

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on December 10, 2008.

Members Present:

Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson
Legislator Lou D'Amaro, Vice-Chair
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Lynne C. Nowick
Legislator Steven H. Stern

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay
Legislator John M. Kennedy, Jr., Twelfth District
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director/Budget Review Office
Tom Ryan, Aide to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher
Justin Littell, Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Debbie Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern
William Shilling, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader Cooper
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Steve Tricarico, County Executive Assistant
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner/Suffolk County Parks Department
Tracey Bellone, Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Parks Department
Thomas Jones, Suffolk Committee For Campers
Carmella Moran, Suffolk Committee For Campers
Dan Ercele, Suffolk Committee For Campers
Richard Scott, Suffolk Committee For Campers
Gary Ralph, Suffolk County Resident
Peg Davis, Winnie Tascas Camping
Ed Davis, Winnie Tascas Camping
Carol Paulsen, Pathfinders Camping
James Valentine, President/Paumanacks FMCA
Karen Valentine, Secretary/Paumanacks FMCA
Pat Pulio, Paumanacks FMCA
William Redding, Paumanacks FMCA
Andy Carracino, Timber Point Golf Course
Chris Bodkin, Long Island Maritime Museum
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Director of AME
And all other interested parties

Minutes Taken By:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:04 PM

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Will members of the Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee please join us at the horseshoe? We're just going to stand for the pledge. Oh, you all heard me, I guess my mike was on.

Okay, please join us in the Pledge led by Legislator Nowick.

SALUTATION

Thank you. We have a few cards, and so we will begin with the first speaker. Thomas Jones? Mr. Jones, you have three minutes.

MR. JONES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And make sure the mike is on. There's a little button.

MR. JONES:

Hello?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

You got it.

MR. JONES:

All right. Thank you and good afternoon. My name, as she says, is Thomas Jones and I'm a Board Member of the Suffolk Committee for Camping. I am here today on behalf of the Suffolk Committee for Camping and our members to voice our opposition to the proposed fee increases to the use of Suffolk County campgrounds.

Of the reasons of our oppositions, the first and foremost would be that the timing could not be at a worse moment. Given the present state of the economy, most everyone has suffered a financial impact with the decline in the stock market. Some have experienced salary cutbacks to retain their jobs. With the high cost of home heating oil, ever-rising electric rates, ever-rising taxes, ever-rising commutation rates, fuel charges tacked on to everything and the overall cost of everything due to the oil market and on and on and on, many people are having trouble paying their bills and keeping their homes. Sadly, many homes have fallen into foreclosure.

Many of those who are fortunate to still be keeping their heads above water have had to make concessions in their everyday life. One of these concessions has brought a new word into the vocabulary, "staycation". This word has come about to describe the alternative for many parents today who cannot afford to take the kids on a family vacation to Disney World or such and instead are opting to stay home on vacation. The idea here is to make a fun vacation close to home. But your new proposal on fee increases for everything County related will make this less attainable as well.

Some examples of these increases are as follows. The green key card, under the new proposal, will only be good for two years, making that, in essence, a 33% increase. This is the equivalent to keeping it good for three years but raising its fee from 20 to \$27. To camp in a premium site, which means it has electric, the fee is to go up \$4, from \$16 to \$20, making that a 25% increase. A handicapped person asking for a site with electric will see his fee raised from \$9.50 to \$13, or an increase of 37%. These are not modest increases.

Now, of course, these increases are not a one-shot deal but rather the same increase for each and every night. The family paying an additional \$4 for a site with electric pays \$4 every night. And as you may know, the County demands a four-night minimum stay when making a reservation. This fact alone makes the camping community unfairly burdened. Multiply this by the number of times a family wishes to go camping and you can see the impact. By the end of the season, the additional dollar outlay would be considerable. It is conceivable that many families that are struggling are being priced out of the only means of recreations that they are looking forward to.

If the economic times were not as they are and the increased proposal really was a modest and realistic one, and the reason for it was the purpose of improving or maintaining the individual venues, then I might not be standing here before you today. But the economic times are difficult. And the increase is not modest. And the reason for it is not for the betterment of the individual venues such as the campgrounds, but rather for the bailout of the Vanderbilt Museum, which is another reason of our opposition.

Beginning with the bailout of Wall Street, then the big three automakers, the MTA in the form of hikes and now tolls where there were none --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Thomas, I'm sorry to interrupt you. Your time is up, if you could just wrap it up.

MR. JONES:

Okay. Should I read faster?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, you know what? Just -- if you could just not make it much longer, okay. I'd like to hear what you have to say.

MR. JONES:

Okay. All right. The Vanderbilt has lost a considerable amount of money from their endowment due to the drop in the stock market, but a lot of people have taken a bad hit from the stock market. Some have lost huge portions of their life savings, their retirement nest egg. Some are already on a fixed income. Why is it expected that these taxpayers who also suffered losses are expected to bail out the Vanderbilt? Every night that a family goes camping they're expected to pay extra to help the Vanderbilt. When I took my family to see the Vanderbilt Museum, I paid for it then with admittance. Now all these years later I'm being asked to pay for it again and again with every night I spend at a campground.

The question is why is it only the responsibility of anyone using the venue of the County Park System to help the Vanderbilt? Doesn't everyone in Suffolk County have the same opportunity to visit the Vanderbilt if they'd like? We are already contributing to the welfare of the Parks Department by using the campgrounds, the golf courses, the beaches, etcetera. If the Vanderbilt is a Suffolk County facility and the County insists on turning to the taxpayers for a bailout, then would it not be fairer to somehow make it the responsibility of everyone in Suffolk County and not just those who are already paying to use another County facility? The idea of targeting one segment of the public is both wrong as well as unfair.

The members of the Suffolk Committee for Camping or opposed to this proposed increase because they are excessive, especially for these economic times, and because we the campers are being unfairly burdened with the responsibility of the true reason of the increases.

I know I'm out of time, but I did also write down three examples of why I feel that we are being unfairly burdened. If I may go on?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Go ahead, I want to hear your three reasons.

MR. JONES:

Okay. Just to make some comparisons. Some things such as the rowboat rental fee on page 12 is an example of what I call limited use recreation. And by that I mean how often will any one person rent a rowboat over the summer? Once or twice, maybe. The \$1 an hour increase would not have much of an impact on that person. It's not something that is done on any kind of regularity.

The Smithtown -- I'm sorry, the Smith Point launching ramp on page 16 is an example of a one-time increase. It's a \$5 annual fee for the residents. That's \$25 to \$30. It went up \$5 for the year as opposed to each and every night that a camper camps.

And lastly, on page two, a resident making a weekday golfing reservation sees his fee being raised from \$25 to \$28. That's a \$3 increase. But he is not being asked or required to reserve four days of golf. So when he goes and he plays -- or makes a reservation to play a round of golf, he's playing once. When we want to go camping, we actually have to go camping four times for that same reservation. So if he camps 10 times over the summer, we are actually camping 40 times for that ten times. While he's paying a \$30 extra fee over the course of the summer, we will be paying \$160.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, thank you, Mr. Thomas. Is there anyone who has a question? I would just like to point something out to you. Because these are hard times, they're also hard times for governments that have to make budgetary decisions. And just to clarify a couple of the things that you said, for the people who are here, the revenue that comes into the Parks does not support running of the parks. It costs the Suffolk County General Fund seventeen million, three hundred seventy-six dollars -- \$376,606 to run the parks. That's not including any of the Capital Projects. The revenues that we collect at the parks are \$9,629,000. In other words, all of Suffolk County taxpayers are adding an additional \$12 million for running the parks. That makes it available to all people who want to use the parks, but all taxpayers do subsidize our use of the parks.

As far as the premium sites -- by the way, can you tell me, what's the difference between a site with electricity and a premium site?

MR. JONES:

Probably the premium would have sewer hook-up.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The sewer hook-up, okay. Do you know that our energy expenses -- and as you know, when you have a premium site or a site with electricity, the County is paying those utilities. We're paying the electric bill on that. Everyone here pays an electric bill and knows that between 2002, which is the last time we raised the rates, and now, there's a big difference in all of our electric bills. And we pay an electric bill just as you do. The percentage increase on our electric bill since 2002 is 65% increase, our electric bill in the parks.

So I know that there has been a public connection between the Vanderbilt Museum and the parks rate increases, but we have been looking at the park rate increases. I personally have been looking at it for over six months because of the increase in our costs to maintain our parks and the tightening of our budget and the decrease in the sales tax coming in. So the Vanderbilt Museum happened to need the help. That comes from the General Fund. It doesn't come directly from your park fees. Your park fees go into the General Fund and they don't cover what it costs us to maintain the parks. I just wanted to clarify that because it's something that you mentioned.

MR. JONES:

So if I'm understanding you correctly, then up until this point the County has actually been suffering a loss by not raising their taxes? And it's more or less coincidental that the Vanderbilt, at the same time that they need the money, is --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Actually, it came at a good time that we were able to pass this. The County has been subsidizing -- I don't say at a loss because it's a service that the County expends money on, which is something we provide for the public. But it has -- it costs us \$12 million more than we collect to run.

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay? I just want to make sure that it's clear, okay?

MR. JONES:

No, I --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That is something that has existed.

MR. JONES:

I understand that. I'm just questioning, is it the campgrounds that are so much more expensive to run than any other venue? Because we seem to be footing the larger part of any percentage increase.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, you know, you are running a utility when you're running the RV's at the campgrounds. That is an expense. And Budget Review worked very hard on this. And maybe I can refer your question to Budget Review. But we tried to spread the rate increase throughout the parks system. And although you compared it to a golfer who might be playing 12 rounds of golf, that golfer is not staying overnight, that golfer is not using a utility that really has been increasing greatly. In fact, the cost for someone who, let's say, might be tent camping is less -- the increase is less than the cost of living increase. Our increases are less than cost of living increases over the past seven years.

I'm not trying to debate you. I'm trying to clarify for you some of the misconceptions that the money that's being collected is going straight to the Vanderbilt; it's not. The monies that are collected by the Parks Department go into our General Fund. Okay?

