range plan that •• the museum has a long•range plan which relies heavily upon the waterfront to bring it revenues in the future that this

waterfront project is the project that was committed to when Mr. Rogers made his donation, I think it's almost five years ago now. I hope you will consider approving it. We will be •• it is the access way for the public to get to, the seaplane hangar which is funded for restoration and we desperately need to make progress on the board walk. It has been through SEQRA. It should be ready to go.

The other project is ADA compliance. That's somewhat self•explanatory. I thank you for all of your support through the year. I want to wish you all a happy holiday and thank you for giving me this time. That was the shortest public session you ever had.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you, Mr. Gittelman. Mr. Mallamo, a second yellow card.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I got that card in. Thank you. Lance Mallamo, Executive Director of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. I'm here to echo Steve's comments about the two capital projects that are on the agenda today.

One, the revitalization of the William & Molly Rogers Water•Front is in •• that was renamed in honor of the biggest non•Vanderbilt benefactors to the museum, William and Molly Rogers. Mr. Rogers is a trustee. He has pledged a million dollars to the museum, about a quarter of which has been used so far to fund our temporary dinosaur exhibit. And the remainder will be used to renovate the interior of the seaplane hangar for the permanent exhibit when that facility is complete.

This project will improve •• greatly improve pedestrian access at the museum and open a new area of the museum that's never been available for public and that's really much the waterfront. We have a spectacular water •front that people can't get to which is very frustrating because there's no access way to get to the beach area. This will also add interpretive platforms and help us vastly increase revenue opportunities at the museum. We'll be able to develop several new educational programs focused on the natural history and geological history of Long Island. We've already begun development of those programs hoping that this will be achieved and we've

been talking it up with different school districts and they're very excited about seeing this happen.

Our other project is Capital Project 7450, modifications for ADA compliance. This follows the recommendations outlined in our ADA master plan. It was prepared •• prepared several years ago by David Swift Associates. We've been doing our best to make the Vanderbilt ADA compliant, despite a huge geological obstacles, but we are making great inroads. I want you to know that; that if you visit there you're going to see steps replaced by ramps and other facilities. We're finally at the point where we don't have to segregate school children in wheel chairs from the rest of their class or the video. So I hope you'll continue to support this effort. We do have a tremendous number of physically challenged individuals that visit the Vanderbilt Museum. They recognize the efforts that we'll be making to date and we want to maintain that aggressive attitude. So thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Before you sit down, we have •• I have a question but also we'll go to Legislator Nowick first.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good morning, Lance.

MR. MALLAMO:

Good morning.

LEG. NOWICK:

I just have a question on that 2360, appropriating funds in connection with revitalization of William & Molly Rogers Waterfront.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is this the same one that comes up every year where we have •• or is this a whole different appropriation?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, what's probably come up is we've been •• these funds were in the budget several years ago and they have been moved back a couple of times, so we're usually here to fight to get them back in the Capital Program. You did appropriate the funding last year for the planning for this project. I have the drawings in front of me if you don't have them, basically where this is going to go. It's been designed in a way where it will have a minimal environmental impact. We're not taking any trees down.

LEG. NOWICK:

Right. Wasn't this where they donated a lot of money any and we needed to use •• to appropriate these funds in order to make ••

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, the Rogers' gift was ••

LEG. NOWICK:

•• the gift work?

MR. MALLAMO:

Part of the conditions of the gift were that the waterfront area would be named in their honor. The gift was actually for the exhibit going in the seaplane hangar, but •• and what we were •• we had a •• when we had done our development plan several years ago, we had a naming opportunity at the seaplane hangar for a million dollar gift and the Rogers chose •• they didn't want that, they said, "We'd rather have the waterfront named for us," because that was •• they felt would have a less permanent impact than a building name. So we'll be putting a small plaque on the boardwalk when it's constructed in their honor.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I guess •• so this is for the sidewalks or whatever going down to the seaplane hangar.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's actually •• this phase is for a boardwalk linking the boathouse which was a Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Science Research Center with the seaplane hangar building. Right now there's a ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay, so it's to extend the boardwalk that's there.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we don't have a boardwalk there currently.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's no boardwalk now.

