

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 April 16, 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:

William Lindsay, Presiding Officer
Terrence G. Pearsall, Chief of Staff
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner of Parks
Bill Shilling, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Thomas Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Steven Gittelman, Vanderbilt Museum
Carol Ghiorso Hart, Vanderbilt Museum
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative
John Fritz, Parks Trustee
Bill Dieck, Resident
Thomas Jones, SCC Representative
Matthew Mullins, SC Deputy Sheriff's PBA
Patrick K. Boyles, SC DS PBA - Park Police Unit
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Diana Kraus and Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:05 PM)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Good afternoon and welcome to our Parks and Recreation Committee. Please join us in the pledge led by Legislator D'Amaro.

(SALUTATION)

Thank you. We have one card. Steve Gittelman? We have two cards.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I was third, I think.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. William Dieck?

MR. DIECK:

Okay. Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Dieck, you have three minutes.

MR. DIECK:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't know if you heard me, Mr. Dieck, you have three minutes?

MR. DIECK:

Yes, okay. I was until very recently the Director of Operations at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. And the purpose of my being here today is to ask this Committee to look into the reasons for my dismissal. I understand the museum considers itself autonomous except when needing capital funding for its many projects; however, as a Suffolk County Park, I believe this Committee can ask questions to determine the validity of my complaint.

Approximately three weeks ago a person in his twenties was hired as a museum restoration supervisor. He had worked for me on grounds several years ago. Subsequently two meetings were held between Mrs. Hart, the Acting Executive Director and myself. It was explained to me by Mrs. Hart there would be a great deal of crossover of responsibility and we would need to work together.

Less than two weeks later I was told by Mrs. Hart due to funding problems I was being laid off, not the recently hired restoration supervisor, whom I might add was the son of the Director of Ops I replaced approximately nine years ago.

I do not know the recent hire's salary; however I do know I declined the benefits package worth approximately 11 to 12 thousand dollars per year while I worked there for the nine years. That's due to the fact that my wife also works for the County.

I have with me job postings for both my position and this new position. And if you look you'll see that the requirements are extremely close. I also have previous minutes of board minutes indicating nothing derogatory, in fact, mentioning what a good job grounds and myself had been doing throughout the years.

The museum has made the decision despite my years of experience and qualifications to choose a less qualified and much younger replacement. My question is why? The museum is constantly fighting monetary problems. I understand that. Grounds has been cut from seven to five to two to maintain 45 acres and nine buildings. But again I ask why? And that's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Would you have those postings with you and can you submit them, please, for the record, since you referred to them?

MR. DIECK:

Yes, I do.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. I'd like to take a look at them. Are there any questions from the Committee? Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Sir, good afternoon. Could you just state your name, again, please?

MR. DIECK:

William Dieck.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm sorry.

MR. DIECK:

William Dieck.

LEG. D'AMARO:

D-i-e-c-k?

MR. DIECK:

That's correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

How long did you say you were employed by the museum?

MR. DIECK:

Just short of nine years.

LEG. D'AMARO:

In what capacity was that again?

MR. DIECK:

Director of Operations.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. I missed the first two minutes of your presentation. Do you have a -- currently have a wrongful

discharge or any other kind of action pending against Suffolk County or the Vanderbilt Museum or --

MR. DIECK:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

Did you go to the Labor Department?

MR. DIECK:

Not yet. I applied for unemployment, which I'm entitled to according to the letter I was given by the museum.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. But right now you did not serve Suffolk County with any papers or --

MR. DIECK:

None.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- anything of that nature?

MR. DIECK:

No, sir.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Dieck, when you were dismissed from your position, the reason given was financial; that you were being laid off because of financial constraints? Is that what you said?

MR. DIECK:

Yes, lack of funds.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So there was no indication that you were being laid off due to any shortfall on your part regarding your performance?

MR. DIECK:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And how much time were you given when you were laid off? How much warning?

