

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation 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 June 18, 2008.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson (not present)
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair
Leg. Cameron Alden
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick
Leg. Steven H. Stern

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Deputy Clerk
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner of Parks
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
Thomas Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Marge Acevedo, Presiding Officer Aide
Justin Littel, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:14 PM)

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. If you'd all rise and please join the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Steve Stern.

SALUTATION

Please note for the record that our Chair Legislator Viloría-Fisher is not with us today due to a family emergency as same for Legislator Beedenbender. Oh, scratch that. That was the last committee, yeah, sorry.

So as the Vice Chair of the Committee I'll be running the proceedings this afternoon. Is it afternoon? Yeah. And do we have anyone here this afternoon who would like to address the Committee? Okay, for the record there's no response, then we'll go right to our resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

First section is tabled resolutions and I'll call the first. And I think it's -- Commissioner, do you want to come up? I think that's pretty much the traditional policy we have here with the Parks Committee. So welcome this afternoon. Is there anything you'd like to state on the record before we go ahead?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Just turn that on. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice Chairman. At this point I'm just available to answer any questions that you have.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you. So we'll go to the tabled section of the agenda. First is **1346, amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the improvements to historic Chandler Estate. (CP 7511) (Losquadro)** What is this, 1346. Okay, this has been previously tabled. Once again I'll offer a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

Next resolution is **1357, adopting a local law number - 2008, a local law to protect the County's historic and culturally significant properties. (Viloría-Fisher)** At the request of the sponsor I will offer a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, Introductory resolutions, section Six of the agenda, **1490 is the first. And it is authorizing use of the Long Island Maritime Museum by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for their "Annual Run/Walk and Barbecue" fundraiser. (CE Levy)** I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? And that motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1491, authorizing use of Southaven County Park by Contractors for Kids for their picnic and barbecue fundraiser. (CE Levy) I offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1502, authorizing use of Cedar Beach County Park by Event Power for its Mighty North Fork Triathlon fundraiser. (CE Levy) Motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1533, authorizing participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. (Cooper) I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. Legislator Alden, on the motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, if we can just get a little synopsis of what this is going to do, how much it's going to cost us and whether it will interfere with -- or change anything.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Well, what I can tell you, Legislator Alden, is I have spoken to our golf course -- our golf course

staff. And it is -- it is something that we have actually talked about internally about moving towards in the future. It is something that we believe we can accomplish. And it does fall in line with the way we run our golf courses now considering we have the reduction of pesticide use, that we follow IPM practices, Integrated Pest Management practices to minimize the amount of pesticides used and to follow pest management practices overall.

And a significant portion of our golf courses are naturally vegetated. So it something that we believe we can move towards.

At this point, though, I do not know how much it would cost to achieve this. And I think that what we would do is first need to sit down with Audubon and find out from them exactly what's required to get that certification.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, the other thing, you know, while it does concern me, if you give me the assurance that it's not going to impact, I know we're tight in the golf courses. And we're tight on management and we're tight on the people that are actually are out there, you know, maintaining the golf courses. If this is going to have a significant impact on the time of those -- the people that are running our golf courses, that would be, you know, concern on my part. And this looks like we only get one bite at this apple. If it passes we've authorized the participation. And even if you came back us and told us, you know, it's a million bucks to do this and we're going have -- incur overtime and things of that nature, we would be hard pressed to say no at that point.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