LEG. LINDSAY:

But you have a boardwalk on the other side, right.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we have an area where a boardwalk can be constructed on the other side. We've designed the area behind the seawall south of this portion for a boardwalk.

LEG. LINDSAY:

So this has nothing to do with getting down there.

MR. MALLAMO:

No, not to the site. It has nothing to do with getting down to the seaplane hangar. It has to do with lateral access across the waterfront area.

LEG. LINDSAY:

How are you going to do that? Something •• I mean, that's a very, very

steep incline, right?

MR. MALLAMO:

We do have three pedestrian •• vehicular trams where we can drive people down. There is a link as part of this boardwalk where you will •• if you have the plan in front of you, I can distribute this one if you'd like to see it. You will see there is a connection from the boardwalk linking the vehicular turnaround in front of the seaplane hanger; we can drive them down to that point, they cannot walk from that point to the seaplane hangar under the physical conditions that we have there now because it is too steep. But there is a section of the boardwalk in this project that will link up so that the main entrance to the seaplane hangar will actually be at the second floor level. So it really is part of the whole building construction that's going to take place imminently as well.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. But my point is that, you know, all this money that we're spending on boardwalks and even the renovation of the seaplane hangar, if it isn't easily accessible, you know, how are we going to get people there?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we do have •• there is a future phase of this project to extend the boardwalk to the planetarium area. We're not proposing that right now because the funding isn't available. Right now we can't transport people by vehicle to the location of the seaplane hangar. And by funding this project will give us the link that we need from where they'll be dropped off to the building itself.

LEG. LINDSAY:

How many trams do you have?

MR. MALLAMO:

We have three.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Three; and that's enough to transport whatever you envision as far as an event down there?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes. Yeah, we've had events with hundreds of people and the three •• they take eight people a time, so we can literally do 24 people in five minutes. Any other questions?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, I have a question and Legislator Nowick also has a follow•up question. On 2359, the ADA compliance which is about \$448,000, can you describe •• because reading the bill, I see various intersections and roadways. This is a Vanderbilt project? And if so, what are these ADA compliant changes that are being made?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I can tell you what they are. They will be retrofitting several sidewalks to our Education Building and around our security booth. We will be retrofitting, and this is the greatest expense of the project, retrofitting public bathrooms at the main security booth off the parking lot. Our bathrooms there •• these are our main museum bathrooms. They are not ADA compliant at the present time. So what we'll be doing is gutting those bathrooms, removing one stall in each one of them and making the remaining stalls larger to accommodate wheelchairs. We'll also be providing two transport vehicles specifically for those in wheelchairs. Right now the trams that we have are •• can transport people provided that they can get out of their wheelchair.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Lance, in the resolution •• and maybe it's an error in the resolution that's confusing me, but Project No. 5543, drainage and road improvements to CR 58, Old Country Road; that is •• that involves ••

MR. MALLAMO:

No, that's in Riverhead.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

That involves land acquisition for ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

That's a hell of a long boardwalk.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yeah; no, that's not part of this. This is Capital Project 7450.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And then there's 3301, safety improvements of various intersections. So I think it might be the resolution is flawed; go back to the top of it and just make sure we have the right one.

MR. MALLAMO:

We're looking at 2359, Introductory?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

2359; yeah, it was amended. The title even talks about intersections, improvements at various intersections, appropriating funds in connection with modifications for compliance with the ADA at the Vanderbilt Museum and Amending the 2005 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds in connection with safety improvements at various intersections.

LEG. LINDSAY:

That isn't what my resolution says here.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Maybe somebody •• maybe somebody from the administration could answer this. It's possible that things have been added to it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yeah, because the resolution was accurate the last that I looked at it.

MR. REINHEIMER:

It appears the resolution was modified as of December 12th to also amend

the Capital Program to provide an additional \$50,000 for safety improvements at various intersections. This is a resolution that was introduced by the County Executive and I'm not really sure what the reasoning is.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Why would that be attached to a resolution in Parks and not something in Public Works?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I don't know, maybe •• I don't really want to hold it up. Maybe we'll discharge it without recommendation and we can fix it by CN.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, but why are we doing road improvements onto a Parks project?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I completely agree with you, it shouldn't be in this committee, some of these road improvements. Maybe we can hear from Counsel on this.