MR. DIECK:

Twenty minutes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, so you were told the day --

MR. DIECK:

I walked into work on Monday morning and I was told within five minutes after I got there that I was to leave.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And was there any severance time?

MR. DIECK:

No. All I got paid for was vacation time due owed me.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And you said you're giving us the job postings. But could you just enlighten me as to the position that is now being occupied by the young person that you referred to earlier? What is the pay differential between that job and the job that you held?

MR. DIECK:

I don't know at what pay he came in at. I can't speak to that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I see. Okay. All right. What was the title of his -- what is the title of his position?

MR. DIECK:

Restoration -- restoration -- let's see.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Restoration something?

MR. DIECK:

Restoration supervisor.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right. Thank you very much. Thank you.

MR. DIECK:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I don't know if I misunderstood. You walked in and you were told that your position was being terminated and clean out your desk at that point?

MR. DIECK:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you. Our next speaker is Steve Gittelman.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Good afternoon. I'm actually -- I actually came here to stand in support of Gretchen Oldrin-Mones who is a trustee applying for renewal. And I just wanted to explain that Gretchen has been extremely active. Her attendance has been wonderful; that, in fact, she would be sorely missed if she wasn't renewed. And I hope that you will look upon her application for renewal favorably.

In addition to that, only a few minutes ago, I received notification that the -- some of the capital projects, in fact many of them going forward have been cut by the County Executive. And of course I look at this with great concern. The news is -- I have not seen a complete printout yet. I only got

anecdotal information. In fact I was told that the waterfront was eliminated entirely for the future. I know that I have been before this body on many occasion. And I have explained to you how critical the waterfront was. And that we do have a matching gift. And so we are taken by great surprise by this event. If there's any questions, I'm certainly here to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Steve, we are going to be looking at the Capital Program certainly. And we know your concerns concerning the waterfront because we have the gift -- the donation from Mr. Rogers that is dependent on our doing our part as a County. So, you know, thank you for pointing that out to us. Did I hear you say -- Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Cameron wanted to say something.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, Cameron? I only heard your voice, Bill.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just to put it on the record we didn't start our capital -- we didn't even receive the capital proposed budget for '09, not yet.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, we just have anecdotal information.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's great.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's out. It just came.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I'm ahead of the curve.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It just came.

LEG. ALDEN:

Today?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I think yesterday.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, I think it got to Newsday before it got to us. Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Really in regards to the reappointment of Miss Mones, we've been reviewing -- first of all we have a problem on the museum board because we have a lot of vacancies. And the attendance on some people has been very poor to the point that I had to write a letter asking people are you still on it or not on it or what? And we got some resignations in as a result of that. But in reviewing the minutes of the board meetings that we get here regularly, there's some things that are disturbing. We never see a motion on the record. It seems that you go into executive session to conduct any business and there's no record of that. Why is that?

MR. GITTELMAN:

I think there are circumstances where we do go into executive session. Certainly at the last meeting the minutes of the last meeting you would find that there was a wide ranging -- the last meeting was more of an exception than it was the rule. But at the last meeting there was extremely wide ranging discussion that included immense detail. Often when we're in committee, we discuss a lot of things. And then by the time we come out of committees, there isn't a lot to make resolutions about, you know.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You just eluded to the capital budget.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And there's no doubt about it that the County does spend a lot of money. I think we would like to see more transparency on the way the museum does their business. And I agree with you. The last set of minutes was a little bit more open than we've seen in a long, long time.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But it seems everything is done in executive session. Executive session should just be used for legal issues. It shouldn't be used to conduct everyday business.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I agree. And I think you saw the change in the last meeting, which I think is going to become more common, more the rule. I think part of it is that some things seem -- for example, the item that we discussed in broad discussion at the last meeting was our contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension. And because there was a contract issue, perhaps we could have taken that into executive session.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't agree. If you were involved in a lawsuit or something like that, that there shouldn't be a public record of it, that should be done in executive session. The renewal of a contract or the passage of a resolution to expend some money or hiring of people, I think that's appropriate to be done on the public record.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, then we'll do it.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Presiding Officer, would you just suffer one quick --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