MR. JONES:

So that another --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We would have had a hole in the General Fund that we would have been looking for offsets because of the -- and we would have to do that even if we didn't have the rate increases, we'd have to find a way -- if we had to close the Vanderbilt, we'd have to find a way to look for that \$800,000. But I have been working, and that can be verified by the Commissioner and Budget Review, we have been working on this for over six months trying to find an equitable rate adjustment that hasn't been done in seven years in our County Parks, while our expenses have gone up and our sales tax revenues have gone down.

Legislator Alden has a question.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, actually, two points of clarification. The money that goes to the Vanderbilt comes out of our General Fund, and these park fee increases would provide an offset for the money that goes to the Vanderbilt. So you were 100% correct that they are tied in; they're tied directly. We have to raise

the fees because we're going to make an 800 or whatever number, 800, \$850,000 transfer to the Vanderbilt so the way that Legislator Fisher decided to do that was through a parks fee increase.

The second part is -- and just a point of clarification -- the Parks budget covers more than active parkland. And then I'm not so sure you or anybody else knew about this, but through the Parks Department, they have to maintain tens of thousands of acres that we buy for open space through their Police Department and their management and there's all kinds of other people that are associated with maintaining open space in Suffolk County.

So it's not active parkland that is actually costing us a ton of money; it is the maintenance of open space that costs us tons of money. And there's where the difference is between fees coming in and generated by things that you do and things like the golf and boating and other types of active recreation as opposed to some of the other things that are covered by our Parks Department. And we do have the Commissioner here, so later on I would anticipate he's going to come up and speak and I have a couple of questions that he can fill in some of the numbers. Our Budget Review, I have a couple of questions for them, they'll be able to fill in some of the numbers. But it's not the active part of our parkland that's taking up the bulk of that Parks Department budget, but the maintenance of open space. So those are two points I wanted to make.

MR. JONES:

If I can understand you correctly, then, the money is going to the Vanderbilt initially, but that's supposed to be, from what I read --

LEG. ALDEN:

But the money comes out of the General Fund and would be transferred to the Vanderbilt. And because we had already passed a budget, now we have to find a replacement for that 800 or \$850,000 that's going to be transferred to the Vanderbilt. So that was why the legislation was offered to raise park fees to maintain a balanced budget, which is required by law.

MR. JONES:

I understand. When this loan or the balance is taken care of and this one year that I read about is over, the raise in these fees are going to remain; is that correct? Because we need to --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's correct, because the County will continue to have the expenses.

MR. JONES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's one of the reasons why I oppose it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, thank you. Are there any other Legislators who have questions? Thank you, Mr. Thomas.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I just --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, Mr. Thomas, I'm sorry.

LEG. NOWICK:

Mr. Thomas?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Jones, I reversed your names.

LEG. NOWICK:

Mr. Jones.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Jones, Legislator Nowick has a question.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just a quick question, because I don't know. How many days do campers usually go camping? What's the -- you have to go for four, is that what you just said?

MR. JONES:

Yes, yeah. There's this --

LEG. NOWICK:

What's the norm? If you were going camping with your family, how many days do you spend?

MR. JONES:

Well, I belong to a club. And last season our club camped ten times. In between that --

LEG. NOWICK:

Is that ten days?

MR. JONES:

Excuse me?

LEG. NOWICK:

Ten days?

MR. JONES:

No, ten times.

LEG. NOWICK:

So --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Forty days.

LEG. ALDEN:

Forty days.

LEG. NOWICK:

You go that many days?

MR. JONES:

And in between that --

LEG. NOWICK:

What do you do for a living?

MR. JONES:

-- my wife and I camped -- well, this is why I'm here saying what I'm saying.

LEG. NOWICK:

So is 40 days the norm for most of the campers, is that how many days, or do you -- you camp maybe more?

MR. JONES:

Well, I'm saying that that's what we did as our club. Some clubs may not camp as many. I don't know how often other clubs do camp. Maybe individuals may not camp ten times. I don't know. But I'm just going from what we did, and you asked me what I did and that was it.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. No, I was just curious. I didn't know how many days campers went out and camped.

MR. JONES:

In between those ten outings with the club, my wife and I actually went out a couple of weekends, just the two of us.

LEG. NOWICK:

And you have a big -- an SUV or something like that?

MR. JONES:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. And you hook that up to the electric --

MR. JONES:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- from the County?

MR. JONES:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

And it runs for -- it doesn't have air-conditioning or anything like that.

MR. JONES:

It does, but generally we're outside so we don't use it too much.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. But it does run, you do hook it up, that's what you do.

MR. JONES:

Uh-huh.

LEG. NOWICK:

And just because I don't know what campers do.

*(*Laughter From Audience*)*

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Check out her nails.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry. Mr. Jones, that led to other questions.

MR. JONES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

Mr. Jones, welcome and thank you for your opening comments. When that bill did come up for a vote, I did support the Vanderbilt, I did want to put the money into our budget. I did not want to fund it through increasing park fees and I voted against that measure at our last meeting. But I wanted to ask you if you made any comparison between the fees that the County charges and other levels or jurisdictions such as the State, how the fees compare from one level to the other.

MR. JONES:

No, I did not do that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You don't?

MR. JONES:

No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You don't have any personal knowledge of that?

MR. JONES:

Well, the only State park that I've attended was Wildwood. And I know it is a few dollars more, I will have to say that, but I don't recall what the fee was.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Why do you go to a County campsite?

MR. JONES:

They're available.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, I mean, why not a State campsite?

MR. JONES:

There's only one. Well, there's one, I believe, in Nassau, but I stay closer to home.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

You have to fill out a card, sir, if you want to speak.

Okay, Legislator Stern has a question, Mr. Jones.

LEG. STERN:

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Jones, when -- you've gone approximately 40 times last year. My question is how do you go about making those reservations? Do you or the organization that you go with plan out in advance that you're going to be going 40 times?

MR. JONES:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

You make reservations for the upcoming year for 40 or is it ongoing?

MR. JONES:

Well, we're saying 40 times, but it's actually only ten times.

LEG. STERN:

Understood. So for those 10 times, is that something that you reserve ten all in one-shot, that you know that for the coming year you're going to make ten reservations and you do it all at once?

MR. JONES:

Well, what we do as a club is prior to -- well, we have to make the group reservations at what I think is the first business day in January. Prior to that, the club gets together and we plan out together when we want to go camping. We plan out the whole year and then we submit our requests at the group camping reservation system, we have to go down to the County -- the Parks Office in West Sayville and submit our request in January. And if, you know, upon approval that we got one of those group sites then, yes, we do go each time. We plan out ahead and we go.

LEG. STERN:

Do you find that that's something that is unique to organizations that go together, or do private families and individuals do it in that same manner?

MR. JONES:

Private families have to use the reservation system, on-line reservation system, or they can just show up. You know, if they're going by themselves, you just show up and hope to find a spot that's available also.

LEG. STERN:

But it would be much better to reserve in advance, even for a family.

MR. JONES:

It would be much better.

LEG. STERN:

Sure.

MR. JONES:

The reason why we do it is because that's the way the group system works. That's the way we do it in January for groups. If a family is going as a group, they have a neighborhood gathering or multiple families getting together and they want to go as a group, they would also have to go down in January and try and reserve the weekend that they want.

LEG. STERN:

I guess the question or the point is that it seems like it would be foreseeable and reasonable on the part of the County to know -- it sounds like in the beginning of the year, those organizations or those families that are going to be utilizing the park system in volume rather than just once or twice

in any given season.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Uh-huh.

LEG. STERN:

That would be something that we should be aware of when you make your initial reservation because, as you said, when you're making your initial reservation, it's for those ten times for the year.

MR. JONES:

Again, this is for the group sites. This is not for the individual sites.

LEG. STERN:

Understood. All right, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. It's been very helpful having you here.

MR. JONES:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The second speaker is Edward Davis.

MR. DAVIS:

Good afternoon. My name is Ed Davis. I'm President of the Long Island Winnie Tascas here on Long Island. I represent about 80 or 85 campers here on Long Island and I'm just here to support, like many of the other campers that are here, to voice my opposition to the increase.

I feel the increase -- it's a 25% increase, from \$16 to \$20. Many of the people in my club camp for a week at a time, so it's not just a \$4 increase but it would be a \$28 increase for that camping venture. And that's really what I -- I'm not going to make a big, long statement. We've addressed most of the reasons and we just feel it's excessive. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Andy Corrarino? Or Carrarino; I think I mispronounced it.

LEG. ALDEN:

Carracino.

MR. CARRACINO:

It's Carracino.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry.

MR. CARRACINO:

That's okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I missed one of the letters there.

MR. CARRACINO:

Good afternoon, and thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Andy Carracino and I am a PGA golf professional and have been the Director of Golf at Timber Point since 1993. I'm just completing my sixteenth season and I'm also addressing these fee increases for myself and the other golf professionals, and certainly parks -- and, you know, we meet periodically on these matters. And we can't really figure out why you want to put the burden of saving the museum on the golfers exclusively.

We are already at market price and our competition has larger budgets, so we've got to really be careful when we make these fee increases. We've done our homework, we're kind of there. Our competition is fierce. The market is tough out there. There's a lot of golf courses. And just because we haven't raised fees in a while doesn't really give us the green light to raise fees and try -- you know, start saving, you know, other portions of the County that might need them, mainly the museum.

I also get the hunch that the increase in fees will be offset by reduced rounds and, more importantly, golfer backlash for having to shoulder this unfair burden. There's already some e-mails being circulated and we're starting to get into an adversarial situation real early. And we haven't seen many golfers. I mean, most golfers are away, the weather's been poor. And, you know, needless to say, this is an outrage. The museum has mismanaged their affairs and the golfers should not have to pick up the tab.

This all falls on the Legislature. As the County Executive, Steve Levy, has already said he will veto this increase. These kinds of things are already being said. And I've got to tell you, I like the Legislature. You've been great to the parks, you've been great to the golf courses. So I'm coming here to tell you, listen, this is just the tip of the iceberg, this is not going to get better as more people find out the reason for this.

There's a couple of really other important issues that are going on. Fridays reverting back to weekends rates, this is another little hidden thing in there. It's funny how when times are tight and you're looking for ways to raise money, you forget the mistakes we've made in the past. That fee increase, that came back like in '94 or so when Commissioner Wenkel -- and he was real aggressive with fund-raising and with raising rates and all that. But Fridays, making that a weekend is really going to reduce any proposed revenues you think you're going to derive from that. The golf courses are going to be real quiet on Fridays, I can tell you that right now. And it's -- you're going to get a ton of complaints on that.