MR. BARRY:

When we first saw the resolution it was just for ADA compliance at Vanderbilt. And subsequently to it being laid on the table, it was amended to include all the road improvements. It started out here and I guess that's where it still is.

MR. ZWIRN:

I'm guessing that ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Mr. Zwirn?

MR. ZWIRN:

•• they amended it because they had to get these projects in, so they had a bill and they just added these on, they just amended it to get these projects in. Because they had an IR number and it was already on ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Are they ADA projects, these other ••

MR. ZWIRN:

It doesn't look like it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's doesn't sound like it.

LEG. ALDEN:

We're flexible enough to shift gears and handle this, too.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, it's up to the committee. You want to discharge it?

LEG. ALDEN:

Approve it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Approve it?

LEG. ALDEN:

Sure.

LEG. NOWICK:

Well, we're not debating the bill right now.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

No, we're not. All right, I just want to see what the committee wants to do. Okay, thank you, Mr. Zwirn. Thank you, Mr. Mallamo. We have one other question. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Lance, I see here in your memo, you say that the project will greatly be •• which fund are we working on here? 2360, that will greatly enhance the visitor's experience at the Vanderbilt but will provide major opportunities to

increase revenues at the museum.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

LEG. NOWICK:

You see that covering itself in so many years, or what do you see?

MR. MALLAMO:

Oh, absolutely, absolutely, because this will give us the opportunity to develop programs and have a space to provide those programs. Right now we really don't have space to develop new programs at the museum, we're running at full capacity. And we actually just got a grant to expand our education programs from Bank of America to fund Title I school kids that can't afford to come to the museum; that when school field trips are booked, those children wouldn't be able to come. We'll now be able to cover them so we'll be having more children come. But we will be able to develop new programs on this boardwalk area.

We also do marine science programs with Cornell Cooperative Extension that occur on our property. They have a See•Stars Marine Camp and we've had a couple of situations this summer where it rained and we had no place to put these kids indoors because we were at full capacity, so this presented a problem.

LEG. NOWICK:

So not to put you on the spot ••

MR. MALLAMO:

So these pavilions and boardwalk will help. It will also help us even just in the fact of weddings and wedding photographs which is a huge portion of our revenue right now. To be able to rent that space for an hour, for a wedding event or something under a covered pavilion would definitely help raise revenues at the museum. And I think we'll get increased visitation from people that want to experience the waterfront at the museum.

LEG. NOWICK:

So you think this •• what is it, 500,000 will pay for itself over the course of many years at five years?

MR. MALLAMO:

I would say we would be looking at a •• the museum will make that revenue probably in about five to seven years.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay, thank you.

MR. MALLAMO:

And I will just add that when we were reviewed by the American Association of Museums for reaccreditation last year, they focused on this project as the major area for future development of the museum. Much of what we do at the museum is we're recalling history in the past, this is an opportunity where we can really look to the future in a way that we've never done. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I ask, where did we end up in terms of the width of the boardwalk?

MR. MALLAMO:

What did we end up with?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Six or eight?

MR. MALLAMO:

I believe we were authorized for eight. It's probably going to be more like seven because the handrails will take up about eight inches on each side. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the architecture for that hasn't been approved yet, right, the final architecture?

MR. MALLAMO:

The architecture for the platform and gazebos, no, that will be going back to CEQ. We're going to model those after an existing gazebo in that general area that was there in the Vanderbilt's time period.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Excellent.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, there's no more yellow cards. Let me ask the Commissioner if he wants to approach us before we vote on any of these issues. Commissioner Foley?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Good morning. The one thing I did want to talk about was 2309 which is a license and a special account for Seatuck to occupy the mansion at the Scully property which would be the Suffolk County Environmental Interpretive Center at some point. If you have any questions about that let me know, but it sets up a special fund where all the revenue generated by Seatuck on that property will be dedicated to operation maintenance of the property subject to your approval as the Legislature. We think that's a good idea. We think we can manage it and it keeps the revenue where it was intended to be.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Any questions? Okay. Any other comments, Mr. Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Happy holidays.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, let's move the agenda then.