You're right. I do not know -- I do not know, I have no idea of what if any fiscal impact or operational impact it would have, if it would require additional staff time at this point. I do not know -- I'm familiar with the Audubon Program but I don't know all the details of it. And we have not met with the Audubon group that operates this program. So we do not know specifically what would be required at each of the four golf courses that we operate to meet their requirements.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe I'm reading into something here that -- and through the Chair, if -- Legislator Counsel, if we approve this, then we pretty much have to go forward even if there's a -- we discover a month or two months from now, six months from now that there's a huge fiscal impact or impact on time; management time?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, it directs the department to take the steps necessary to get the golf courses certified as the sanctuaries. I think if it's going to -- if the Parks Department starts the process and meets with Audubon and determines that there's a significant cost involved that they haven't budgeted for, they probably are going to come back to us and say you need to give us 50,000, a 100,000 and \$150,000 to do this. And that's how we would address that particular problem.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just assume that, you know, we're going to make a motion and approve this. But I would really like that little bit of a hook in there that if the Commissioner feels it's going to impact so greatly on his management time or on operational time or, you know, fiscally that we would be able to re-visit this. And I guess what we're asking -- what I'd ask for is, you know, constant updates on it. If you found out a month from now or six months from now that this is going to really tighten us up as far as time and money that you come back and ask to rethink our decision here.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

May I ask in the First Resolve Clause, I guess in the second phrase where it says "is hereby authorized, empowered and directed", the operative word "directed", if that was amended perhaps or eliminated or -- that the phrase -- the terminology "voluntarily participate", perhaps, that would -- that would give us, I believe, the flexibility to come back to the Legislature and advise you after we've met with Audubon and determine whether or not there are going be significant costs and

operational constraints.

MR. NOLAN:

I don't know if that's the, you know, the sponsor's intention to make it a voluntary participation by the department. Obviously that would require an amendment. That's a different resolution than what's before you.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'd like to see it go forward and explore it, but I don't want to commit to, you know --

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Well, I think we might have some response to that concern. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the United States Golf Association site that partners with the ACSP on this program, it says that no restrictions are placed on the property as a condition of participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. All decisions concerning the implementation of programs, suggestions remain with the golf course superintendent and course officials. So it seems to me that the authority and the discretion will always lie with our Commissioner.

LEG. ALDEN:

To point out one thing, though, down in Bergen County, they had two golf courses that they actually partnered with them. And it did end up a little bit more expensive in the maintenance end and it was time consuming because there was some natural areas that had to be maintained a certain way. And if we're tight now, and I think we are tight on our budget with, you know, golf course maintenance, this could have an impact. And that's what I was drawing attention to.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah. I think you're absolutely right. And that will always be a concern going forward. But I think that the answer to that question in whether or not we would need to make those kinds of improvements or spend, you know, that kind of money, would be discretionary and always within the authority of our Commissioner.

LEG. ALDEN:

The feel the discretion's in there; in this bill?

LEG. STERN:

According to the --

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

LEG. STERN:

-- backup information as provided by the USGA, yes.

MR. NOLAN:

Well, I think, it's definitely -- obviously if we go to Audubon, it's voluntary visa vie them. We don't have to do what they tell us to do. That decision is going to lie with the County. This bill is directing the Parks Department to try to get these courses certified. I'd reiterate that I think if there's more money involved, you know, the Commissioner's going to have to come back and get the money in the budget.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Right. And I think that would also have to be part of the capital budget at that point in order to implement the recommendations of this program. Oh, would it be capital?

MR. NOLAN:

It could be either. I'm not sure what it's going to entail.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay, but either way we would have to fund it so as a function of whether or not to adopt the policy we have that funding authority and we can re-visit it once the Commissioner goes and reaches out to this Society, they come up with a plan of action and recommendations and then we can re-visit it at that time.

All right. On that basis I will offer a motion to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

All right, **1535, amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase and installation of playground equipment in Smith Point County Park (Capital Project 7162) (Eddington)** Let me just take a look at the bill. BRO, Lance, just any specific --

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, this uses a \$100,000 from the Legislature's offset project 1755 and appropriates the money for equipment for the purchase of playground equipment.

LEG. ALDEN:

Question.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right, before you do that I'll offer a motion to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. STERN:

I'll second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

For discussion purposes. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Commissioner, do you know where -- the location of this playground equipment? Because Smiths Point got significant erosion problem and we might even to relocate the building that's there right now.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I can tell you we are currently in a master plan update process. We've been meeting with DPW and the consulting engineers hired to do the update. There is on the draft master plan conceptual plan that's part of this update, there's an area shown for a future playground area. It -- basically it would be located just to the west of the pavilion going towards the -- just on top of what used to be or just landward of the primary dune there.