You know, I remember these complaints and why we got away from this was why is Friday a weekday everywhere in the nation but in Suffolk County? So you've got to be real careful with that. You've really got to roll that back. Friday is a weekday, folks. And you really don't want to do anything in this tough economy and this tough market, golf market, to discourage play.

The holiday rates also are expanding. We have four traditional holiday rates where we collect holiday fees, you know, increased fees or premium fees. They are Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day and Columbus Day. And they're very fair. They've really worked. You want to add Veterans Day? Folks, come on. The veterans? You know, what are we going to do to these poor guys? Also, Thanksgiving Day which is kind of a quiet day anyway, it's really hard to get people down there. Be careful doing that as well. Keep the four dates that we traditionally have for holiday rates.

The green key reduction by a year, another mistake. We should be doing just the opposite. Let's give these things away if we have to. You know, let's get people into our parks. You have great parks, you have great golf courses. You don't really need to give away -- but the three years and the fee structure right now is really right in line. It enables us to ensure the identification and the access to the reservation system, so it's terrific there.

In conclusion, I realize the process has to still take its course. It seems that the County Exec has indicated he will veto the proposed increase. I am hoping my time with you today can help sway

you and advise your fellow Legislators not to override the veto.

I would also like to make sure that you always have my support and I'm willing to help in any way on these and other issues that concern the golf courses. I'm not entirely familiar with the museum, but wasn't there a golf course or a golf hole situated on the property? As one golfer said the other day, if they want the golfers' support, they're going to have to allow us to play there. So maybe that's some food for thought. You know, it seems like it's an adversarial approach we're taking. And listen, I don't know all the things you guys are up against, but maybe we can spin this in a positive, save the museum, maybe there's other things -- other ways to go about doing this. So, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. There are a couple of questions.

MR. CARRACINO:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And when you say that the fee structure right now is on par -- no pun intended.

MR. CARRACINO:

Very good.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

With whom?

MR. CARRACINO:

You could do a review of even the daily fees, especially the daily fees.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, actually we have, and it might be on par. I think the only Town is Islip Town. Brookhaven Town is higher. Their municipal course is higher. Any of the public, privately-owned courses are higher. The State courses are higher. So the only one that's almost on par is Islip Town.

MR. CARRACINO:

I could tell you, folks, the fee --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I mean, I have charts. I'll share them with you.

MR. CARRACINO:

The fee structure gets tricky. You have shoulder seasons, you have peak seasons, you have twilight rates, you have promo rates, you know, all these things come, you know, into play here. And, you know, \$50, you know, you can talk walking, riding, seniors, juniors, I mean, it really gets -- it gets very, very tricky. I can tell you, I've been there sixteen years, I'm behind the counter, I see these people, I go to the other golf courses, we look at these fee structures. And, you know, we're right where we need to be. And you know what? Any fee increase has to go to the golf courses. You know, you made that point before with the Parks budget being at \$9 million. I mean, most -- a lot of that's collected at the golf courses. Only three -- you know, that's another issue here, you have four golf courses. You're only going to get this fee increase at three. The other one you have a private --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's a private concessionaire, I know.

MR. CARRACINO:

-- contract with with Bergen Point. And you know, what's that all about? I mean, these guys are coming in here their first year and all the trouble we've had with Bergen, and these guys, it's like, whoop. How good is that to walk into that?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, I'll let the Parks Department respond to that. But there are a couple of questions for you. The first is Cameron Alden, or a comment.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, part of mine was going to be a question about the fee schedule. And actually, I'm a former golf professional. And the fee schedule is not just a dollar and cent thing, it's what you provide the golfers. So if we are \$1 or \$2 over what in the mind of a golfer would be the ideal price to pay for an experience at Timber Point or West Sayville or Bergen or Riverhead, they're going to go to a private course that, as Mr. Carracino said a few minutes ago, they have much bigger budgets to maintain their courses. So is there aesthetics that goes into, like, the golfer psyche where he chooses to go and play Timber Point because, dollars and cents, he knows what he's going to get as far as an experience at Timber Point? But he also knows in the back of his mind that he goes out to one of these privately owned, open-to-the-public courses, their condition might be better, they might put more money back into the course, it might be a little better experience. Is that something that you find people talking about?

MR. CARRACINO:

Conditions are so important. And listen, you have to congratulate yourselves, you and your predecessors, you've always done right. You know, when I was there in '93, I mean, the comments at Timber were, *boy, the potential of this place, boy, why did the County let this place go?* Listen, over the years you've done all the right things down there, and at the other golf courses, too, and I guess Parks as a whole.

I mean, you've really got to be careful with this fee increase here. It just doesn't seem like it's for the right reason. You know, you're trying to save the museum, that's great. It needs to be spread out across the board. You cannot just go to the parks, you cannot just go to the golfers. That's -- I guess that's the crux of the issue here.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Vivian, I've got to talk.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, there's a question from Legislator D'Amaro, and then we'll go to the Presiding Officer. But just very quickly, to disabuse you of the concept that the only reason these rates were -- are in place or that we're looking at them is the museum, I have been looking with Budget Review for over six months because the rate increases have not occurred in seven years. I pushed harder when I saw that there was going to be a hole in the budget, but these are rates that we have been working on for over six months. So it's not just because of the museum.

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. One of the arguments that I had made against raising the park fees at this time, other than the fact that I just don't think the economic times are right to be doing that, was that on a policy level, you may wind up having a negative impact on attendance. And you've been at this golf course for how long did you say?

MR. CARRACINO:

This is -- I'm just finishing my sixteenth season. Next year will be seventeen.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Can you -- do you have any opinion on that? How will the increased fees impact visiting a County facility?

MR. CARRACINO:

I've never used -- I've never heard the word "boycott" down there. I've already heard the word "boycott". That's what I'm telling you, this is the tip of the iceberg, folks. And the golfers have not -- they're not around, they're not even around yet. You know, they really haven't had a chance to respond to this. The weather has been pretty poor this November and December. And I -- if you had to ask me, put a gun to my head, there's going to be a net effect. You're not going to get the 800,000, that's for sure, and you're going to piss a lot of people off and you're going to jeopardize, you know, some of the good that we've done, that you've done.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, no one wants to put a gun to your head; maybe a club, but not -- but in any event, I see it that way as well. I think that we have to be very careful, in fact, doing something that's counterproductive. And one of the attractive aspects of our park facilities is that they are very affordable to many residents in very difficult economic times. And I feel that you are going to then cut off, if not completely, maybe the number of visits, because the fee increases will be paid each time a person visits a park.

So, you know, I think that we have to look carefully for ways to raise revenue. I think the Vanderbilt should be assisted somehow. But again, I just didn't think that raising these particular fees was the way to go. So I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Mr. Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just to correct a couple of things that you said and that and I know that's the impression out there but the Vanderbilt Museum is a County museum. We have never subsidized the Operating Budget up until this point in time. They've lived off of fees and an endowment that they had for as long as they've been in existence. What's happened over the last three months, because of -- is isn't as much as mismanagement of the facility as it is of the unfortunate financial crisis that's hit this whole nation. Their revenue from that endowment has dropped from over a million dollars to \$250,000. That isn't through any fault of their own. That isn't through any fault of their own. Just like it isn't through any fault of my own that my retirement savings has diminished precipitously with the fall in the stock market. So that's one thing I wanted to correct.

The second thing is it's interesting how everybody views this. We just heard from the campers, we're balancing the back of the budget on the campers. Now we're balancing the budget on the back of the golfers. I had a surf caster call me, the same thing, you know, the perception. The fee increases, you know, whether they're right or wrong, maybe they are too high, but they're across the board. They're not on one segment of our park system.

In terms -- you said you've been at Timber Point for sixteen years. Do you have any idea of how many capital improvements we've put into that course over that period of time?

MR. CARRACINO:

Well, over the sixteen years, you had to because the previously 30 the County did none.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. But do you have any idea?

MR. CARRACINO:

I do have an idea. I've been there for it all.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

MR. CARRACINO:

It's affected my revenues and --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Do you know how much?

MR. CARRACINO:

I mean, the initial course improvements I think were three to four. And then I know you've done the maintenance barn which I think was close to two. And now the clubhouse adaptive reuse, I guess that's about maybe another one. So yeah, I'm pretty close to those numbers.

P.O. LINDSAY:

My point is that we have put a lot of capital money into the course. It isn't as -- you know, someone else sent me a letter, *I don't mind paying the increased fee if you put it back into the course*. The point is we have been putting it back into the course.

MR. CARRACINO:

And, you know, Timber derives directly from green fees and green key sales. I think we're going to do about 1.2. Now, that doesn't include my license fee, it doesn't include the restaurant license fee, so the return comes back to you. And that's why I say you've got to be real careful where you hit people with fees. If you put that money directly back to them you can justify it. Let me ask you this, is the museum part of the Parks Department; yes or no?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's part of the park system.

P.O. LINDSAY:

The museum is a County holding.

MR. CARRACINO:

It's a County -- it's not part of the park system, as far as I understand.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right, right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's part of the park system. Yes, it is.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But let me finish.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, the answer is yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

But understand something, is the Parks Department doesn't stand on its own, all right? It's part of the County makeup. Just like things that government does, doesn't make money. We don't make money on the Police Department, we don't make money on the police department, we don't make money on our jail. We provide services for people. And we're trying to do that in the best way possible without -- you know, we have to justify the amount of money we spend. And unfortunately from time to time we have to raise fees. Nobody likes it.

MR. CARRACINO:

I guess all along -- the golf courses have really pulled their own weight. And they have carried a lot of the programs in the Parks Department. You know, it goes back to that old discussion, do we go to a parks authority? I mean, now you're bringing in some other discussions here, that you say, *yeah. Well, you know, we were subsidizing the parks system.* Listen, the parks system, if you separated it from the General Fund, it would --

P.O. LINDSAY:

We subsidize everything; not just parks, we subsidize everything. That's what we do, we're government.