If the discussion is sensitive type of terms of a contract, that might be appropriate for executive session, that one little sliver. If by giving away your bargaining positions might weaken your positions in negotiating that contract, something like that we would expect you to go into executive session. But I join with your point that most of the business, you know, it should be out there right in the open so that people could --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, the point that I'm trying to make is that, you know, the County is certainly in tough financial situation. And we're looking to economize in any way we can. We spend a lot of money on the museum. We would just like a public record of how the money's being spent and where it's being spent and how the board members stand on various issues.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's more than legitimate.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I think that your point is legitimate.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Let me talk about the waterfront for a minute. The main thing is the seaplane hangar.

MR. GITTELMAN:

And the boardwalk, yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And the boardwalk. Is the seaplane hangar still envisioned to be a dinosaur museum?

MR. GITTELMAN:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No. What is the latest on that?

MR. GITTELMAN:

I think that the original -- it was never envisioned to be a dinosaur museum. Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I thought the last time I was over there that's what you told, me, that it was going to be a dinosaur --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, it had been a while ago.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Allow me, if I might, let me elaborate, please. William Rogers was very intrigued with an asset, the dinosaur exhibit that we currently have. And originally he -- we're going back -- pardon me if I'm off -- I think it's nine years now, eight or nine years. And he made a contribution of a million dollars which originally was to support a dinosaur program that would take the dinosaurs from an exhibit that already had existed and build upon them and move them down to the seaplane hangar.

However, there was an understanding, I believe, in writing that the term of that exhibit would be limited to five years. So that what we were doing is we were honoring his request but at the same time recognizing that we could not making the seaplane hangar into a permanent dinosaur museum.

And I think that given the time that has passed and given that the dinosaur exhibit has been up all this time in temporary housing, that the allure of the dinosaur exhibit in terms of being in the waterfront is something that Mr. Rogers would be flexible at this juncture. And he has contributed money to the general fund of the museum that was not targeted for the dinosaur exhibit, if you will, that was allowed to be used for cash flow purposes.

So I believe that things change overtime. And it has been eight or nine years. And I do not

conceive that the seaplane hangar is going to be a dinosaur museum. Do I believe that we might have a dinosaur exhibit there for a year or six months like we would any other major traveling exhibit? That's very possible.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it's envisioned that the seaplane hangar will be a rotating exhibits, periodic changes; is that it?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, I believe that that would be one good use. But I think that it also has to be looked upon as a gathering place for the public in terms of for major events. And if that is the best way that suits the museum, traveling exhibits combined with -- which I certainly view as a very good use -- traveling exhibits combined with major functions would be a fine combination for the future of the institution since both generate significant revenues. And we have no place to do either at this time.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. And from what you just said, we do have a dinosaur exhibit now in another part of the museum?

MR. GITTELMAN:

We have a dinosaur exhibit in another part of the museum which is kind of on permanent loan, if you will. The title hasn't been transferred to the museum but could be. We just haven't crossed that bridge.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You mean the exhibit itself?

MR. GITTELMAN:

The exhibit itself.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We don't own -- who owns the exhibit?

MR. GITTELMAN:

The exhibit is owned by a -- what I would call a defunct not-for-profit called the Dinosaur Society of which Bill Rogers and myself make two out of three trustees. And we basically brought in the exhibit which at one time was a component part of a major exhibit that was launched as part of -- when the movie Jurassic Park came out. And we traveled the world with it. And some of the dinosaurs were probably in today's dollars six figure dinosaurs. I know there's -- there could be as much as a half a million dollars worth or more worth of dinosaur assets in there. And they are in a temporary structure that has been open to the public all these years and which we use for programming. And it's something that we could use as part of an exhibit which we move into the seaplane hangar. I mean, I'm really glad that you're asking these questions. I'm very interested in giving the answers.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, you know, you're talking about the seaplane hangar not being in or the waterfront not being in the Capital Program.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I just wanted an update what the vision is for the waterfront.