In terms of overall erosion, I can tell you that there is a larger plan that is currently being studied called the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study, known as the FIMP. The State of New York, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Army Corps of Engineers are

currently working on that study. It is supposed to be completed by the end of next year. And as part of that it would look at all the erosion from Fire Island inlet eastward to Montauk Point and how to deal with those issues including those that occur in front of Smith Point. And a number of proposals have been put forth. That would -- we are hopeful that would address the longer term concerns about erosion in that area in and around the pavilion.

LEG. ALDEN:

The location that you just mentioned, west of the pavilion and where the primary dune was, that area actually has been rebuilt a couple of times, replenished or whatever you want to call it. And so that that would actually sustain a direct attack by a major storm or hurricane.

And the second point would be if this is a future plan for a playground, what's the odds of this thing getting done this year or in the near future? If we approve this and went forward with it?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right now we have to -- there's a companion resolution proposed later on that addresses doing a beach re-nourishment using FEMA and SEMO money. And I think that might help to address that issue later on. That because of the erosion that was incurred last year around mid- April of 2007, FEMA and SEMO came forth with monies towards the -- I believe it was about \$11 million to do a beach replenishment program in front of the pavilion and in a few other hot spots at Smith Point to replenish beach sand that was lost due to that storm. So I think that would -- when that project occurs, that would help to address erosion that might impact the placement of a playground there.

In terms of exactly when the playground would happen, I can't say if we would get to it this year. We have some other issues we need to deal with including upgrading electrical facilities at the campground area. There's some additional electrical work that needs to be done inside the pavilion itself. So there's some other infrastructure that's proposed to be done.

In addition we have as you are probably aware, we are planning on constructing a Bay side dock that is supposed to extend from the north side of the parking lot. And that currently is going to be going out to bid again shortly for that. So those are the types of things that we are already committed to doing. So I don't know exactly how and when the playground would fit into the other proposals.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'd be supportive of this. But with the realization that we're not going to do it and then end up having to rip it out or have it washed out. If we take it step by step in a logical fashion, then we'll do the protection, we'll do the beach replenishment. And then we'll locate this some place where it makes common sense. But it's a good offset so I would be supportive.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

This is part of a larger capital project, I believe, at the park; is that correct?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right. Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, this wasn't. This would amend and create this to be part of the capital because the playground was something that was like way off in the future.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I don't believe we specifically identified a playground for this year, to occur this year there. We were looking to do other --

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Right. So this would be in the normal -- in the larger scheme of the larger capital project going on.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Fulfilling the master plan.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

The master plan.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

There have been several master plans for Smith Point. The last update was done about ten years ago. We're going to this current update. And in that current update, a playground is shown on the conceptual plan for the site.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Legislator Stern, question?

Okay, there is pending a motion to approve. And it has been -- and has received a second. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1555, amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program to reflect the establishment of New Capital Project Number 7128 "Improvements to Hubbard County Park" and accepting and appropriating funds for a 100 percent State Funded Community Enhancement Facilities Assistance Program grant (CE Levy) I offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

MR. NOLAN:

It's all state monies but it is amending the Capital Budget and Program and normally we do not put those on the consent calendar.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay, **1556, amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program to reflect the establishment of New Capital Project Number 5380 "Beach Erosion and Coastline Protection" and accepting and appropriating 75 percent Federal Aid funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program and a 25 percent matching funds from the New York State Emergency Management Office (CE Levy) Offer a motion to approve.**

LEG. STERN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1565, Directing the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to install cigarette butt receptacles at County parks and beaches. (Cooper) Okay. Motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

I'll second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Let's take a look at it. On the motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

While you're outside enjoying the clean, fresh air, you got to dispose of your cigarette butt.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Commissioner, we haven't done this already? I would think -- is this just an ongoing program that we install these or is this a new --

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I believe that was introduced by Legislator Cooper. I don't believe we have any specific cigarette butt receptacles at most of our facilities.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

And is this being done within your, you know, your present budget? I'm just curious.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes, it would be. This is not something that we had -- we have specifically included in our 2008 budget either operating or capital. So this is something that we didn't specifically budget for.