MR. CARRACINO:

I can -- listen, I can only come to you and say the reason for this increase is questionable, it really is. And you're going to feel the heat. Listen, I like you folks --

P.O. LINDSAY:

When do you think is the proper time to raise fees, after 10 years, 12 years, eight years? Do you think that we could keep charging the same rate with everything going up?

MR. CARRACINO:

I get a kick out of school districts, every year they go 5%.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Right.

MR. CARRACINO:

Five percent? You know, what's 5%? Listen, you raise fees, you know, when you need to raise fees. Now, you're saying you need to raise fees -- it just seems like the way this is being broadcast that you have to do it for the museum.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We have an economic calamity all over this government, like every other local government.

MR. CARRACINO:

Well, listen, your question is you're raising fees. At this time I'll come back and we can compare apples to apples and see if your decision was correct. I get the hunch that you're going to -- you're not going to gain that much. You could very well break even or lose money, you have to consider that. I really do. I mean, you know, listen, it's tough for everybody. There's going to be less people playing, you're going to get a lot of complaints on this, you may see a boycott. I'm just telling you, there's no guarantees here. But just by raising fees does not guarantee you're going to generate the revenue you think you need or want. That's what I'm -- you know what? Maybe leave the fees, maybe look at some areas to discount, maybe you'll bring more people in.

P.O. LINDSAY:

If we discounted any more rates for more people on our parks system, we'd really have a problem. We have more discounts than any local government around.

MR. CARRACINO:

And you have a lot -- you still have a lot of unsold tee-times down there, okay? You really do. So, you know what? I'd love to see --

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm just going to read you some of the discounts, all right? Certified -- CRT volunteer, handicapped, junior, volunteer fire fighter, auxiliary police, disabled veterans, members and spouses and children of members of armed forces on active duty. And it goes on and on, senior citizens.

MR. CARRACINO:

I'll be the first to agree, you have way too many categories, but I didn't vote those in. I didn't vote them in.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, we did, too. But when you start criticizing us for not having discounts, we have more discounts than any government I know.

MR. CARRACINO:

I didn't say that. I said you consider other alternatives. I mean, I'm just saying, you think you're going to raise fees, you're going to generate the revenue. There's no guarantee there, folks, there really isn't. I'm not saying discount further or discount more. I'm just telling you, this year especially, I'd hold the line, I really would. This is not the year to raise fees, not there and not for the museum.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How do you pay for things? How do you pay for things? Do we lay off people, maintenance people over there, do we eliminate a lot of the fertilizer we're putting on the course? I mean, how do you do it? Just eat it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Close the Vanderbilt.

MR. CARACCINO:

I don't know what to tell you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

If you close the Vanderbilt, you still have to pay the mothball fees; how are you going to raise that?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Which is 830 million (sic).

LEG. ALDEN:

Madam Chair, am I on the list?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

He still has the floor.

LEG. ALDEN:

I know, I'm just asking if I was on the list.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, yes, you were next.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm done.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Mr. Chair, your answer to the amount that we've spent at Timber Point is over a million has been spent and over 10 million in the pipeline; is that correct, Lance? How much in the pipeline has been approved for Timber Point?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That number --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I have a lot of numbers in front of me, so.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Okay. No, I don't have that number in front of me. But since 2002, projects specifically identified for Timber Point was just over a million dollars, which on an annual basis debt service is about \$74,000.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And do we have any other projects coming up for Timber Point that have been approved in the Capital Program?

MR. REINHEIMER:

We'll have to get back to you on that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right, so that was just one of the answers to the questions. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just to clarify a couple of points. Some of the things you're saying are your own personal opinion based on sixteen years of running a business where you've dealt with the public. Other comments I believe that you said were you're relating to us the comments you're getting from the few golfers that are still using our facility. So I don't want to make the mistake here and kill the messenger. I think what you're trying to do is a great service to us. If we are already hearing complaints and the perception of balancing the Vanderbilt and bailing them out on the backs of golfers, on the backs of campers, I think we have to not kill the messenger but take that as, number one, we're out of season right now.

If we're hearing complaints and you're hearing complaints at point of sale right now, imagine what's going to happen when the golfers start coming in March and April or May. Imagine the amount of complaints we're going to hear. Imagine the amount of the discontent that we're going to have to put up with.

The camping season is not now. The camping season starts months from now. And there's a couple of other things that I just -- I have to say, this just amazes me. These fee increases are not across the board. These fee increases are sliced into just a couple of points. This person is going to pay a lot more, this person is going to pay a lot more, this other person is not going to pay anything more. For instance, and it's part of the parks system, Smiths Point, we collect a parking fee. Were the parking fees increased on this piece of legislation?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

From what to what?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Budget Review, would you -- whichever one of us finds the page faster can read it. For the non-residents it goes up.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm not talking about non-resident. I'm talking about was the fee for residents -- because that's what we're talking about in camping, that's what we're talking about for golf. Was the fee for a resident of Suffolk County increased to go and park at Smiths Point?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, I believe the fee for --

LEG. ALDEN:

From what?

MR. REINHEIMER:

We'll have to look that up. We'll get that in a second for you.
In a moment.

LEG. ALDEN:

The other thing that we can't lose track of, every other time --

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that fee was not increased. I'm sorry.

LEG. ALDEN:

It was not increased.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It was the outer beach.

LEG. ALDEN:

Not increased.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It was the outer beach that was increased.

LEG. ALDEN:

So there was no increase for somebody that goes to Smiths Point and wants to spend the day at the beach, drink beer or whatever they're going to do at Smith Point, I would hope the Police would catch them if they're going to do that, but that fee was not increased for residents of Suffolk County.

The other thing that is glaring here, the Commissioner came up and testified to us that he completely disapproves and does not recommend raising fees at this time. Every other time that I've seen a fee increase for parking for parks and park use, the Commissioner, or actually the Commissioner's office has participated and given recommendations and we've, for the most part, have followed his recommendations. Vanderbilt, to the best of my knowledge, is not run by the Parks Department; it's a separate board. Maybe you can --

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

So they're not part of the Parks Department.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

They're part of the parks system.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do the fees that they collect at Vanderbilt go into the General Budget of Suffolk County, as every other golf course or parking or camping or anything else?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that's a separate fund.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, they don't. So it's a separate entity. It's not part of the Parks Department.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

They're part of the system. They're part of the park system. I said.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, it's own -- it's property again that might be owned by the Parks Department, it might be owned by -- or not owned by, might be owned by Suffolk County but is absolutely not part of our parks system. The money doesn't go into it, it's not accounted in that manner, it's not -- they're not answerable to the Parks Commissioner, so that absolutely is a fallacy. And this really is balancing the budget of Vanderbilt on the backs of people that use our parks system. And it's completely unfair.

Applause

LEG. ALDEN:

And I'm not saying that to get applause.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I guess there was no question for the speaker.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, I had asked a question and he answered it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

All right.

LEG. ALDEN:

He's speaking for the golfers that come to the golf course now.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

The few that still use it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

All right. Thank you, Mr. Carracino. Our next speaker is Chris Bodkin.

MR. BODKIN:

Hello. My name is Chris Bodkin. I'm a Councilman with the Town of Islip, but I'm also on the Board of the Long Island Maritime Museum. And I come here in that capacity, really, to -- cap in hand, as the saying goes, and to just make a statement, too, of how important our museums are.

At the Long Island Maritime Museum, again, we're not a County museum. We're a private entity; however, we are on County property. And there has been a good deal of generosity on the part of the County toward us, certainly the Parks Commissioner, but Legislator Alden and yourself, Madam Chairman, and also Bill Lindsay have been very helpful to the museum in the past. And so I come here again, as I said, with a tin cup in my hand, so to speak, to ask for a little bit of money.

As Bill Lindsay had just said, our problems in the museum field come from endowments having crashed. The calamity that faces us all in America, the private endowment that the Long Island Maritime Museum had has diminished by 60, 70, 80%. And so our income has diminished, daily operating fees, which are quite modest, are a strain to meet. But our mission is very important, we're preserving the maritime history of Long Island.

And one particular vessel there, The Modesty, is probably the last sail-powered oyster ship left in the

world. It is akin to the Conestoga wagon to the west. This is the vessel that built Long Island, particularly the south shore of Long Island. The wealth that was brought into the south shore in the 1800's and into the early 1900's came from a vessel like The Modesty. If we can't, and we don't right now have the money to preserve it, we need funds to help mothball it so it's not lost forever. Because once it's gone, it's gone forever.

The museums are important for that reason. That they're founts of our heritage, they tell the story of who we are and from whence we came and we can't afford to lose a single artifact in any of our museums. They're essential; they're important.

And so I'm here to thank you not only for your past support to the Long Island Maritime Museum but for assistance in the future budgets to whatever small degree that you could spare, a crumb, for us at the museum, in particular for the vessel, Modesty, which is in very bad need of assistance, of help, and is in some danger of being lost and lost for all time.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much. And my apologies that you've had to wait so long, I didn't see you back there.

MR. BODKIN:

Oh, no, that's fine.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. Legislator Alden has a question.

MR. BODKIN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Chris enjoys this government stuff.

MR. BODKIN:

Yeah, I do.

LEG. ALDEN:

Councilman, and I'm not going to ask you questions now because I think that we need a larger discussion on it, but I know you had an Executive Director that either got fired or quit. She had a whole bunch of real good ideas for fund-raising and expanding educational programs at the museum. If you could give me a call, I'd like to sit down with you --

MR. BODKIN:

Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- and start talking about maybe, you know, what directions we could do with a public/private partnership and some of the other ways that we can help. And I'm sure that, you know, Legislator Lindsay and Legislator Viloría-Fisher would more than be glad to sit in on those discussions, but give us a call. Right now is not a good time to even come here with hat in hand.

MR. BODKIN:

I know. But as with every museum and every entity, I'm sure there's a line a mile long here to ask -- with cup in hand to ask for assistance. But particularly in the case of The Modesty which is -- which could be lost, as I said, for all time, it would be indeed tragic if we couldn't get even a little bit of help from the County to save what is our own heritage here in Suffolk County. And so I come before you just to bring that to your attention and to let you know of the situation that exists there and how important these artifacts are to all of us here in this room and in this County.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks, Chris.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Councilman, before you leave.

MR. BODKIN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That would be a Capital Project, wouldn't it?

MR. BODKIN:

The restoration of a vessel?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah. How expensive is it, how big is the cost?