MR. GITTELMAN:

The waterfront --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Which I think you just gave me.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I gave it to you but I need to envelop it more than that because we have a wonderful -- we have a wonderful waterfront. And if we were standing there today, you could look to the south from the seaplane hangar and see a beautiful, really what is a gorgeous -- it looks like a boardwalk. It's built. It just happens to be the retaining wall with a railing on it that would make a wonderful boardwalk.

And what we have is this fabulous waterfront which the public can't access. And we wanted the public to be able to access it. And as a future building block for the institution, this becomes, if you will, the third leg that makes for a more stable table. We need to build away from our reliance on the endowment. And we should -- we really feel that the revenues that would come from a combination of the waterfront and the seaplane hangar, the boathouse and the boardwalk would be stabilizing and make this institution a nationally known destination.

P.O. LINDSAY:

As I recall from my last tour there, I agree with you. The waterfront is beautiful down there, but there was a number of challenges like getting down there.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Sanitary facilities, I remember was a problem down there.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it's not -- you know, there's some major challenges to the development.

MR. GITTELMAN:

There is definitely -- there are definitely challenges but, you know, we're confronted with -- we were confronted with an institution that has to deliver as much as it can to the people. And the access, we do have solutions for both. There is no question that removing sanitary waste uphill is going to be difficult. I certainly hope that there's an engineering solution to that. I've been told there is. I would hate to see that be the one thing that destroyed our ability to use what is -- I think it's close to 2000 feet of absolutely prime waterfront that's ready for the public to access.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just the last comment to Mr. Dieck's testimony.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Of course.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't think anybody on the committee level want to micromanage the trustees' or the director's job of managing that place. It is, however, a little disturbing to hear of how few people we have in maintenance and grounds over there.

MR. GITTELMAN:

I agree.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Because it's a big place.

MR. GITTELMAN:

We are definitely cut to the bone. There is no question about it. And we are cut to the bone to keep a balanced budget. Perhaps one of the -- one of the problems is that there was a tremendous reliance on the endowment 15 years ago when the endowment was yielding \$1.4 million and the budget might have been -- and I'm using round numbers, I can't accept being quoted, but I'm giving you my reaction, where the budget might have been in today's dollars half of what it was then. And there was a time in the '80's where there was 7 or \$800,000 in the checkbook because interest rates were high and the museum was closed most the time. So in reality we are making due with less. And these are not easy times. And we are insisting on keeping a balanced budget. And I agree with you that two or three people in the maintenance department is extraordinarily low. And we should have more.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How many employees do we have there now?

MR. GITTELMAN:

I'm going to beg not answer that question because I think I get confused by how many are full-time and how many are part-time so if you'll let me off of that, I would appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The Director is here so we could ask her that question.

MR. GITTELMAN:

And the Director's here. And if you want to ask her, you could. There is a point I do want to make. Number one, I was appraised of Mr. Dieck's termination before it occurred.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I would rather not get involved in that discussion during the committee meeting.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That may not be appropriate to a public meeting.

MR. GITTELMAN:

That's fine.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Did you have any other question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, I just want to know how many people we have there. And if we only have two or three people on maintenance and operations --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Well, there's one more question for Mr. Gittelman by Legislator Stern. And then I'll ask the Director to come up.

MR. GITTELMAN:

Mr. Lindsay, would allow me just to consult with Carol?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, I'll ask her to come up in a minute. There's a question from Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you. Very quickly. When you're walking down on the waterfront which I have been, you can see it; you can see how wonderful it would be, you can what an entertainment destination it would be that wouldn't be just enjoyable for families but would be a true center of economic development in that area as well. So, I see the vision and I share it.

