

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 May 7, 2008.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson
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
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office.
Tracey Bellone, Deputy Commissioner of Parks
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Steven Gittelman, Vanderbilt Museum
Carol Ghiorso Hart, Vanderbilt Museum
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
Patrick K. Boyles, Park Police Unit
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 1:34 PM)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for being here at the meeting of the Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee. We changed that name, sorry, Parks and Recreation Committee. Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Stern.

SALUTATION

We have two cards. And thank you to our Park Trustees who are here today. And we have two cards. And I hate to call you this, but it's the usual suspects. It's -- Carol Hart is number one and Steve Gittelman is number two. Okay. Please come up.

MS. GIORSI HART:

Good afternoon. I'm here today about Capital Project Resolution 7441, that's our facade project. This is a continuation of ongoing facade work. This would be an appropriation for the second half of a phase one. My DPW liaison tells me it's a critical appropriation, that they can't really move forward with a bidding process until the second half of the money is in place. The project, this would cover, would be the bell tower, which if any of you have been out to the property recently is netted and scaffolding is in place right now. This is where they're going to start. And it's part of an ongoing project over the next few years. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Carol. Are there any questions? Thank you very much. Steve Gittelman.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I really have nothing to add only that come up to the museum and visit.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. And I would like to welcome back our Deputy Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Come on up and join us. It's wonderful to see you and we expect to see some pictures. I hope you have them somewhere.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Yes, I do.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Good to see you. We're just going to go through the agenda or would you like to make any remarks before we begin?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

No, you can go through, if you have any questions.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, because we're all a little tired. It was a long Ways and Means Committee, but we will stop if you have any comments on any of the pieces of legislation.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Okay.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The first one is **IR 1249, tabled resolution Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property by Mastic Beach Ambulance Company for "Help Us Save You Program".**

(Browning) There were number of questions about this during the last meeting. And my aide has distributed to all the members a letter from the Commissioner, which I think really satisfactorily explains why this fee is at the amount that it is; and he gives us a very detailed history of past resolutions that have supported this fee schedule. So I'm going to make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. Are there any comments on this? Okay. Calling the vote. I'm sorry, my brain is freezing. Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **1249 is approved.**

APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

1312, Authorizing use of Long Island Maritime Museum property by Friends of Bradstock for a Music and Arts Festival fundraiser. (PO Lindsay) And we do have here that there is a fee being collected for its use. I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Okay. **IR 1312 stands approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)** I'm sorry, Legislator Alden, would you like to be listed with the majority on the first two? Sorry.

LEG. ALDEN:

I think I made the second one, right?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Did you make the second one, okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just the first one.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It was the Mastic Ambulance Department. And there's a letter from the Commissioner stating why the -- full explanation of why they're being charged a fee that they're being charged.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. So that passed?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That passed, yes, unanimously.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you. **IR 1335, Authorizing use of Cedar Point County Park by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society-Long Island Chapter for its MS150 Twin Forks Bike Tour Fundraiser. (Co. Exec. Levy)** I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. And there -- the fee is listed in the resolution. IR 1336 -- Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Call the vote.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Sorry. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1335 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1336, Authorizing use of Meschutt County Park by the Suffolk Bicycle Riders Association for its Bicycle Rally Fundraiser. (Co. Exec Levy) I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1336 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1337, Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Birthright of Peconic, Inc. for its Walkathon Fundraiser. (Co. Exec. Levy)

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro, second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1337 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)** Did I call the vote on that?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I don't know.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll just say it again. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? Okay. IR 1337 is approved.

IR 1338, Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by American Diabetes Association for its Tour De Cure Fundraiser. (Co. Exec. Levy)

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1338 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1346, Amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to historic Chandler Estate (CP 7511). (Losquadro)

MR. ZWIRN:

Madam, Chairwoman?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might add, the County Executive just asks that this be tabled and that the Legislature if they could consider it when they look at the 2009 Capital Budget. And if they want to include it just put it in there.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually, Mr. Zwirn, I was going to ask some questions about this because I have concerns about the half a million dollars. And I know that the structure has burnt down so I wanted a clearer description of where that \$500,000 was going to go. So I was considering making a motion to table --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- in any case.