MR. BODKIN:

Well, it would probably be, I guess, upwards to 175 to \$200,000. It wouldn't -- that all wouldn't be needed at one time. That could be over a period of years. Or if that was unlikely to happen, there would be funding that would be needed to mothball it until such time as times are better and there's perhaps more funding available to save this important vessel which, again, could be stored or put on display for all to see at different points in the County and so forth. But it's an extremely important artifact that we ought not to stand by and let disintegrate.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, thank you for your advocacy at the Maritime Museum. Thanks for being here.

MR. BODKIN:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Is there anyone else in the auditorium who would like to address the Committee? Okay. There being none, we're going to move to the agenda. And because we have someone here whose name has been introduced for appointment, I'd like to -- what number is the legislation?

MR. RYAN:

Forty-four.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. I would like to turn your attention to 2034 --

MR. RYAN:

Forty-four.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Forty-four, sorry. IR 2044, I'm going to make a motion to take it out of order.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed?
IR 2044 is before us.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

IR 2044-08 - Appointing Thomas D. Glascock as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 9) (D'Amaro). I would like to ask Mr. Glascock to please come to the podium so that we can get to meet you.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Hello.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much for being here.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. It's an honor.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And you can certainly see that it's quite an endeavor that you're entering into here.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Ah, yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And why do you want to do this?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Well, first let me say I'm a resident of Huntington and I believe the Vanderbilt Museum is a very important aspect of that community and of the County community. I first visited Long Island 20 years ago when I met a girl at college right before finals and she invited me down to visit, I had never really been to Huntington before. And one of the first places I ever went to visit was the Vanderbilt Museum. It had been profiled in *Crocodile Dundee*, was quite a destination. You know, I'm a lover of history, it was a window on the past and certainly an impressive destination to visit.

In the many years since that time, I've moved to Huntington, become a resident there. I brought my children there for birthday parties. I've taken them there for -- you know, for shows, to visit the museum. I've been there in the middle of the night with other people watching stellar events. It's a tremendous facility. It's something very important to the past. We were talking about, you know, the impact and the importance of museums, both locally and regionally and across the country, in the world. It's a window on the past. It's a reflection of where we came from and it's important to preserve these items.

When you look at the Vanderbilt Museum, it's something the County has had for 60 years. Should it be lost, it would be lost, much like the vessel we were talking about, it's likely to be lost forever. And, you know, to have something of that impressive a facility and havoc on is just -- would be tragic. And so it's an important part of my life. I think an important part of the Town of Huntington, an important part of our County.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, you've certainly articulated that very eloquently. I feel the same way about the Vanderbilt, having taught the *Great Gatsby* many times as an English teacher. But there was recently a Trustee who had been a member of the board and who found that because of the challenges that it required a great deal more time than she had anticipated putting into the role of trustee. Can you give us an inkling as to whether or not you feel you might be able to devote that kind of time? And of course we appreciate your being here at all before us, but can you just speak to that?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Well, I'm used to the time and commitments that are required by not-for-profit involvements. I'm a member of the Executive Committee and Trustee for the Huntington Chamber of Commerce. I'm on the Huntington Arts Council Board. I'm on the President's Council for the Huntington Leadership Foundation. And these are all things that have required time. It's time management so obviously an important skill. But I think that, frankly, my own involvements with these other organizations will be helpful with respect to the Vanderbilt Museum and I, frankly, don't see there being a problem with the time.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. I believe Legislator D'Amaro has a question.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Tom, thanks for coming down today. I appreciate it.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I wanted to ask you a little bit more. Listening to the discussion here, we've been having some debate over funding for the Vanderbilt in very difficult economic times and then how to fund it. I want to put that aside for a moment.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's pretty much our problem, you know, how do we fund that. Your situation on this board would speak more to what can you do for the Vanderbilt to help it become more viable, a self-supporting entity?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Sure. I've done some reading. I'll admit that I've been on the outside of the tent looking in rather than being on the inside of the tent so I have not been privy to the individual specifics of the financial problems. I think what has become evident from the news that I've read is that, you know, the Vanderbilt Museum cannot be dependent upon the County on a continual basis and it doesn't seem that it has been in the past.

And frankly, I'm an attorney by vocation and trade so I'm familiar with, you know, trust requirements. I think it seems to me like the Vanderbilt may have been a bit too dependent on its endowment, not looking at frankly income generating opportunities. Money has been spent in the past on capital improvements. I think that perhaps money should be earmarked towards those things that are likely to generate income for the facility.

In terms of my own personal involvement, what I can bring to the board, as I said, I'm Treasurer of the Huntington Chamber. I've been there with the chamber as it's basically recreated itself and pulled itself up from the boot straps from some fiscal and other problems. I'm an elder and trustee for my church. I have -- I'm a lawyer, a transactional lawyer. And I have a lot of experience with frankly public projects. I'm Legal Counsel to the Town of Huntington's Economic Development Corporation. I'm an Elder and Trustee for my church. So I'm dealing with a number of organizations that are dealing with financial issues. And, you know, it's to some degree the same across the board.

Now, the Vanderbilt has something that these other organizations don't have. It's an incredible destination that frankly, you know, could and should be utilized. If you look at some of the numbers that have been in Newsday in terms of, you know, financial sources for its operations, obviously there's annual attendance, there's an operating budget that is pulled from its endowment. But when

you look at grants and other fund-raising opportunities, really a fairly minimal amount of money has been raised by the Vanderbilt with respect to that. I mean, when you look at the Long Island Museum of American Art in Nassau County, you look at the Children's Museum, the Cradle of Aviation and other museums, they've taken advantage of opportunities that perhaps the Vanderbilt has not. Again, I've not been there -- I've not been on the inside, you know what they have done, but I think there's a wealth of opportunities out there that, you know, even in tough economic times can be taken advantage of.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and I agree with you. And even my colleague, Legislator Stern, during some of our debates and Legislator Cooper as well, many Legislators have come up, we're all trying to think out-of-the-box and think about how can we help the Vanderbilt raise revenue. So I appreciate that.

You had mentioned in your comments about seeking grants. Do you have experience with that as well?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Well, that's one thing I was going to mention, you know. In terms of opportunities, you mentioned grants. I, as an attorney, have written a number of grants. There are four -- to be candid, there are four EPA Brownfield communities on Long Island and the EPA considers its Brownfield Program an Economic Development Program. My firm has participated and written a grant for each one of those four communities. I've worked on other mainstream grant programs in our work together with Economic Development Corporation. We've pulled money from New York State, federal monies, local County monies to put together towards infrastructure and public improvement projects. So it's something that I've worked with and have experience with.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very good. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Legislator D'Amaro. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

You mentioned before that you'd be willing to look at enhancing revenues that already exist, expanding programs that already exist, so you have pretty much a clean slate, so to speak. Were you going in there with a completely open mind?

MR. GLASCOCK:

Absolutely. In sitting during the public portion of this meeting, I was writing down some opportunities; grants, events. For instance, Oheka Castle is located not far away. I've been there for a number of different events, from book signings to, you know, to fundraising events, etcetera. There's no reason why there couldn't be a similar program or the Vanderbilt couldn't be used for similar functions. You've got, perhaps, corporate outings, have more shows at the Planetarium.

It's a -- you know, when you look at some of the destinations across the country that are particularly noteworthy in terms of kind the Gold Coast Era, you know, you've got Newport and you've got {Biltmore} down in North Carolina. I used to be a member of {Biltmore} when I lived down in the southeast. There is an incredible number of people that go to these destinations. They're well publicized and, you know, that leads to things like corporate naming rights, corporate sponsorships. There's a Friends of the Vanderbilt group that has -- that's in construction. There's no reason why, you know, little emblems couldn't be used to put on people's cars, you know, you kind of create a buzz for that.

I was talking with someone recently at the Chamber of being, you know, fairly involved in the chamber on its Executive Committee. And the person I was speaking with talked about -- you know, was saying how they used to hear about the Vanderbilt all the time, the Vanderbilt Museum.

You know, there were movie productions that were there, you know, shows, weddings, things of that nature. And maybe it hasn't been as visible as it could be in the future. There are opportunities that need to be explored. Whether it would lead to overnight success, perhaps not, but each step forward is a step toward. And I'd like to see the museum head in that direction.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you consider yourself a quick study?

MR. GLASCOCK:

I try to be. I think I am.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. And as an attorney, if you have to be aggressive, do you think you have that skill also?

MR. GLASCOCK:

I can --

LEG. ALDEN:

Because here's where I'm going with that. If you get stonewalled or if some of the financial information is not given to you, if you're looking to open some books and open and peak inside --

MR. GLASCOCK:

I'm as assertive as I -- I'm good at working with people, but I'm also as assertive as I need to be.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good, then God's speed to you. You know what you're getting into.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, it sounds to me like you're up to the task. And, you know, I'm looking forward to -- Legislator Stern, and then we'll entertain a motion.

LEG. STERN:

Yes, and we'll take the vote. Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom, thanks so much for being here.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you.

LEG. STERN:

And I think that we can all appreciate that regardless of the direction that the Vanderbilt will take, that the need is for, you know, new people, new ideas that have a business acumen, that have a dedication to the community that the Vanderbilt seeks to serve. And you certainly bring all of that. So it's going to be a pleasure to see.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Would you like to make the motion, Lou?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes. Madam Chair, I'd like to offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

I'd like to second that motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is anybody here from the Vanderbilt?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No. I received word from Carol Hart that she was invited to Japan to look at the projectors and how they're -- you know, the kind of instrument that we need here.

LEG. ALDEN:

I just have two concerns. Number one, that the person that you're being proposed to replace, that they're in agreement that they missed X number of meetings, because that's not a good thing, especially not in a crisis mode, you shouldn't be missing meetings. But I also would not like that person to find out in the newspaper that they've been replaced. So if we could in any way, shape or form --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I'll take care of that.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- inform that person?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. And through the Chair, if I could respond, I believe a formal notification had been sent weeks ago to the prior individual that was occupying this position.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, and if we have a phone number, I'd even be willing to call. But, you know, it's not nice to --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Tom, you have that, right?

MR. RYAN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for that consideration. Okay, there's a motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Opposed? **Motion passes.** Congratulations (**VOTE: 5-0-0-0**).