But my question is whether something formal has been prepared regarding work that could be done at the waterfront? Has there been any kind of formal study that's being prepared by an engineering firm or a Department of Public Works or Planning Department? Is there something that has been presented formally regarding the work that could be done down at the waterfront?

MR. GITTELMAN:

Well, the waterfront for the most part is -- has gone through many levels of planning with DPW and is funded for the most part. I think there is one element of the boardwalk which is still unfunded which was in future budgets. But the problem has been that despite the planning and despite the appropriations, the money hasn't been spent. So as you all no, if you just sit there, things get more expensive. And we are now talking about a promise that was made to be delivered in 2002. And we are talking about terminating it in 2009. So we haven't built it. And it gets more expensive. So, yes, there have been a number of --

LEG. STERN:

I guess my question, then, is do the plans that you would have for the development of the waterfront going forward because it has been so long, would those plans and is the vision still the same?

MR. GITTELMAN:

We really don't see a reason to change it. The only thing that would force us to change it is if the funds are insufficient and we have to make compromises on the construction. And there -- and in that sense we have dealt with DPW. And we've been talking about engineering changes to, if you will, change some of the design because the money just doesn't go as far as it used to.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you very much, Steve.

Ms. Hart, can you come up, please? You heard the Presiding Officer's question regarding the number of employees you have that are maintaining the facilities?

MS. GIORSI HART:

Yeah. Right now we have a total of 15 full-time people on our staff. We have around 78 part-time people. We're highly seasonal so there's changes but we have about 78 on our books. We have two full-time grounds people. We have one full-time maintenance cleaner person. We have one full-time person who divides his time between grounds and custodial. We have a full-time restoration supervisor who has responsibilities on the grounds as well as restoration of the historic landscape and historic buildings. And I just added a part-time mechanic who will be coming in two days a week with carpentry skills as well who will in addition be helping with grounds as well as the mechanics.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Does that answer your question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. GIORSI HART:

Thank you.

(The following was transcribed by Kim Castiglione)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We are going to move to the agenda. I would like to thank John Fritz for being here today. And, Commissioner, if you could just join us in case anyone has any questions about any of the resolutions. They are pretty straightforward.

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1249, Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property by Mastic Beach Ambulance Company for "Help Us Save You Program". (Browning)

There is no problem with that, is there?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

No, that's straightforward.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The County will receive ten dollars a day, is that what it is? That's what it's saying here, Commissioner?

MS. MOSS:

It's ten dollars per day for three days.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that's what I read. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is that the normal fee, would you know? Or is this a reduction or an increase?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

It's still -- there is still a -- let me just pull it out.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm just asking because we should be consistent. If we've charged other people, then we should charge these --

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

There is normally a group -- there is always a group fee, which is normally \$250. This one I think is a different story. This is what has been charged them in the past I believe.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

So the ambulance company has a special rate, is that what you're saying?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I believe they may have. Obviously since I haven't been here that long I don't know what they were charged last year, but I believe it was the same.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's a dangerous precedent to set, then, because --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's \$230 less than everybody else.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, everybody else, you know, people from my district get charged 250 or whatever and --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, what is Help Us Save You Program?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's an ambulance company.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Is it a fundraiser for the ambulance company?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's what it looks like.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you know, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And how -- what is it, like a walkathon?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

No, they actually --

P.O. LINDSAY:

They just set up a booth to collect money from the community?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

They will have placards there. They will have representatives there with signs at Smith Point to solicit donations I believe.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually, it just says here putting up signs. That's basically it, isn't it? They are just putting up signs?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

This is the ambulance company that responds to any emergencies, medical emergencies, at Smith Point. And there can be some -- unfortunately, there can be some instances that do occur during the year.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Well, Legislator Lindsay still had the floor.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm done. Go ahead.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I just wanted to clarify something. This isn't like many other activities that we see, which are walks or picnics. This is simply allowing the ambulance company to put up signs that indicate that the