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1346 stands tabled. TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1357, Adopting Local Law No. -2008, A Local Law to protect the County's historic and culturally significant properties. (Viloria-Fisher) This has to be tabled for a public hearing so I'll make that motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Alden. And Legislator Alden, I would ask if you could take a close look at this because you and I have spoken about this and I'd like to have conversations with you regarding this.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. There's a motion to table for public hearing and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1357 is tabled for public hearing. TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1360, Amending Resolution No. 654-2007, exempting deployed or mobilized military personnel from paying County parks daily fees. (Horsley)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

There's a motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro, seconded by Legislator Stern. Does anybody need Counsel to explain the changes?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, just one quick question.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

If you mobilize or deploy then how are you going to use the County park in the first place? But this is --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's precisely what he's going to explain.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, cool. Thanks, George.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, this actually, I think originated with the Parks Department itself saying that they needed this change in order to make the intent of the Legislature happen so that people who are here and want the exemption they present the right proof, they get it. Am I correct in that, Tracey?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I think there was little further explanation to deployed and still being here.

MR. ZWIRN:

I think that the language had to be corrected. And I think this applies mostly, Legislator Alden, to the 106th Air National Guard members and the Marine Detachment in Amityville --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Because they are deployed.

MR. ZWIRN:

-- that are mobilized, but they're here.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, so they're still here, but they're going -- they got their orders.

MR. ZWIRN:

But they are mobilized, but they are stationed right here and can be moved, but they are under -- a lot of them in Amityville are the funeral honor guard detachment that shows up at --

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, yeah. So they're permanently here, but this would allow them to use the parks at the reduced rate.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

I guess you guys are going to go look at it, but, you know, when you go in to pay for your green fees, there's like a list it's -- now it's --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- it's getting very long.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- now it like goes from the ceiling down to the floor. And I can find where that could be confusing to a --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

We're currently reviewing the whole structure.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

MR. ZWIRN:

As it stands now it's just you and I are the only ones paying park fees in Suffolk County.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, because I think you might be senior citizens.

MR. ZWIRN:

That's cold, that's cold.

LEG. ALDEN:

Whoa, whoa, him? You mean him -- you're putting him and I in the same -- he's much older than I am.

MR. ZWIRN:

One for Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I know, I just love scoring those points, Ben. Okay. So we have a motion before us to approve. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **IR 1360 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1376, Amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the reconstruction of the bulkhead at Timber Point Marina (CP 5377). (Co. Exec. Levy) And that's \$45,000. Is there a motion?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion by Legislator D'Amaro, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **IR 1376 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1379, Appropriating funds in connection with restoration of facades at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7441). (Co. Exec. Levy)

It's \$100,000. I'll make a motion to approve. 100,000. It was amended? I'm sorry. Did I get that number wrong? I'm sorry, can you come up please. Or actually --

LEG. ALDEN:

Budget Review has it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Budget Review, thank you. Yeah, I'm sorry, I misstated that.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I'm sorry, could you repeat the question please?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The amount.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Oh, it's \$100,000 for planning and a million dollars for construction.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Sorry, I just read the first part of it.

LEG. ALDEN:

And on the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is this part one or part two or part three? Because I remember we had appropriated money before for the restoration of this from some of the facades.

MR. REINHEIMER:

This is an ongoing project for restoration facades and will continue into the future. The construction of the Vanderbilt with the plaster overlay, when it cracks and becomes compromised moisture gets behind, it breaks away. Currently the bell tower, the bedroom bell tower, is in scaffolding, has netting because it's a safety problem, too, with falling. The facade is actually crumbling and falling and needs extensive work.

LEG. ALDEN:

Through the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Go ahead.

MR. REINHEIMER:

And that's what this -- this is going to address that problem.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. But on any of these, you know, anything that's a stucco structure there's a lot of things that you can do to prevent it from getting to this stage. Are we instituting those procedures? Do you know or --

MR. REINHEIMER:

It's lately or it has been kind of catch up. We've never gotten, to my knowledge, ahead of the problem. And you're correct in that way. That's why I'm saying, this is an ongoing project. This is something that needs to be done ongoing so that it doesn't get to this state where it is. It's a -- hasn't been funded sufficiently to be able to get ahead of that. So it's kind of catching up and fixing things that are crumbling and falling. And this has been a problem with other areas of the facility.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I made a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded had by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1379 is approved. APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

And that concludes the agenda. Is there anyone who has a comment for this committee? Okay. There being none, I make a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. Thank you very much for your patience. I know that we ran a little bit late in getting started. Thank you.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:49 PM)
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**