LEG. ALDEN:

I think congratulations, but I'm not so sure.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you. Well, I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you and I look forward to working towards a better future for the Vanderbilt. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

LEG. STERN:

Would the Clerk -- Madam Clerk, can you please list me as a co-sponsor?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And I just want to let you know that this will be before the General -- the full meeting of the Legislature on the 16th, but you do not have to be present there.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, they tend to be a little longer than the committee meetings.

MR. GLASCOCK:

Okay. Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you for being here.

Okay. By the way, just to clarify the record, Commissioner, it has always been my understanding that although the Vanderbilt Museum and other historic holdings are not part of the Parks Department, they are part of our parks system. Can you please tell me whether or not I am correct in saying that?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That is correct, they are County parkland but they do not fall under the authority of our County Parks Department.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, thank you. I just wanted to be certain that that was clear on the record.

I would also like to welcome two of our Parks Trustees, Miles Borden and Gil Cardillo. And neither one of you wanted to speak, but I'll be seeing you at the Trustees' meeting. Thank you for being here.

Okay. Commissioner, before we begin the agenda, is there anything in particular that you wanted to mention before we started or shall we just hit it as we get to it?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I'm just here to answer questions on each of the resolutions.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

Tabled Resolutions

Okay, Tabled resolutions. **1949-08 - Naming the fishing pier at Smith Point County Park as the "John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier" (Viloria-Fisher).**

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to table by Legislator Nowick, seconded by Legislator Alden. And as we know, this is due to the statutory waiting time after the passing of a person before one of our County holdings can be named after that person. So it's certainly no negative reflection on our past Trustee. IR 1990-08 - To authorize a license agreement with --

LEG. ALDEN:

You didn't call the vote.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I'm sorry. There was a motion and a second to table.
All in favor? Opposed? **Motion tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1990-08 - Amending Resolution No. 1340-2005, to authorize a license agreement with Montauk Observatory and to construct and use an astronomical observatory (Schneiderman)

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, I was going to ask -- I'll second that motion. And on the motion, I would like to -- was there a reason why you were making a motion to table?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, I think that, number one, the sponsor of this legislation should come down because this is a little bit different than what happened when we actually donated the piece of apparatus or the darks -- and we designated as a dark side sky zone. So I think we need a lot more information on the people that would be going --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's why Ben Zwirn came to the table because I had already asked him some of those questions. But I'm fine with tabling it and we'll ask the sponsor if he can attend the meeting to help clarify that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Can I ask a question?

LEG. ALDEN:

Unless you want to pass.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro has a question.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What are we doing, tabling this you said?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We're tabling it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Because Ben said that there was something with the funding, that they had an agreement that they were going to be funded through County funds and so people are uncomfortable with the language.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. You know, Madam Chairwoman, I'll defer until -- just go along with the tabling for now and wait till the bill comes up again. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I did have one question I had forgotten. Mr. Zwirn, we had talked about the sponsor had mentioned to me that SUNY Stony Brook has availed itself of this facility. And were you going to check on that for me, whether or not the university does use it?

MR. ZWIRN:

I haven't yet but I will.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, I'd appreciate that, okay, because it's been represented to me that it's been used by the university and I would just like to have an answer to that.

MR. ZWIRN:

Okay. It's way out east, if you can imagine. You know, it's --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, the skies are dark out there.

MR. ZWIRN:

Oh, really. I'm just saying, maybe with Stony Brook/Southampton.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We do have Southampton which has the environmental sciences, you know.

MR. ZWIRN:

It's still -- it's probably 45 up miles east of there, believe it or not.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So IR 1990, there's a motion and a second to table.
All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1990 stands tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

We have approved IR 2044.

Introductory Resolutions

We'll move to Introductory Resolutions. **IR 2109-08 - Requesting Legislative approval of a contract award for operation of the restaurant, catering and bar concession at Bergen Point Country Club in West Babylon (County Executive)**. And Commissioner, before -- well, I'll entertain a motion and then I have a question for the Commissioner about this. Is there a motion? You're from Babylon.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, I'm not sure. I'll offer a motion to approve for discussion purposes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, I'll second that motion. And Commissioner, on that motion, there were -- there was a comment made by a Mr. Carracino regarding the Bergen Point Golf & Country Club as opposed to the other golfing facilities. Can you address the comments that he made, please, why there's a difference?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Unlike our other golf courses, Bergen Point has been completely privatized since about 1987.

Maintenance there is conducted by the concessionaire; is not done by Parks staff, maintenance staff as it is at the other three courses, West Sayville, Timber Point and Indian Island. And that is an arrangement that has been around for several decades.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right, Legislator Alden has a question.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe I'm wrong, but I would think that that would be more pertinent to 2112 rather than 2109 because --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I was looking at the two of them, Legislator.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah. Okay, because 2109 seems like the arrangement that we have at almost every other golf facility where we have a catering hall or a --

MR. ZWIRN:

Yeah, if I might. They're fairly -- let's talk about them both, because I think they're pretty much linked in this particular case. The contract would be awarded to the same vendor in both cases.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's why I asked as we approached both issues.

MR. ZWIRN:

Absolutely. And I know Legislator Alden has -- I don't know if he's ready to go, but he did call our office in advance and he called the Parks Department because he had some questions that I know he raised. And, Legislator Alden, you might as well go through them and we'll answer the best --

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, as long as we know we're looking at both of them.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Traditionally we had done all the golf courses as County-owned facilities and operated facilities. We got to the point where we didn't have enough money, and whenever that was, 15, 20 years ago, to make the improvements necessary at the course to be competitive. And that's one of the reasons why -- and I just dug through history because I wasn't a Legislator at the time. I didn't really support that idea. But we did not have the money so we went out to a private vendor who was going to put a lot of money into the golf course and raise its standards which would benefit everybody.

Unfortunately, as we all know, what did happen there was fraud, deceit and basically -- I mean, this is public knowledge -- the operator that was in contact with Suffolk County got arrested. And I believe he pled guilty, he's going to jail. I don't know if they actually sentenced him yet or not, but it looks like he was going to get sentenced to some kind of jail time.

So in light of that, I was hoping that we had made an analysis between going into that same type of arrangement again where there's a possibility for fraud when we don't have a lot of contact with it and the way we run the other three golf courses. I did call the Commissioner's Office and had a

discussion with him. And he assured me that we've actually established an auditing department in the golf course, in the Parks Department which that I'm glad we did that. And the oversight and the auditing will take place on a regular basis to try to prevent what happened in the past. But we're still going to use that model where someone else runs the golf course for us and actually is probably going to reap the benefits. Where if we went back to the model where we ran the golf course ourselves, the profit that the one -- in this case it's Zebra Golf, right? Is that the name of the concessionaire?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Zebra Golf. They're going to make a profit. And it's going to be a couple of hundred thousand dollars, or whatever it is. That money, if we were running the golf course, would actually inure to the benefit of the people of Suffolk County. So I was -- I had asked a question whether we made that comparison, what it would cost us to take back that golf course, run it ourselves in an orderly fashion. And some of the answers I did get, but I would let Ben just put on the record some of the answers that he gave me so that everybody has the benefit of it.

MR. ZWIRN:

Let me start and I'll let the Parks Commissioner and the Deputy, Tracey Bellone, fill in the gaps.

LEG. ALDEN:

And actually, I think it was Tracey that I had the conversation with. I called the Commissioner, but then I talked to Tracey.

MR. ZWIRN:

But I'm not shy, I got the mike so I'll start. The -- you were right. The original vendor there was arrested, was indicted, I think ultimately plead guilty, with the cooperation of the Parks Department, I might add, in the investigation with the District Attorney's Office. So it was a -- it might have been the Parks Department that brought it to the attention of the authorities in the first place, so --

LEG. ALDEN:

And the Comptroller.

MR. ZWIRN:

Right. And so they did their job, Comptroller --

LEG. ALDEN:

And the Legislature who started the investigation off.

MR. ZWIRN:

I didn't know that, but that's good news.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It's a group hug. It's a big group hug.

MR. ZWIRN:

You know, but that's good, the system worked and that individual was removed. There were people who took over when they left, when the individual left who were employees of the individual. And there was some, you know, controversy with that involved, but they had been investigated and cleared by the District Attorney's Office before they were allowed to take over and run the facility.

Ultimately, they have run the facility either better, or there's been no taking of revenue that should have been going to the County because the numbers have increased over the last year from the new operators.

The reason we're back before the Legislature today is because this is a -- was a sole responder to the RFP. Tracey can go into some of the reasons why that might be the case, because other people did look at it. I know the restaurant, I think, is in great disrepair. There's been a commitment on the part of this responder to put over a million dollars in capital improvements into the facility over the next ten years, I think over \$600,000 into the course facilities and \$400,000 in into the restaurant facilities. So they have to make that commitment. If the County were running the facility, the County would have to make that kind of commitment to capital improvements. And we'd also have to have the staff and the expense of running a golf course with -- I think the Parks Department estimated in the first year would be over, I think the number was 600 and -- almost \$630,000 to operate it with all the fertilizer and personnel everything else that would be necessary to run it.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ben, can I stop you as you go along?

MR. ZWIRN:

Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

\$600,000 for operations. And what was the revenue that we -- not we, but we actually audited. So what was the revenue that was produced at Bergen Point?

MR. ZWIRN:

Do we have the numbers for 2008?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

2007, not 2008; we're not finished, so.

MR. ZWIRN:

2007 was 289,000. And I think they sent me, while I was over here today, an update. Let me see if I can --

LEG. ALDEN:

It had to be more than that. The number of rounds -- I'm talking about total gross revenue.

MR. ZWIRN:

Oh, gross revenue was -- would have been \$737,947, and the County received 289,921.

LEG. ALDEN:

As basically like a lease; that's the way you can look at it, right?

MR. ZWIRN:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. ZWIRN:

Now, I just want to see if I have -- now, the estimated this year, for 2008, the final numbers aren't in, but they're estimating at \$325,000 this year when they close the books.

LEG. ALDEN:

And that's the payment to us?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Right.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

All right, so if you took our projected operating revenue -- operating expenses, you took the gross receipts, we're probably making out a little better than we would have if we ran it ourselves.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Correct.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's a good answer.