Mastic Fire Department helps us save you. That's basically allowing them to just put up signs in the park rather than using the park.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right. I think they may have one person closest to the east booth maybe walking around on the grass there with a sign.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, but it's not, as I said before, one of the major runs in the park or a picnic.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

No, it's not like a typical fundraiser where you have a walk or run or some other event where you are going to have a large group of people who are going to be there for a good part of the day.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So it is different from the other activities. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

But in the past we've had fire departments and civic associations stand there by the bridge and over by the entrance and solicit funds also, but I know they were charged something.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I don't know if they were charged the 250 that we've seen when there are walks or picnics.

LEG. ALDEN:

But my whole point would be, you know, we very well have to be, you know, consistent. We can't let these people do it for ten dollars if we charge the fire department nothing or charge them \$100.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Alden, in order to answer your questions I don't think that it would hurt us to table this for one cycle and get that information. It says Memorial Day, doesn't it?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I think Legislator Browning was the one who introduced this particular resolution.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, it's Labor Day, so there's certainly time so we can table it for one month. Would you come back to us with that information, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Whether or not this type of activity is done by other fire departments or other service organizations and perhaps if there is a table of fees that's charged. Okay?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Certainly. What I will point out, though, is that the Legislature does, since they do establish the fees, they do have the authority to alter fees and change fees. The Parks Department does not have that authority to change the fees, so, we just collect --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We propose, you dispose. We get it. Okay. I'm going to make a motion to table for one cycle for that information.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. It's not until Labor Day so it's not -- there is no immediacy. IR 1249 stands tabled.

IR 1253, Reappoint Gretchen Oldrin-Mones as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 2). (Viloria-Fisher).

On 1253 this is my resolution to reappoint Gretchen Oldrin-Mones.

Gretchen has the best attendance of any trustee on the board and she was very active with the gala, getting people to the gala, which is the biggest fundraiser for the Vanderbilt Museum. I'm really, really proud of the work that she has been doing in the educational programs with the Vanderbilt. So I very proudly make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1253 is approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1260, Authorizing use of Blydenburgh County Park by the Care Center for its Annual Walkathon Fundraiser. (Co. Exec.) And this is -- the event is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, and the fee is \$125. That seems consistent with the next one, which is also \$125.

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do we know anything about the group?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Commissioner, can you tell us anything about the group? I'm looking at the resolution.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Just that it's a 501C3. We don't ask for -- we don't ask for any additional information. Generally it's something that's introduced by a Legislator, and if they pay the appropriate fee we're authorized to collect the group fee for that day.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's a not-for-profit for aged Legislators.

LEG. ALDEN:

As I probably belong to that group, I'm going to have to make the motion to approve this.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's going out to pasture people. I'll make a motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1260 is approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. Yes?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just for the record, there is correspondence in the backup to the bill dated January 1, 2008. It says the Care Center is a not-for-profit organization that offers compassionate, confidential caring and assistance to women in unplanned pregnancies.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Sorry I missed that. Did I call the vote on that?

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes, you did.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion is approved.

IR 1261, Authorizing use of Gardiner County Park by Almost Home Animal Rescue and Adoption for its Dog Walkathon Fundraiser. (Co. Exec).

I think Legislator Alden wants to make that motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, no.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Do you have a problem with this one?

LEG. ALDEN:

It's not in my district.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And, by the way, if you want to know more it's the East Islip Middle School's Junior Honor Society is hoping to raise donations. So, it's kids and animals. How can you say no?

LEG. ALDEN:

My district. I'll second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. East Islip Junior Middle School. So, there is a motion by -- who made the motion? Did I make the motion?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I did.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Lou. Okay, Lou made the motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator Alden, who is the representative of that district. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1261 stands approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**

That completes the agenda. If there is no other business before us, motion to adjourn.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:44 PM)