MR. NOLAN:

The resolution has a resolve clause that if the department cannot implement the resolution within existing appropriations the department has to come back within 60 days and advise the Legislature how much it will cost.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay. So it's really going to fall within the Parks Department to determine location with some guidance given in the resolution itself. All right, I'll offer a motion. I think that I -- is there a motion pending on this? Yeah, okay. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

1574, appropriating funds in connection with improvements to County golf courses (Capital Project 7165) to plan for the replacement of the obsolete golf cart barn at the Suffolk County Timber Point Golf Course. (Alden)

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Hold on. All right. There's a motion to approve by Legislator Alden, second from Legislator Nowick. Just on the motion, can you explain it just very briefly for us?

LEG. ALDEN:

This is part of the capital budget that was approved. And basically it involves a -- there's a lot of issues at Timber Point. And the flow of traffic right there, this would clean up and actually add to safety improvements. And it would take out a cart barn that was built probably back in the '30's and is pretty much obsolete. It probably would end up being relocated to improve the safety and the flow into the golf course; plus it's a revenue enhancer.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Commissioner, have you had an opportunity to review the need for doing that? And can you give us any information?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

The one question I have for Legislator Alden is, there's an ancillary need that we have there. And

that is having to do with traffic circulation patterns including -- we have a lot of traffic moving through that whole area, as you know. Timber Point Marina, traffic comes through there. We have the Marine Bureau Traffic coming through there. And one of the things we've talked about internally is the need to develop a better traffic pattern for bag drop-off's and -- so as to ensure that folks aren't -- nobody gets clipped by a vehicle when they're trying to drop off their bag safely. Would this cover looking at traffic circulation patterns without making improvements?

LEG. ALDEN:

I believe it would. And actually I put this in after witnessing a school bus almost back over two kids. You know, their parents had dropped them off. And the school bus had dropped off a golf team and it had to back up because it couldn't make the turn. So this would take in that whole area. And that's right in front of the cart barn. And there's some confusing asphalt that was put in there over the past 20 something years. So I believe this would clean up that safety problem. And like you said, apply these funds to look at the drop-off, the traffic going through to the marina. And there's another building that's in there that was a halfway house that isn't being used as a half-way house. It would address a number of different problems.

Plus, as you know, the contract vendee had space that was taken away from him. And that had to be addressed at some point. And I believe that this would address that problem also. So it looks like it would address a number of problems in there.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

The only thing I would state is that I do not know where or if -- where the -- this would fit in in terms of priorities for what we have to do in terms of capital work at our golf courses. Not -- I'm talking about going beyond the planning but the actual -- actual construction of -- actual construction work associated with a cart barn.

I can tell you we do have some other -- we do have some other needs at some of our other courses and as well as Timber Point. We have some drainage issues, some erosion issues such as a Gibraltar that we would be looking to address over the next year or so as well as our irrigation system at the West Sayville Golf Course. So I'm not sure where in terms of actual construction, I know this is just for planning but in looking to the future I don't know at this point where this would fit in in terms of those other competing capital projects.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Well, would you like an opportunity to maybe take a look at that and determine whether or not this is something that -- what?