MR. ZWIRN:

No, but I --

LEG. ALDEN:

That's what I -- I needed that analysis.

MR. ZWIRN:

And I want to thank you. You know, we battle all the time up here, Legislator Alden and myself, and that's not a personal thing, even though sometimes we get a little loud. But I appreciate --

LEG. ALDEN:

Ben, turn around, watch the Sheriffs come in and throw you right out.

MR. ZWIRN:

But the last time you asked them to shoot me in the leg, I thought that was fair. But we appreciate the fact that you called the offices in advance and asked these questions so that we had an opportunity to try to prepare.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right, and we clarified that.

MR. ZWIRN:

And we appreciate that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And with apologies to Legislator Horsley whose committee's time we're already into by 25 minutes, we will try to keep going efficiently. But it was important to have that on the record.

So did we make a motion yet on this?

MS. LOMORIELLO:

Yes, motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

There's a motion and a second to approve 2109.

LEG. ALDEN:

But I would also offer a suggestion, that we look at possibly an escape clause. Because at some point in time -- and I don't mean per cause, because actually any time they're going to steal from us or not live up to the provisions of the contract, we should be able to break that contract. But I mean if economic times change and we feel we want to bring that back into the model of all the other golf courses that we have right now, I think we should have that flexibility.

And on a specific, if we're looking at 2112, do we really want them to build like a miniature golf course? Is that part of the contract? Because that was in the original one and it really didn't sound like --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

There's a few things I just want to clarify. There is a provision in the contract that could get us out of it. We can terminate at any time. But in ten years we do get to renegotiate five years and we could take back maintenance at that time, if we chose to, so there is that provision in the contract. And, no, we aren't going to make them, it was just a suggestion in the sample agreement to build a golf course, but that isn't part of their capital projects.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Six hundred thousand into the golf course, what would that consist of?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I think they're doing bunker improvements, some irrigation improvements. They outlined a list of items that they are proposing. We get to approve or we get to put in our own projects. There's some netting requirements, additional netting they we may want done, but there is, I think, irrigation and well improvements that have to be done immediately at the course.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And you're confident that we have the ability to audit and make sure? Because in the past, that was one of the areas that we were weak on where, you know, they sent in an invoice or whatever way they did it, we spend money on this, this and this and they actually hadn't spent money on anything.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Yeah. The situation with Global Golf, the questionable invoices were submitted under the prior administration. Our administration -- this administration hired internal auditors who found -- who went back to look at those invoices. And we were the ones who turned them over to the Comptroller's Office because we could not verify the company.

That being said, we instituted a new capital requirement procedure where we actually called, you know, most of the companies that the proposals come in on. So there is a new checks and balances in place. I feel very confident. We do do ticket checks, surprise ticket checks on all our golf courses including Bergen Point where we do ask people for their receipts. We did install a new point of sale system where we have better control over seeing what transactions are being -- you know, we can dial into the system at any point and actually see transactions, daily transactions. And we get copies of everything that is made on-site, you know, minute-to-minute.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And I'll talk to you about a couple of other ideas that I had because going back almost ten years, I've had a problem with what was going on at Bergen Point. And I've called for a number of

audits from not only just your administration but administrations prior to you from a prior Comptroller who basically, I think, committed fraud. And I don't mind putting that on the record. This Comptroller, Joe Sawicki, actually did a comprehensive audit and discovered that there was, you know, huge discrepancies.

And all along, and Legislator Caracciolo at the time, we had gone down there, we actually observed fraud being committed against the County of Suffolk. And when we brought it to the attention of the authorities, it was either pushed aside or it was glossed over. And I want to commend your administration for actually proceeding with whatever actions you had to take to bring them to justice because there was a gross misconduct that was going on there. They were stealing money from the people of Suffolk County. So I want to commend you for your actions on that.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I would just also like to point out that we have two separate auditing units within the Parks Department. We have a Contracts Auditing Unit which on a regular basis looks at all the paper work coming in. And then we also have a separate Auditing Department which also goes out and does independent audits, independent from our Contracts Auditing Unit.

An additional point is in order to bring this golf course closer to the way the other golf courses are, we split the arrangement here into two separate bids. We separated the restaurant and catering concession from the golf course, as it is at our other three courses. So we are trying to put in, as Tracey alluded to and Ben alluded to, put in additional steps here to really scrutinize what's going on there.

LEG. ALDEN:

I commend you for that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Stern has a question.

LEG. STERN:

Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Could you tell us a bit about the company here, Zebra Golf, the company that we are looking to create the contract with?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Everything is black and white for them.

LEG. STERN:

That's so not good.

What is their history, what type of company, who are the principals?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Zebra Golf has two principal owners, Joe {Rayhor} and Bob Miller. Bob Miller was a former golf professional himself. I don't have it in front -- I don't have his resume in front me, but I believe it's for over 15 years. They're both local, they both live in Nassau County. Joe {Rayhor} was -- had worked previously for Global Golf but ran the Bethpage Golf Course operation and was recommended by actually the former Commissioner who had brought him in to try to help, you know, figure out some of the wrong -- the questionable activities. So that's how we brought Joe {Rayhor} in. But both of them -- Joe {Rayhor} is a former golf professional as well and I believe he has over 30 years experience in the golf industry.

LEG. STERN:

But as principals of a company, is this their first venture?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I don't have it in front of me. I don't believe so, but I don't have it in front of me what the prior company was that they ran, but I can get that information to you. I apologize.

LEG. STERN:

I appreciate that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Are there any other questions? There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? When Legislator D'Amaro comes back, he'll probably ask to be cast with the majority. **So IR 2109 stands approved**

(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator D'Amaro)

*****SEE RECONSIDERATION OF IR 2109 ON PAGE 45*****

IR 2112-08 - Requesting Legislative approval of a contract award for operation of the golf concession at Bergen Point Country Club in West Babylon (County Executive). I will make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. NOWICK:

Can I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Tracey, on the operation of the restaurant, from what I understand that's the same company. Where do they operate a restaurant in Nassau County?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I don't believe they do operate a restaurant in Nassau County.

LEG. NOWICK:

Do they operate a golf restaurant in Nassau, on one of the golf courses in Nassau County? Do you know where they have another --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I don't believe they have a restaurant. I believe he's actually bringing in -- he's actually working with bringing someone else in who has run a restaurant. He will be the principal owner, but I believe he's bringing a company in who has familiarity. But I can get that for you before the General Leg, I just --

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, I'm just curious to understand. And from what Ben had said --

MR. ZWIRN:

He's going to post the specials, though.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

With the prices.

MR. ZWIRN:

He's going to post the prices, that's part of -- it's in the RFP.

LEG. NOWICK:

Ben, you're going to think of me every time you go into a restaurant.

MR. ZWIRN:

The County Executive already does.

LEG. NOWICK:

Tracey, just another thing. \$400,000 over the next ten years is going to go into the catering facility or the restaurant?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

The -- both, the catering facility and restaurant. And then it gets --

LEG. NOWICK:

And would that be the bathrooms as well; the whole building?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

That whole building.

LEG. NOWICK:

What will they start with? It seems like that's a drop in the bucket for that place.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

It probably would be more, but they're only committed to 400,000, but he has said that he probably would, you know, have to put more into the facility. He does have -- he has brought architects in to actually redesign. He's actually working with an architect in Amityville.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah, I was just curious if right from the start that they would do something --

LEG. ALDEN:

They can fix that first.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's right, paint that up and fix it up and put the mirror back and everything.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I believe there's some structural problems with the building as well.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. No, I just wondered if right out of the box they were going to do something significant. Because I do believe that that helps to bring golfers in, when you have a restaurant and you can sit down in a place you're not embarrassed to be in.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

You know, I'll express your concern to him, but he did have an architect, he is looking at an overall haul of the entire building.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yeah. If you can get the information, I'd like to have it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

I will, sure.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second to approve 2112. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **IR 2112 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Counsel has told me, Barbara, that we just can't add somebody's name, so I'm going to make a

motion to reconsider 2109. Seconded by --

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2109 is before us.**

And, Legislator D'Amaro, would you like to say your motion again? You made a motion to approve before.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Did I?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern, I believe, right?

LEG. STERN:

That's right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. There's a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2109 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'd like to thank the Committee for reconsidering. I apologize, I had stepped out for a moment.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

IR 2109 is approved.

IR 2130-08 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Raynor Beach County Park (CP 7175)(County Executive). Is there a motion?

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Nowick, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2130 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2141-08 (Appropriating funds in connection with improvements at Peconic Dunes (CP 050)(County Executive). Commissioner, I have a question about this. During the budget process, the money that we had provided in past budgets for the Peconic Dunes Camp was not provided in the 2009 budget. Does that impact this project or will the camp be constituted as it has in the past at Peconic Dunes?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

We're currently in the process of working with Cornell to do a one-year and up to two-year extension of their existing contract with us to run the campground. So this would still go towards improvements. There are a number of buildings throughout the property. I do have some additional information including photographs of the structures that are there which I can provide to

the Committee.

But regardless of the '09 money, this money will help to make improvements that are necessary and also to help us expand use to the general public. There is additional property next door to the west which is jointly purchased by the County with the Town of Southold known as the Bitner Property. And one of the things we'd also be looking to do is to establish additional access to that property through the Peconic Dunes site.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So it will be operating and so this money will be necessary.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I will make a motion to approve. Seconded by?

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Please note Legislator Alden voting from the back of the auditorium. **2141 stands approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2142-08 - Appropriating funds in connection with renovations at Historic Blydenburgh Park (CP 7507)(County Executive).

LEG. NOWICK:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Nowick, second by myself. All in favor? Legislator Kennedy, did you want to make a comment? I see you racing up to the horseshoe.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

On the motion.

LEG. KENNEDY:

As a matter of fact, I know that we wound up with duplicate resolutions today on the agenda associated with the capital funds. I'm just glad to go ahead and support the County Executive's resolution. Obviously I'm happy with the Committee's action to table. This is going to provide critical funding to stabilize the foundation on this mill which is one of only three in Suffolk County. So I appreciate the Committee's actions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. We have a motion and a second to approve IR 2142. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2142 stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2168-08 - Amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the restoration of the Boat House at the Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7438) (Cooper). Lance, the Boat House is where Cornell had been working, was that the building that was kind of getting --

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It was shaking and falling down?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct. It's stabilized, but temporarily. This would stabilize the facility and that's all. It's not to renovate it for any particular use but it's to make sure that the building remains standing.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And this is on the main campus. It's not the --

MR. REINHEIMER:

It's down by the waterfront of the property.