Tabled Prime Resolutions

1736•05 • To linking County parks fees for veterans to park fees for senior citizens (Cooper). This is a tabled resolution. Have we heard from the Park Trustees, Mr. Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

They have asked us to complete a study of all fees which we're doing ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Motion to table.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

•• and we'll come back with a recommendation based on that.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed?

1736 is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).

2201•05 • Amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with a cash control pilot programs at the Suffolk County West Sayville Golf Course (CP 7186)(Alden).

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to make a motion to table this. And I know that by tabling it, it dies, but I think that we have to do something there and this will give me a little bit more time to work with the Commissioner and we'll be able to develop something I think a little bit more comprehensive.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right, anything we table today will die. So there's a motion by the sponsor to table 2201, second by Legislator Nowick. All in favor?

Any opposed? **2201 is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

2202•05 • Amending the 2005 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the installation of cash control and security at Suffolk County Park facilities (CP 7186)(Alden).

Twenty two on two.

LEG. ALDEN:

Same thing; motion to table.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, motion to table, second by Legislator cooper. All in favor?
Any opposed? ***2202 is tabled (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).***

2309•05 ••

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

•• which is ***a Local Law, authorizing the license and special fund for the Scully Estate (County Executive).*** There was a motion by Legislator Alden, second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Any opposed?
2309 is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).

2327•05 • Appointing a member to the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Gregory Dawson) (Lindsay).

Mr. Gregory Dawson; is he •• this is a reappointment?

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

He's a new appointment. He was not here. Mr. Lindsay, Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I don't know whether I was supposed to get him or you were supposed to get him to come.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think we both were to going to reach out.

LEG. NOWICK:

You've been busy.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I know.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Can we discharge without recommendation?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

My office may have reached out to him, because Eric ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, why don't we do that because it will die. And I don't even •• I don't know Mr. Dawson, he's been recommended by the Town Supervisor of Islip. And the person that currently fills the slot is a holdover for about five or six years.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to discharge without recommendation.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I just •• Legislator Lindsay, is it possible to table this to •• I know that it dies when you table it, but can you table this to the first committee meeting of next year?

LEG. ALDEN:

Not to committee.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Why don't we just discharge it without recommendation, as Legislator

Carpenter said.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Then I think you can do it from the committee •• I mean, from the full Legislature, you might be able to table it to January.

LEG. NOWICK:

Because the only thing I'm thinking about is he has to sit.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, what I was hoping to do is maybe to get Mr. Dawson here Tuesday.

LEG. NOWICK:

But that's a long meeting for him to sit through; not that I know him but, you know, that's a lot of hours to sit through.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is there a rush on this? We can do it in January, no?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, we could except that it took me a while to get a candidate from the town.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Can I respond?

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

You know, the first one that was submitted by the town is a public official and there's •• you know, that's not allowed by the statute. So this •• we

went around a couple of times with this.

LEG. COOPER:

He doesn't have to sit all day. He doesn't have to sit for the vote.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Can I just respond?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Hold on, Legislator Lindsay is still speaking. When he's done you'll have the floor next.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Well, the only thought is if we tried to contact Mr. Dawson and if he could make it here Tuesday, I could ask the Presiding Officer to give him some consideration and let him speak early in the public portion so he wouldn't have to hang around all day. I don't know how many people we'll have Tuesday. It might not be an extensive group for the public portion anyway, you know. I'd rather not have it die. I'd rather try and see if we can get it done Tuesday; if he can't make it then we'll let it die and reintroduce it.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, let's hear from Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I don't know for sure, but I think that you can table from the General Meeting, not from a committee. So that if you're not able to get him to come to the meeting Tuesday, then Tuesday we could table it to the first meeting in January, you know, but at least from that point then you wouldn't have to go through from the beginning of introducing the resolution again. But ideally you would hopefully get him to come Tuesday.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

The person that's currently in this position is who; does anybody know?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I did know.

LEG. ALDEN:

We still have a couple of people here from Vanderbilt.

LEG. LINDSAY:

This isn't Vanderbilt, this is Parks.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, I'm sorry.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Parks Trustee.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

The Commissioner can fill us in I think.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

It's Jay Miller, an attorney in West Sayville.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is he not interested in continuing on?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I don't know.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I don't know that either, but I'm not interested in Mr. Miller continuing his

service. He's been on the board for a long time and I think it's time to make a change. And the supervisor seems to agree with me.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So there is •• did somebody make a motion to discharge without recommendation?

LEG. CARPENTER:

I did.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, Legislator Carpenter, second by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. ALDEN:

Then just on the motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

On the motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

If somebody can reach out to Mr. Miller and just tell him that, you know, he's not going to be reappointed, that would •• you know, prior to Tuesday, that would be I think the proper thing to do also.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

If you'd like me to do that I will.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, that's the right thing to do I think.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? ***2327 is discharged without recommendation (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).***

Introductory Prime Resolutions

Moving on to Introductory Prime, **2359•05 • Appropriating funds in connection with modifications for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at the Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7450) (County Executive).**

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Cooper, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? **Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

2360•05 • Appropriating funds in connection with revitalization of William and Mollie Rogers Waterfront (CP 7427) (County Executive).

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? **Approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

2380•05 • Reappointing William Macchione as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 5) (Tonna).

Have we spoken with him?

LEG. NOWICK:

He's a reappointment.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's a reappointment? Okay, is there a motion?

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a motion by Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. COOPER:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Cooper. Any discussion?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Are we having the reappointments coming before the committee?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

There's a question by Legislator Carpenter as to whether reappointments are coming before the committees. I don't think there's anything statutory on it, so it's really just a practice.

LEG. CARPENTER:

No, I just thought we were on the Vanderbilt bringing them in to see if, you know ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I like the idea of any long appointments •• I'm not sure what the term of this one is. If the terms are more than a few years, I think it's good to bring them back because you typically have new Legislators and you want to meet the people and see what their continued vision for whatever committee that they're serving on is. So I like the idea of bringing people in. But Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

Just a couple of things I'd like to just offer. I think one appropriate inquiry would be whether he attends the meetings or not, and that's always been appropriate. But I've been to a couple of meetings in the past year and Bill seems to be there and he seems to, you know, participate. So, I mean, that would answer or sort of answer that first question.

But you know, if we want to make it a little bit different than what we've

been doing in the past then, you know, we really should change that for everything then, not just the Vanderbilt board, anybody that's a reappointment. If we want to do that going forward, just make sure everybody comes down and states their case why they should continue on.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I would say that, again, since it is a reappointment and the issue of attendance has been addressed here and it is the last meeting of the year, if we don't do it now then you're talking about having to start from square one, and this Legislator won't be here. So, you know, I would support the approval.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So we had a motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Any opposed? ***2380 is approved (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).***

LEG. NOWICK:

I just want to make a comment.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, before we adjourn we have a comment. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, I just wanted to make a comment about that particular Parks •• not the Vanderbilt but the Parks Committee. The appointee •• and I don't know about the rest of the Legislators, but I have been getting a memo from the appointee that I put on the Parks Committee and it's really very helpful to know what's going on there; it's typed up, it's sent to me and it's, "This is what's going on, this is what we've learned." And so at that point when you see that, you do know that whoever you appointed is attending meetings, is interested. And it allows us to understand very quickly what's going on. So that works for me. I don't know if anybody else is interested in that in the future. I think that's a good idea.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'll jump in on that, too.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And we have some additional comments. Could I just point out, because we •• you know, few of us, I guess, get to attend those meetings •• just apprise the committee that the new chair of the Parks Trustees is also an old chair of the Parks Trustees, Ray Cowin •• Ray Corwin, Corwin.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

Ray Corwin, yes.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Ray Corwin. Are we •• oh, we're back on Vanderbilt.

LEG. NOWICK:

I was talking Parks Trustees.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Oh, I'm thinking •• you were talking about Parks Trustees.

LEG. ALDEN:

Parks. And just a quick comment on the Park Trustees. And Jay and I actually attended •• I think it was the last trustee meeting.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

They work hard. They're all volunteers and I think it's interesting. And another point where maybe some other Legislators, you know, just once in a while drop in on a meeting; and just to point out, you get a free lunch, so.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I thought it was very ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

There's no free lunches.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And there isn't many free lunches anymore.

LEG. ALDEN:

Exactly right, and it's under the limit and everything else and it's usually in a nice setting, so.

LEG. NOWICK:

Where are the meetings?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Sayville.

LEG. ALDEN:

Most of the time it's in Sayville but there's been in Montauk and ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We've been moving them around to try to get to different places. This one this week, tomorrow actually, is at Timber Point, so the next one I think we'll have at Coindre Hall in Huntington.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Now, are they •• they're open to all Legislators, I suppose. Is there a way maybe to notify Legislators, particularly if it's happening within their district?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, you do get ••

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I think you get a notice.

LEG. ALDEN:

You get a notice.

LEG. CARPENTER:

You get the notice.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Well, my secretary gets the notice.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just read your notices, that's all.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I know I've gotten them; I haven't went, but I've gotten them.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

You've gotten them, okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

It always seems to be a conflict, but •• may I say something?

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Legislator Alden's comment about the trustees, and Legislator Nowick too, I think sometimes we forget about the trustees. There's much ado about appointments sometimes and we grill them and ask the questions and then they go off to the various boards and then we tend to forget about it. So having that kind of feedback from an appointment I think is very, very helpful.

And also, too, to, you know, try to make an effort to recognize their efforts. Because I know I served on the Vanderbilt Museum Board and I will never forget when I came down here and was really grilled for this volunteer, no salary, no perks, no nothing position where, quite frankly, once you get on the board you're expected to help with fundraising and everything else.

And it was a total disconnect, you know, from the Legislature at that point. And I think that if we could, as we have Volunteer Recognition month every

year, to maybe, you know, reach out and recognize the board, you know, all of those that participate on the various boards, you know, and trusteeships and whatever across the County to say a collective thank you for their service. Because without that kind of dedication, you know, when you think about the Vanderbilt, for example, the fund-raising that they do and, you know, people really have their whole heart in it and then we just forget about it. So for anyone who may read these minutes, I think we all want to say a special thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Could I pick up on one point, too, what Legislator Carpenter said, which is excellent and I want to just echo her comments. But we almost did it a couple of times with the Park Trustees. We were going to have a combined Parks Committee meeting and Parks Trustees. And it's neat because the Parks Trustees are actually meeting with the New York State, I guess, the equivalent and I think there can be a lot of good coordination, a lot of good ideas and exchange. Plus you get to know each other. You know, for once in a while to have the Trustees and the Parks Committee next year meet together might be, you know, like an excellent, fun thing to do. We might even want to take our Parks Committee over to wherever the Trustees are meeting, you know, and then ••

LEG. NOWICK:

Bring them here.

LEG. ALDEN:

Then get our free lunch and maybe play a little golf or hang out in the sun or something like that, you know, depending on where they are.

LEG. NOWICK:

This is getting better and better.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

They don't do that.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, but to combine that meeting might be a lot of fun. And even for the

Vanderbilt once in a while to come down and hold their meeting or maybe we can coordinate schedules, it might be pretty neat to have them come down here to the auditorium and meet with the Parks Committee, too, so.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And you wouldn't have any trouble getting a tee time today.

LEG. NOWICK:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, today wouldn't be a big problem, Bill.

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

We'd be happy to coordinate something like that. And I'd just like to add to what Legislator Carpenter said, that the Parks Department in particular enjoys the benefits of having a great number of volunteers serve on historic preservation boards and people who are caring for historic properties and people associated with the Audubon and the Nature Conservancy, all kinds of things that the County benefits from in ways •• they're doing things that just we wouldn't do if we didn't have them. So add them to the list, if you ever get there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Any other comments? Again, the start date for Third House Renovations is?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I'll have to check.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. It's soon, though, right?

COMMISSIONER FOLEY:

I think all the contractor problems have been resolved and there is a date, but I'm not sure what it is.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, get back to us on that. It's getting closer.

LEG. ALDEN:

Were you on Finance? Because it's ••

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's my holiday present, right?

LEG. ALDEN:

Remember Caracciolo, the answer to Caracciolo, "I'll get back to you at the next meeting"?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

That was nice.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's a tradition and it's my last meeting, right, as chair, I suspect.

Well, I want to thank •• I think it's been a great committee. We've all worked together very well and got a lot done, so thank you all. Happy holidays to all. We are adjourned.

(*The meeting concluded at 11:47 AM)

Denotes spelled phonetically