LEG. NOWICK:

(Inaudible)

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

I'm sure.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

This is planning money at this point and --

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Well, this says that the structure that we're talking about which is the golf cart barn, just looking at the resolution, I apologize, I don't know much more about it, it says the replacement of an obsolete golf cart barn. So is it obsolete? Does the Parks Department feel that we need to set this as a priority or is it part of a larger reconfiguration as Legislator Alden was speaking to.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I would say it's part of a larger configuration as Legislator Alden mentioned. Traffic safety is a concern there. We do have a vacant halfway house that is not being utilized at this point. The cart

barn is timber. It's -- in fact it was actually two separate buildings at one time. And a common roof was put over the center of it to increase the space in there. I do know that the carts that are in there now are pretty well jammed in. And there's no fire suppression system in there. It is an old -- an old structure.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Does the structure right now present a safety risk or concern?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

If it were to -- if it were to be examined under today's New York State building code requirements, it would not meet code requirements.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay. Does it present a risk; a safety risk?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

It could present a safety risk. Timber building certainly in close proximity to the main house which is undergoing significant renovation, right now we're in the second phase of the restoration and renovation of the Timber Point Clubhouse, it could pose a risk to that particularly if a fire were to occur.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Chairman, just to elaborate a little bit on it, when you pull up to Timber Point, there's a main entrance to the building. That would be for, you know, functions. That would be for catering functions. To actually get to the golf -- to the pro shop to go out and play golf, you have to go between the main house, which is a wooden structure. And we've put significant money into it. And you have to go between that and this structure. There's about 20, 25 feet in there. And there is, like the Commissioner just said, the proximity, if something happens in this cart barn, it's going to happen to the main structure because they're so close to each other.

The other thing is by moving this structure just a little bit, you rip it down and replace it, you're going to open up the vista there, you're going to create a flow of traffic that's going to be a lot more safe for pedestrians walking to and from -- for vehicles coming in and dropping off. So it's all pretty much tied together. And this was -- this is jammed in basically. It's a little bit too tight to the actual -- the main house, the structure.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

I'd like to give the Commissioner's office an opportunity to maybe see how this fits into the other work that's going on there. And I'm sure you would agree, you know, again, being careful with our priorities and bonding and the debt and the expenditure of funds, if it's a structure that opposes a risk, if it's a structure that we need to bond right now in order to remove that risk or if it's part of the larger project or reconfiguration going on there, but I would -- I'm not adverse to the resolution but I'd like to give the Parks Department -- maybe to take a look at that and see if we're ready to go forward with this and address it at the next meeting.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, actually this provides the money to take that look at it so your comments would support the passing of this resolution. And as far as the other things that were mentioned, they are part of the capital budget. And even to get back to one specific thing you said, Gibraltar, we put over a million dollars in that. And I'm going to mispronounce it but you call it a gabion, right? How do you pronounce that properly? It's rocks.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Gabion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. We put a million bucks in there already. Now that's going to have to be subsequent work because the million plus that we put in there has been a little bit eroded. So we're going to have to go back and re-do part of the work that we've done in the past.

And the water system over at West Sayville, that was upgraded a number of years ago. And it looks like it needs a little bit more work to be upgraded. And I fully support all the work that we've done and it's probably more than \$10 million in the ten years that I've been here to our golf courses. And the revenue that we take in from the golf courses is indicative of our commitment. And I am fully dedicated to supporting the improvements that we need to make into our -- especially our golf courses and Parks Department because I think that they provide the quality of life to bring people here. They also supply us with capital because these golf courses throw off millions of dollars that goes into our general revenues for the County. And this is one way of enhancing that.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Yeah, I agree with all of that. And, Legislator Stern, I'll recognize you in one second. Commissioner, do you need this resolution passed in order to determine if you're ready to go ahead with this project?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

We could do a review, an internal review and outline for the Committee at a subsequent meeting what we're planning to do over the next several years in terms of golf course improvements and capital projects and could come back to you and advise you where this would fit into that. So it doesn't need to be -- it doesn't need to be -- no, it does not need to be.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

We're looking at a bill right now that's going to delete, we all took a look at deleting, it was in committee, I don't know if you're on that committee, we're deleting old projects, capital projects, housekeeping and we're going to address that on Tuesday. And, you know, if the Parks Department is not ready to go ahead and do this in the next year or two, whatever it's going to be, then I'd like to know that before we go ahead and vote on the bill.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yeah, at this point I don't foresee us doing this in the next year or two -- doing actual construction on this. I do know from our review of the capital projects for the golf courses in general that we have a lot of other projects. The West Sayville irrigation system needs to be completely replaced, for example. I know that's going to be rather costly to do that. And we're having significant issues with that at this point right now with operating that system. So that will be one of our top priorities.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just as a reminder, though, this was part of the Capital Program that we approved for this year. This is not an add-on, this is not an amendment. This is -- and as a matter of fact it differs from some of the stuff we did today that we've already approved that were amendments and add-ons. This was part of the project that we looked at and passed.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Just to clarify that, so I understand, you mean replacement of the structure was part of the capital project or in general this is a capital project?

LEG. ALDEN:

No, this is the capital project that was in the budget -- was included in the budget that was passed last year. The capital budget that was passed included this project in it. And it included -- and it included in subsequent years the money that would actually build the new cart barn.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

But the project was -- the project title's Improvements to County Golf Courses. It's a general

project number. This --

LEG. ALDEN:

Let's go right to Budget Review. Was this part of it or was it not?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct. Last year's omnibus included the \$80,000 specifically for the replacement of the cart barn. The passage of this year's omnibus for the 2009, 2011 Capital Program also was amended to include a million dollars for construction in subsequent years recognizing the fact that this is a long-term program to fit in with the overall development and maintenance of the golf courses.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right. So that the \$80,000 appropriation is a line item in our budget.

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And a lot of times we don't make specific projects because we wrap them into larger projects. But the omnibus did specifically state that this was for the cart barn.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay, good. We need to know that. Was the capital budget that we -- is it in the '8 capital budget?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, this is the '08 capital budget. And last year when this was adopted, the omnibus specifically included this money for the cart barn. Same as this year's capital project adoption process includes a million dollars in subsequent years for next year's Capital Program.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right. That's good. But, Legislator Alden, the Commissioner is saying that they're not prepared to go forward with it at this time.

LEG. ALDEN:

They absolutely can do the -- this is the planning steps. This is exactly what you have to do now so in future years you can build the structures. And if it doesn't -- I mean it takes care of a whole bunch of different things. As I said before, we're going to end up with a lawsuit because right in this area there's been people hit, there's a bunch of incidents that I've witnessed and that other people have witnessed. You have a situation where if a fire breaks out in this building, it more than likely will burn down our large building. You have the process whereby a contract vendee was awarded space. That space was taken away from him because of one of our other capital projects, which included putting an elevator in, putting in new locker rooms, ground floor bathrooms. So that space was taken away from him. That would address all those problems right now in the planning and exactly what we're supposed to do.

Similar to if we have a problem with the erosion, then we're going to have to actually pass an amendment to the budget because nothing in this year's capital budget or last year's capital budget planned for that erosion. Nothing in that budget that I remember seeing planned for the replacement of the irrigation system at West Sayville. So those are going to be amendments. This is taking care of a number of problems that exist right now.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right. Thank you. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, thank you. You had mentioned that other work is being done there at this point; at the course?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

At Timber Point, yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah. Can you quickly describe what some of the other work is.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right now the main clubhouse which serves a number of purposes is being renovated. It's approximately 30,000 square feet in floor space there. We have a catering operation there. There's a 19th hole that is within there. We also have administrative offices on the second floor used by the caterer as well as by some of our divisions including our environmental, or golf division as well as our historical services division.

There's also storage that occurs on the third floor of the facility as well so it's serving multiple purposes. And the golf course, golf pro, golf operator also has space within the building for his pro shop as well. So it's multiple purposes going on there.

We're in the second phase of renovation of that structure. And we're expecting to go to a third phase soon. As part of that second phase, as Legislator Alden alluded to, it was required that the building being made more disabilities compliant so a full service elevator has been installed that will provide service to all the floors in that facility. On the golf course proper, we have been doing work to improve drainage along some of the cart paths there and improve some of the ancillary grounds on the golf course proper.

LEG. STERN:

We're early in the season and we've had a lot of rain. But do you have any idea as to the status of number of rounds? How is it looking there?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I don't have a number for you. I can tell you, though, that if we compare Memorial Day weekend 2008 to 2007, we are up in terms of numbers at all our facilities including the golf courses; just comparing -- I don't have numbers in front of me specifically for Timber Point but I can tell you in general that rounds of golf played that week compared to 2007 at all four golf courses were up this year.

LEG. STERN:

I don't remember. Did it rain last year?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I don't -- I don't recall.

LEG. ALDEN:

Interruption? It's going to be interesting, too, because I think they came to this Committee. And it's an association of privately-owned but open to the public golf courses. And they were looking for some way that they could favorably compete with us because our courses have actually been improved to the point where we're very competitive with some of the better maintained private courses out there that are open to the public. So it just shows that our program over the past couple of years has really kicked in and created the cash flow that we were looking for in the -- for the county revenues. And as they come forward and look for some kind of relief or a way that they can compete, I think it's going to be interesting to see the number of rounds that we've retained or each improved on our golf courses compared to what some of the the private industry's doing.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right. Well, going back to this resolution, it is in the capital budget. It is a specific project. This provides planning funds. Legislator Alden has detailed some safety concerns there. And I would urge the Parks Department to take a hard look at that. Perhaps it should be a priority and I'd be prepared to support the bill.

All right. So there's a motion to approve and it has a second by Legislator Nowick. And I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

All right. Next is **1579, appropriating funds in connection with equipment for revenue collection at park facilities (Capital Project 7186) (CE Levy) Mr. Pavacic?**

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

This is our top priority in terms of capital appropriations for this year. Our revenue collection system has been in operation now. This is its second year of our point of sale system. And this would help to significantly improve and enhance that system and also expand it. It provides, for example, other data. I mentioned about Memorial Day weekend. We're able to readily compare what activities are going on at some of our facilities.

The point of sale system is something that has also -- grew out of a prior audit by the Comptroller's Office in terms of fiscal and internal controls. And it's something that helps us to meet those requirements about better fiscal management. These enhancements would cover both hardware and software as it is a somewhat customized program. As time goes on, certain enhancements and need for refinements are identified which we -- which we then need to have implemented sometimes fairly quickly. It would also provide for things such as additional memory and server capacity for the system as well -- as well as backup.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you. I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)**

Final resolution on the agenda **1580, authorizing use of Smith Point County Park, property by the Montauk Highway Merchants' Association and the Chamber of Commerce of the Mastics and Shirley for a Summer Youth Program (Browning)** I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I would just like to ask we have not received -- we were supposed to have received a package of information from the proposers of this program. We had a meeting with them last week. We have not at this point received that. There was a number of issues that we had raised in regard to this proposal which included the location; the fact that the site is located adjacent to Fire Island National Seashore where we have a large mosquito problem.

In addition one of the other issues has to do with cost and the number of personnel that would be required for this because this is for multiple days in the upcoming summer months. As you know, we are facing the impending retirement of a number of our key operations folks. And this is not

something that we had budgeted for or knew about last year. This is something that's just come up fairly recently.

I've just checked and we have not yet received a proposal from these folks detailing exactly how the program would operate, how many youths they would plan on having. They were supposed to outline providing additional security personnel, private security personnel. We have not seen any details on that at this point.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Just -- what's the length of time that we're authorizing in this bill?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

It's for July and August. Now I think that's one of the -- the issues is that if it's -- if it were tabled today, if we were -- if we got the necessary information, could a CN be done necessarily if it was proven that this project, this activity should go forward.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Yes. Legislator Alden and then Nowick.

LEG. ALDEN:

Go ahead.

LEG. NOWICK:

We could discharge without recommendation. And in the interim if you can reach out and tell them you have 'til Tuesday. And if not, they lose it? Could we do that?

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

I would support that. Legislator Alden.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just have like probably the same questions or concerns that everybody else here would have. But a youth program -- and in my district a youth program just had to be cancelled because police presence was withdrawn from it. So the Hecksher Youth Program, that's not going to happen. And I believe in two or three other locations in Suffolk County those youth programs either had to be reconfigured or cancelled because of the withdrawal of the police presence.

So this also raises the question that at any time we have an outside, whether it's a not-for-profit or anybody uses the Parks, even the Long Island two day walk, there's a fee involved. And that's statutory. Has there been an application to waive the fee or -- what would be the structured fee in there? And sometimes if they want to hold a concert on, you know, county property, the fee would be substantially more than if you want to hold a, you know, a walkathon or a picnic where the Commissioner's indicated there could be substantial cost to this.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

It's my understanding, Legislator Alden, that they have not yet applied to us for the normal group permit that would be associated with this. And, therefore, we have not received a fee that would go with that as well.

The site on which this is proposed is known as the Dare site because many years ago the regular county police department did operate a youth program there at that facility. That is not what is

being proposed here. There are -- we would need to provide for park police presence at the site. It's not something that we had budgeted for last year as well as having our operation staff there to deal with trash removal and other operational activities such as cleaning the bathrooms as well.

LEG. ALDEN:

So you don't even know if this is a five day a week operation, one day?

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

It's in the bill if I can just interrupt. Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening in July and August 2008 beginning on July 10th and ending on August 30th from 6 PM to 10 PM each day.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's kind of like what I read. That coincides with the youth program at Hecksher Park, the one up in Huntington and the one -- Babylon, I think, had it. But all those got cancelled because of police withdrawals.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Well, my question, if I can just ask a quick question is, so let's say we approve this. Now you have a four acre site in a county park being used for this purpose at those times. That would require additional attention and security beyond what's already being done in the park.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct. We'd have to redeploy staff there on overtime including having a park police presence there. I don't know how many officers. We're talking probably at least one, possibly two being staged there and pulled off of other patrols but also may need to call in people off of -- overtime because it's in the evening hours. And, again, it's not something that we had budgeted for.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Do you know, has this summer youth program been run in previous years?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Not to my knowledge. As I said before, there was a prior program a number of years ago that was operated by the Police Department there under the Dare Program. That's why that particular site is known as the Dare site, the Dare area.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Yeah, but that was a county-run program.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

At a county park.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's right.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

As opposed to a privately sponsored youth program. Legislator Alden, I'm sorry to interrupt. Did you have more?

LEG. ALDEN:

That's fine. Go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

You don't want to kill it but like you said, discharge it? Is that what the motion was?

LEG. NOWICK:
(Inaudible)

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

You know, just before we do that, I'm looking at the Statement of Financial Impact. Was this prepared by BRO? There would be no fiscal impact to the County as a result of this legislation as it does not include a site use fee?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, it's a -- we view it more as an opportunity cost of redeploying people and using existing resources to -- for the additional work. And I don't think there's any mention of a fee in the resolution.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

All right. I'll offer a motion to discharge without recommendation and -- yeah -- and seconded by Legislator Alden. And, Commissioner, I guess you can reach out or your office can reach out to the organizations, let them know that it is going to the Legislature; but unless there's certain questions answered, the specifics that you're looking for, it would be problematic. And you can fill us in on Tuesday. Okay. All in favor?

LEG. ALDEN:
Through the Chair?

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:
Yes, go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

We should also reach out to the sponsor and just make her aware that there's huge deficiencies in this.

VICE CHAIR D'AMARO:

Yeah. Okay. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries **(Vote: 4-0-0-1. Leg. Viloría-Fisher not present)** That bill is discharged without recommendation.

That concludes the agenda for today. Commissioner Pavacic, thank you very much for coming down and helping us out.

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Stern. We're adjourned. Thank you.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:04 PM)
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**