LEG. STERN:

I have a question on --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Question by Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

On the next one.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, question by Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Cornell moved out last year, at our insistence, because of the, I guess, instability of the property. Didn't we take some steps at that point to stabilize?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's correct, temporarily, steps were taken to stabilize the building.

LEG. ALDEN:

And these are temporary steps also?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, this is to make more permanent steps to stabilize it. They're still monitoring the building. They're still looking at it, but this would be to take it to the next level as far as stabilizing it more permanently.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And while this isn't in the water, this is next to the water, how much more money do you think we're going to be pouring into the water, basically?

MR. REINHEIMER:

My feeling on this, given the present situation with the Vanderbilt, I think it's important that we

stabilize buildings. There's no planned program or use for this facility at this point in time. And even if there was, it wouldn't be a significant revenue enhancer. So this would stabilize the building. It wouldn't -- wouldn't necessarily provide for programs.

LEG. ALDEN:

And this is a building we really can't use for -- it's not an income generator, correct?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No, that's correct. Its location makes it difficult to get to. Its floor plan is difficult to use. It's on a couple of different levels. It's on the beach front. It's also -- there's a level above the beach front. And I think there's a third level. It's very difficult to move between those levels. So it's not a practical building for general public use.

LEG. ALDEN:

I know Legislator D'Amaro had asked for it and I think a couple of us had asked for it, when are we going to hear the presentation from Vanderbilt as far as an update on their plan to be able to be self-sufficient?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I think they're developing the plan. I think the director is planning on having a meeting Monday to continue that. And they have preliminary plans. They are going forward with a business plan that should be coming before the Legislature. Whether -- I doubt at this point that it would be formally presented to the Legislature before the first of the year, but they're working to have fee increases and a working plan by the first of the year. The Vanderbilt meets on the 17th; the Trustees meet on the 17th.

LEG. ALDEN:

If we approve 2168, when would they actually do the stabilization work? They can't do it in the winter, right?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That's a question better answered by Public Works. But Public Works has a person on-site that's at the Vanderbilt several days a week. And they're looking and anxious to go forward with this project. This is at the recommendation of Public Works. And as you can see, they used other project offsets to provide the funds for this because of Public Works' need to do the work.

LEG. ALDEN:

My suggestion is going to be that if DPW thinks we should go forward with this, they should come down with a comprehensive presentation for us at the next legislative session, which is next Tuesday, because this to me is just more money with a big question mark. And there's still money that's actually allocated for the airplane hangar and for the seashore and all this other kind of stuff that I don't know how it fits in Vanderbilt's plan to make money or if it's just more money being thrown into -- you know, thrown away, taxpayers -- a waste of taxpayers' money.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, we wanted to get some answers from Public Works concerning, you know, what the impact would be if this work was not done. We didn't receive an answer from them.

LEG. ALDEN:

I'll vote for this today, but if -- through the Chair, if we could request DPW to be able to give us a little bit --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I've got you covered on that. I wrote it in my notes. We will be asking the Commissioner to come on the 18th to answer questions regarding this.

LEG. ALDEN:

But yet be able to speak on a little bit bigger scale, because there's 10 or 20 Capital Projects that are open and some of them are funded, some of them we haven't really done work on. But I think I'd like to hear on our side a little bit of, you know, what the plan is.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, the next item is another Capital Project at Vanderbilt; you know, the ADA compliance monies.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah, but there's also money that we allocated a couple of years ago to the projector that we used part of the money to buy the house across the street. And then we used part of the money to do -- to maybe do some stuff along the seashore, but we didn't expend those monies.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The seaplane, uh-huh.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Can I make one comment?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. But I just want to put on the record that we will be calling --

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works to come on the 18th.

LEG. ALDEN:

Great.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

On the 16th, rather. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, and I appreciate that. Madam Chair and Legislator Alden, I agree with you that at a minimum we need to know the phase-in or the timing of these projects and how that comports with the timing that the Vanderbilt has, which it seems to be a year based on all the debate that we've had leading up to this point. So I appreciate the fact that you'll bring -- or ask the Commissioner to attend. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We have a motion to approve and a second.

MS. LOMORIELLO:

No.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, we don't have one yet?

MS. LOMORIELLO:

On 2168? No.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I'll make the motion.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed?

IR 2168 stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

IR 2169-08 - Appropriating funds in connection with modification for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7450) (Cooper). Legislator Stern, did you want to ask a question today or when --

LEG. STERN:

Well, I guess first I'll make the motion to approve just so it's before us.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So there's a motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I think it really is the same type of question, what exactly would this appropriation be used for? I understand it's for improvements to be made to bring facilities into compliance with ADA. But I also remember, as we were going through our Capital discussion, that a portion of that ADA related-type work was going to be done to Normandy Manor. And I'm wondering if anybody knows if that is still the case.

MR. REINHEIMER:

This is a campus-wide project, but specifically the major portion of this is going to be used to modify the public restrooms that are in the -- by the entrance of the museum. In the back of the guard house are public restrooms. And the bulk of these funds will be used to retrofit and to bring them up to compliance for ADA accessibility.

My understanding, I think the only portion that is going to be used for Normandy Manor was to provide a ramp into the front for access. I don't -- I know the plan was possibly to make their restrooms ADA compliant, I'm not sure if that's a high priority at this point in time.

LEG. STERN:

No. In fact, I would think not. Certainly before we have any type of plan that we can consider, as Legislator D'Amaro points out, you know, the long-term plan here is very much in question. And I could not support the expenditure of funds that would -- you know, for any type of improvements, specifically as it relates to Normandy Manor since we don't know in what way, if any, Normandy Manor plays into the future of the Vanderbilt.

I mean, I'll support this resolution so that we can go forward and the same thing, so that we can hear from DPW as to what the specific plans are for this appropriation, but I think those questions need to be answered.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Just for the record, my same concerns, my same comments as the prior motion. And I join

Legislator Stern and D'Amaro with their concerns.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. And we'll be delivering those concerns to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works. There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **IR 2169 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2170-08 - Amending the 2008 -- oh, no, we're -- did you withdraw this, or would you like us to table it for now?

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, no, no. As a matter of fact, there's no need to go ahead and clutter the agenda. Well, actually, you know what? I think I'll ask --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Clutter away.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, no. I will ask that it be tabled, Madam Chair, pending hopeful approval on Tuesday.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Passage of the other one, okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I have to read the title then, **IR 2170 - Amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with renovations at Historic Blydenburgh Park (CP 7507) (Kennedy).**

Motion to table by Legislator Alden, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 2170 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2179-08 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to County campgrounds (CP 7009)(County Executive). And this authorizes bonding of \$1 million in previously budgeted monies for campground improvements. I will make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Alden.

LEG. D'AMARO:

On the motion?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

If I could just ask the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner to give a brief description of what's contemplated.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Certainly. The program provides funding for work at a number of parks for additional expanded facilities and additional infrastructure. Electricity is, of course, a very, very important need, that includes both upgrading of existing electrical infrastructure as well as extension of electrical utilities.

Blydenburgh County Park, it includes construction of a sanitary building. At Cathedral Pines, it includes providing additional campsites. At Cupsogue County Park, additional funding for

construction of an access boardwalk to the bay side of Cupsogue which would include handicapped accessibility. At Indian Island County Park, to improve electrical access at campsites in addition to provide additional Park Police infrastructure there. They have a substation there. At the Lakeland County Park, it would be for minor improvements at that park which accommodates handicapped persons right now, and additional enhancements of that including handicapped accessible ramps, upgrade of existing sanitary and maintenance facilities. At Meschutt, that would be for construction of a sanitary building because existing facility is insufficient. At Sears Bellows County Park it would be towards construction of a lifeguard and EMT station. And finally, at Southhaven County Park for the addition of additional campsites and upgrading of additional -- of existing utilities at the site which includes electricity.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And thank you for the question, because it's important to know specifically what we're doing. And I just wanted to ask you a quick question about electricity at the campsites. Many of the campers that are using our parks are using vehicles. They're not tent campers. And when they have electricity, I believe when I first looked at rate increases, there was an explanation that because of all of the use of the electrical facilities, some of the circuit breakers were being blown by campers that have -- that use a lot of juice, so to speak?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That does happen at some of our camps. There's been a trend in recent years towards more and more RV's and less and less traditional tent camping, or primitive camping. And the RV's do require a fair amount of electricity. So in some cases the amperage at some of these sites is inadequate at this point to support that evolution. And this would include upgrading of the electrical infrastructure to provide increased amperage, going in particular from a 30 amp system to a 50 amp system at some locations.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, so you're going from a 30 amp system to a 50 amp system. So that's not only an increase in the funds that we have to spend in increasing the system, but the cost that we're paying in utilities because there's more amperage being used at each site.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I don't know if that would translate into, you know, an increased electrical utility cost.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, if you're plugging more stuff in you're pulling more juice out, aren't you?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

If we're adding more sites, yes, that would be increasing electrical usage.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, if the RV's need greater amperage, it's because they have more appliances that they're using, isn't that -- I mean, they're using air-conditioning more than had been used in the past, they probably run TV's.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

They do have -- a lot of the RV's and the campers do have additional -- they do have additional infrastructure they bring with them, that does include air-conditioning and other electronics.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Just, you know, putting this on the record that we are spending a great deal there. There's a

motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Opposed? **Motion stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 2206-08 - Approving a license agreement for Christopher Indillis to reside at Robert Cushman Murphy County Park, Manorville (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. And I would just like to -- on that motion, which is a rental, I would like to congratulate and thank Deputy Commissioner Bellone for her really professional work in putting together the group that's working on this and helping to give us very solid direction in setting the criteria. So thank you, Tracey, for the work that you do on this.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BELLONE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

There's a motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Opposed?

Motion stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

If there is no further business, I'll make a motion to adjourn.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern.

LEG. ALDEN:

Third.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And third and fourth and fifth. Thank you very much, and our apologies again to the Chair of the next committee.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:54 PM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY