

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**OF THE**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on January 28, 2009.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair  
Leg. Cameron Alden (not present)  
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick (excused absence)  
Leg. Steven H. Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Legislator Jay H. Schneiderman, Second District  
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk  
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office  
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office  
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner of Parks  
Steve Gittelman, Vanderbilt Museum  
Carol Ghiorso Hart, Vanderbilt Museum  
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive  
William Shilling, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Thomas Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher  
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director  
Lynn Dwyer, appointee for Vanderbilt Museum  
Ron Beattie, appointee for Vanderbilt Museum  
Rick Jurgens, Golf Course Industry representative  
Mike Eagan, Board member L IMM  
Thomas Jones, Suffolk Committee for Camping  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

**TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

## MEETING COMMENCED AT 1:09 PM

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Will all members of the Parks Committee please come to the horseshoe; we're about to begin. Okay.

Good afternoon. Welcome to today's meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee. If you could please join us in saying the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Horsley.

### SALUTATION

And if could join me in a moment of silence. One of our members, Lynne Nowick, lost her father recently and we'd like to keep him and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

Thank you. Okay. Do we have any cards? Are there any speakers? Okay. Seeing none, I'm going to ask the indulgence of the Committee to take a couple of resolutions out of order. I know that we have Lynn Dwyer here. I was wondering if Ronald Beattie is here? Okay, hello.

### MR. BEATTIE:

Hi.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And these are the two people who are -- whose names are before us for appointment to different -- to the Vanderbilt Museum Trustee post. So I will make a motion take IR 2252 out of order.

### LEG. STERN:

Second.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? IR 2252 is before us. Ms. Dwyer, if you could come up to the microphone please so that we can get to know you a little bit. Okay. And I will read the resolution title, which is **(2252) Appointing Lynn E. Dwyer as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission, Trustee No. 15. (Lindsay)**.

And, Miss Dwyer, I had an opportunity to speak with you a little bit before the Committee began. But I would like the other members to get to know you a little bit. And we can start, first of all, by thanking you for submitting your name for this and your willingness to perform a public service. And if you could just tell us a little bit about yourself and what you feel you bring to this position.

### MS. DWYER:

Thank you for inviting me to join you today and for consideration of this honor. I appreciate it.

My current position is as Assistant Director for the Northeast for the Eastern Partnership Office of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Foundation was started about 30 years ago. It's authorized by Congress every six years. And we originally started because at one point in time the federal government couldn't take private donations and they wanted to see tax dollars go further by having opportunities to pool and leverage with sources other than federal: Corporate, criminal penalties, administrative penalties, state governments, to take that money to have it pool and leveraged, to have a larger conservation impact for -- and to provide for more grants. I've worked for the Foundation for a period of five years and have been able to work not only on major conservation issues nationally, but of significant regionally.

One set of issues that I work on regularly of most relevance to the Vanderbilt Museum is on the Long Island Sound. We manage funds for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Shell Marine Habitat Program, United States Environmental Protection Agency as well as a variety of other funding sources, including funds from the New York State Office of the Attorney General for projects focused on some of the priorities associated with conservation and water quality on the Long Island Sound.

So I'm very familiar with the area around the Vanderbilt, some of the special challenges both land and water based in that particular area as a result of managing the Long Island Sound Futures Fund for a variety of those organizations. We've given over a hundred grants and \$4 million in that area, this mixture of funds from federal, corporate and state sources.

I think it's a good background in that one, as I mentioned, I'm quite familiar with a variety of the natural resource and other community based issues. And the funds have been used broadly to deal with some of the priority areas of significance in that area. But it has given me the opportunity to build relationships, partnerships and strategies that are very practical to deal with some of the challenges we face.

One of the things we know as a Foundation is that no one group can now at this point in time, given the complexity of the problems that we face, solve all the problems. But if we work together we have a better chance of addressing what we believe are to be the most priority -- the issues of most priority and the issues of most significance.

I think, in addition to the work just generally around the Long Island Sound -- and I'm a south shore kid; I grew up in Brentwood. I went to Brentwood High School so I'm a long-term Long Islander. And I remember in the past what it was like and what I'd like to see in the past to be again in the future.

I have, I think, fairly strong background beyond my experience with the Foundation. I have a masters in public administration from San Francisco State, which I give -- I think, is very helpful particularly with an organization that is a public benefit corporation, a non-profit organization, but is also attached to a County government. I think I understand governmental process, procedure, legislative, executive and judicial, which is significant I think to being more effective in the use of resources broadly within the context of the Vanderbilt.

I also have a lot of hands on experience with working with non-profit organizations. Specifically I was a research associate at the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University when Paul Ehrlich was the leader and the director there and translated a lot of scientific information into information the rest of us can understand.

I worked for the State of California Natural Resources Director, which is the lady that -- well, at that point who managed every natural resources agency of the federal -- of the state government.

I have also worked for the Environmental Defense Fund with outreach with a variety of different constituencies; nongovernmental resource industry, governmental at every level. I think a mix of those experience plus my background in the private sector in banking and in, believe it or not, software, has given me a sense of not only what is required in the public's sphere, but also what drives the private industry in a way that allows me to integrate information, develop strategies and responses that reflect the desires and needs of a variety of constituencies.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you, Lynn. Thank you very much. Are there any questions? Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. Ms. Dwyer, thank you for being here today and thank you for your

willingness to serve. As I listened to you and as I look at your resume, certainly a very impressive background --

**MS. DWYER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. STERN:**

-- which will certainly be useful. You mentioned just broadly challenges that the Vanderbilt faces. And, of course, we know that there are many. I was wondering what you felt specifically were a couple of the biggest challenges and, you know, potential solutions; and based on your background experience some of the things that you hope specifically to be able to provide to the Vanderbilt as we go forward?

**MS. DWYER:**

I think I mentioned earlier today that my sense of the most recent article in Newsday was that it said context very effectively. I don't think the Vanderbilt, perhaps it's a strawman these days for problems with financial requirements and programmatic goals. It's not the only institution facing these sorts of problems. We don't know how long it's going to be. We don't know how long it's going to last. Even our own foundation, which is very solidly based in having a series of federal appropriations and cooperative agreements as well as strong corporate relationships. We don't know what the future is going to bring. And we've had to ask ourselves some very hard questions about what needs to be done and what we can possibly do within that context.

I don't think the Vanderbilt is facing anything that it is all surprising. If you look at a lot of the recent articles in some of the professional publications, quite a few very prestigious museums are having a great deal of difficulty drawing high quality executive directors because the fundraising requirements are so significant and it's such a pressured situation that they've had difficulty attracting and retaining candidates over time.

Some of the things that struck me were that we had to make some very hard decisions. We probably need to take a look at the collection and see where there might be opportunities to sell a portion of the collection if necessary. I know that there are some limits on the public benefit corporation and the original organization of the Museum. And I know it's a very difficult decision for museums to make, but it may be something we need to consider.

I think the idea of sharing some resources and activities across where we might have some opportunities to leverage opportunities whether it be security, landscaping, sharing of audits, etcetera, should be investigated.

I think we're going to have to let -- take a strong look at the staffing picture to see how we can retain the staff that we need to maintain the Museum moving forward. But I think at this point in time everyone's asking some -- themselves the hard question. Our own executive director said, well, we looked to the B team a little bit these days and it's hard for us to not knowing what the future will be to retain everybody that we had anticipated in terms of staffing. And we're in a very strong position.

So I think the take home message is that there are no specific one shop stop, one answer. I think we need to look -- take a look at every possible opportunity we can to reduce expenses; what we need to do and where our biggest sources of revenue are. I was thinking that it would be very useful to break it into almost three categories. One, low hanging fruit. Where is our possible most immediate cash flow. Two, midterm, where we could go; and then long-term, where we would potentially have cash flow coming on a longer term basis.

One of the things, if you look at the average land trust, there are always a core group of people, friends of or members of, and where you can have unrestricted income sources, that tends to give you opportunities to be able to apply for other grants.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

I have to limit your answers a little bit.

**MS. DWYER:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Because it's only a one hour committee meeting.

**MS. DWYER:**

Sorry. So the point is, is that where we can develop opportunities for unrestricted income, sometimes that allows us to leverage other sources whether it be a short-term grant or some start-up money from a corporation to move us along a little bit further. So those are some of the things that I was thinking about as I looked at it.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And I don't want to minimize your ideas; it's just that we have another committee coming after this.

**MS. DWYER:**

No, no, no.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And we have weather to deal with.

**MS. DWYER:**

Doesn't at all offend me.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you. Any other questions? Is there a motion?

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Motion by Legislator Stern, motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Seeing none, **IR 2252 is approved. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)** Congratulations. This will come before the full Legislature next Tuesday. You do not have to be present there.

**MS. DWYER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you very much.

**MS. DWYER:**

Well, thank you for very much for taking me first. I appreciate that. Back to work.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. I'm going to make a motion to take IR 2053 out of order.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? IR 2253 is before us. **(2253) Appointing Ronald A. Beattie as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission, Trustee No. 5. (Cooper)** Mr. Beattie, if you could join us please and thank you for being -- your willingness to serve. And if you could just tell us a little bit about you and the members of the committee could ask you questions. Thank you.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Very good, thank you. And thanks for considering me. Just to give you -- I'll be very brief, consensus or brief description of my involvement in Long Island, I don't have -- I'll tell you right at the outset I don't have any direct museum experience, although I do -- I am involved somewhat with Long Island Maritime Museum, which is in Oakdale, that's where I hail from.

I'm a life Long Islander. I was born in Huntington Hospital right up the street from the Vanderbilt. I've lived in -- on Long Island most of my life except for ten years; four of which I served in the U.S. Coast Guard, being stationed unfortunately in San Salvador, Bahamas for the first year, that was tough, but we all have to make our sacrifices. And then six years I lived in Staten Island because while I was in the Coast Guard I met a girl from Staten Island. We lived in Staten Island for six years, but I always wanted to come back.

My -- I grew up in a historic former mansion in Oakdale. I mean barn on a mansion in Oakdale. Always loved it and I bought it from my parents. So I'm having my son grow up in the same house. It's a lot of fun.

We moved to the south shore when I was seven years old. I have kind of varied experience here on Long Island including three years in -- at Jones Beach Theatre when Guy Lombardo ran the shows there. So I was in two years of Sound of Music and one year of King and I. I played Fredrick when I could hit a high G, but I can't do that anymore.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Oh, you know, I'm looking at our Trustee Chair, Mr. Gittelman, thinking well, you could do some of those reenactments.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

It was great experience as a kid.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Sure.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

I was there from ten years to 13 years with Guy Lombardo running the shows. It was a lot of fun.

I was a clammer from 14 to seven years old on the Great South Bay. Made a lot of money actually back then as a clammer so. My father was an award winning architect for some prominent Long Island buildings including what used to be the Suffolk County Office building right across the street here, I think it's now the Attorney's building if that's not --

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Oh, okay.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

-- my father designed that. Along with the MacArthur Airport, the Quadrangle or -- really the entire campus of Suffolk County Community College, my father did. He did Saint Margaret's of Scotland

Church and St. Lawrence Church in Sayville, all resulting in a love for everything Long Island.

The professional -- from a professional standpoint I'm a systems consultant for commercial real estate. Kind of an odd qualification to bring me in for Vanderbilt Museum trusteeship. But in my professional career I've made extensive contacts. I have a rolodex of over 10,000 people. It's nationwide; actually international. And -- but I specialize in relationship management and sales experience. I'm pretty well known for communication skills in writing, speaking, graphical sense and motivation. My management skills in organizational, financial, technology and facilities management is really where I've spent most of my career. I took a company that I was partners with from \$200,000 a year to one and a half million dollars in three years. So I think I've established a reputation for getting things done, which is I think why Bill Lindsay put my name in.

The -- in terms of community involvement, though, my parents instilled values for community involvement when I was a young child. My father was frequent President of the Long Island Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was on numerous commissions. A lot of people probably found it controversial back in the 60's, but he was on the commission that banned phosphates and actually recommended not building Shoreham, which we know what happened there. My mother was constantly involved in things like the Cub Scouts and the Girl Scouts and both members -- both parents were founding members of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce.

And that's where I've really been spending from a community's involvement standpoint most of my time. I've been President of the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce for seven of the last fifteen years, if my calculations are correct. And towards that end we've been very involved recently in obtaining grants. We've established an office. We've gotten an executive director. We've created a website and a Shop Oakdale Program in the last year. These are some of the initiatives that I've put in. We've actually moved our membership from a really dismal 12, when I took over two years ago, to over 47 I think now. And we have a lot -- a lot of ways to go, but we think the website is something that's going to help us do that.

And I've also from a fundraising level, I've been involved for seven years with golf outing for CoreNet, that CoreNet does. It's a commercial real estate group for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which raises over 15 grand a year for them.

So those are the types of things that I think I could help in terms of the Vanderbilt, trying to be a rainmaker, along with using my professional and organizational experiences to help in operations.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you. Are there any questions?

**LEG. STERN:**

No, no questions.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And I'm sure that you understand the position in which we find ourselves vis-à-vis the Vanderbilt Museum. And from your experience through your father of architecture and historic places, you know how critical it is that we support the Vanderbilt. And I hope that you plan on bringing all of that expertise and fundraising and networking into your position as trustee. We need very dynamic trustees who are really willing to roll up their sleeves and help us at this point in time. Because as Miss Dwyer said, the Vanderbilt is just a nematic of what we're seeing across the country and across the globe because of the economic downturn. There was just a report yesterday of Brandeis University having to sell their -- the art that's been donated to them in order to -- they said they have to choose between art and faculty positions.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

These are tough choices and these are what I can hope I can bring to the table to help the Vanderbilt make those right decisions because we're all going to be facing these tough choices more

and more. So it's not going to get better for the next two, three, four years.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Well, we appreciate your willingness to serve. Is there a motion?

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2553 stands approved. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)** And again, it will be before the general meeting, but you do not have to attend. Thank you very much for being here.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Again, I beg the indulgence of my colleagues, but Legislator Schneiderman who is here on a bill that has been tabled who has a very long trip home, has asked if we could take 1990 out of order. So I will make that motion at this time --

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

-- to take 1990 out of order. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1990 stands before us. **(1990) Amending Resolution No. 1340-2005, to authorize a license agreement with Montauk Observatory, Inc. and to construct and use an astronomical observatory. (Schneiderman)**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If I may, I know that Vanderbilt has its planetarium and Montauk is soon to have an observatory. We have an excellent group assembled of amateur astronomers working with astronomy professors at Suffolk County Community College and Stony Brook. And this has actually been four years plus in the making since we've approved the original license agreement. We're just trying to get the final things done here. Actually the telescope's already been purchased by this group. It's worth in excess of \$50,000. But they are trying to construct the building to put it in.

It's been through the Park Trustees. It's been through Historic Trust. It's been a very long journey for this group of volunteers. And there's some -- a few little minor things that are being changed in this -- in this resolution. But I'm told by Commissioner Pavacic that there's one remaining minor issue having to do with the original license agreement required that the DPW put together a survey of the premises. DPW apparently is not prepared or doesn't feel it's necessary to do that.

So what I'm going to ask is if you would be willing to discharge this without recommendation. I've already talked to Mr. Zwirn from the County Executive's Office about providing a CN to address that one last point at next week's meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

I just have a question for Counsel. If this is going to come before us at the general meeting as a CN, then what is the purpose of discharging this without recommendation?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Well, if it gets a CN obviously it did not need to be discharged from the Committee. The CN puts it right before the Legislature.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Because we can't pass this --

**MR. NOLAN:**

So really, really no purpose, I guess, would be the -- I hate to say that, Jay.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It puts it on the agenda.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It does but the CN -- if it need -- it's going to need a CN to be voted on Tuesday because of the seven day rule. And the CN just, of course, you know, bypasses the Committee and puts it right before the full Legislature. So either way.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, I think there is some purpose besides it being on the agenda. If for some reason the CN was not made available, it would not have to come back to Committee. It could be amended.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Right. That's correct.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. That's my point.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

There was a question from Committee members, you may as well hold onto the mike a minute, Jay --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yeah, sure.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

-- so that I don't misrepresent. And perhaps if the Commissioner could come up. The other members of the Committee are asking a question regarding the financing piece of it. And as I understand it that has been reconciled between yourself and the County Executive's Office or Parks. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but I thought that that had all been settled.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There is an old issue here. When we originally did the license agreement, we had language in there that the observatory would be operated at no cost to the County. My understanding and I think Counsel's understanding is that operational costs have to do with the actual running of the facility. The facility doesn't exist. I had --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

And it's going to be a separate building?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes. I had put in money years ago in my omni portion of the budget. I put in 25,000 toward the purchase of this telescope. When the group bought it, they thought they were actually going to get that 25,000, but eventually it was rejected by the County Executive over this language that said at no -- it shall be operated at no cost to the County.

So there's a difference of interpretation as to what operational costs are. I tried in the earlier version of this to clarify that and to take out that language. But with objections from the Executive's Office, I left it in. But at some point, I think that we as a body need to look at that. There are other groups that build facilities that, you know, the County Parks at Blydenburgh, elsewhere that are not ineligible for grant money through the County. If that's the way the Legislature intends it to make them -- that I can't give them any grant money, so be it. But this certainly was not my intention in the original plan. And I think that can be clarified at a later date.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

But there's no other monies from the budget or this is --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

No, no.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

It's going to be fully sustained by this group.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Fully sustained. At no cost by the way, the -- there won't be any charge to use the observatory. So it'd be open to the public. They're already holding lectures in the area and those are also free. But there's no cost to use it.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Did you have anything to add to that, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Just in terms of the question of the cost. The organization is completely funding the building. It's a brand new building.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, that's what I was asking.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah, that was what I was asking.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Right.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You know, who's paying for this?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That the building would be completely funded by them. There would be no County funding involved at all. It's a brand new building that would be in keeping with the historic architecture of the Third House complex.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes. So we can look forward to a CN coming over?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Good afternoon. I don't foresee a problem with that. But, of course, the County Executive always has the final say, I mean, it's just -- I mean, it's his direction. But I don't -- I don't see any problem.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Again, discharging by recommendation if the --

**LEG. STERN:**

I don't -- I mean I don't have a problem with making a motion to discharge without recommendation --

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Sure.

**LEG. STERN:**

-- consideration of our colleague. If the understanding right now is that there are no substantive issues and whether or not it comes over by CN remains to be seen, of course, it's always the prerogative of the County Executive. But, I mean at this point, I don't see any downside --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right.

**LEG. STERN:**

-- to putting it on our agenda for notice purposes. And if that's what Legislator Schneiderman is looking for, that's fine.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Then if I had to amend it, I could do that and it would not have to go -- come back to the committee. It would be --

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And everyone will have had the time to look at it before the CN rather than being surprised at late in the day.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay, so there is a motion to discharge without recommendation by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1990 is discharged without recommendation. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's fine. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Good luck on Tuesday. Safe trip home, Jay. Okay, to the agenda.

## TABLED RESOLUTIONS

**IR 1949 (Naming the fishing pier at Smith Point County Park as the "John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier") (Viloria-Fisher)** I will have to make a motion to table again because we have not reached the requisite six months. Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1949 is tabled. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)**  
We've dealt with 1990.

**IR 2170, Amending the 2008 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with renovations at Historic Blydenburgh Park (CP 7507). (Kennedy)** I'll make a motion to table at the request of the sponsor, seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2170 stands tabled. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)**

## INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay, introductory resolutions. **IR 2228, Authorizing license agreement with Starflower Experiences, Inc., for Berkeley Jackson County Park, Huntington. (Co. Exec. Levy)** And, Commissioner, my understanding is that this is a stewardship agreement with a community group.

### COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes. They're well established. They also provide educational programs for students both at West Hills County Park and over by property the County owns by the Carlls River. They do a very, very good job especially in providing service to this particular County Park, Berkeley Jackson.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Commissioner. I will make a motion to approve. Nobody wants to second it?

### LEG. HORSLEY:

I'll second it.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

First they have to wake up. Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 2228 stands approved. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden).**

We have done 2252 and 2253.

**IR 1005, Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property in 2009 by the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library's Family Literacy Project. (Browning)** And I hope that they can all read that long title. For a 5K run on Saturday, September 12th and they are paying the running rate for the day. Correct, Commissioner?

### COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

### COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

And this is a continuation of something they've done in the past as well.

### CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Is that why we call it, the running rate?

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Ah ha. Save your puns for the poetry group. Okay. So I will make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1005 stands approved. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)**

**IR 1008, Amending Resolution No. 727-2007, authorizing additional space for the Long Island Maritime Museum. (Pres. Off. Lindsay)** And I know that Legislator Stern who was on this Committee last year might remember the -- that there is the carriage house at Meadow Edge that has been rented. And right now the Maritime Museum is in search of a new director. And since the compensation is not very high, they would like to --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Give them an office.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

-- give them a place to live or work. And the Presiding Officer in whose district this is, is on board with this, thinks it's a good idea. So if there's a motion?

**LEG. STERN:**

I have a quick question.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Sure.

**LEG. STERN:**

Do we have any idea what the corresponding fair market value of that rental would be?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I don't have that right now with me. I could obtain that. I will tell you that we did have an appraisal on it as of 2007. At that time, though, it was transferred from control of Parks to the control of the Maritime Museum. And because it's not part of our group of rental properties, we don't have a current appraisal on it right now.

**LEG. STERN:**

How difficult would it be, how time consuming would it be to get that number?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Unfortunately, what we're doing right now is concentrating on those properties that are rental properties and to try to fill any of those that are currently vacant. And so we're working very closely with Real Property to get those appraisals done. So this is something that would be new added to that, it's not -- it's not something that would be a priority in that regard. We're trying to get those other properties addressed first.

**LEG. STERN:**

Do you have any idea?

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

It's not in the inventory, Steve, because it's no longer in Parks.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

It's in the Maritime Museum. And after it's appraised by Real Property, then it comes to the committee on which I sit where we allow different discounts because of a variety of reasons. For example, the need for security and this -- this is right on Montauk Highway. So it's very exposed to traffic. Also, the lack of privacy because there are people walking right by the property. And correct me if I say anything wrong, I haven't walked the property, but I think that it meets those criteria.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

This is actually known as -- also known as the east gate house. It is located on West Avenue. But it is by -- adjacent to the main entrance to the Long Island Maritime Museum. It is close to the road there. It had been a rental property prior to the control being transferred to the Maritime Museum. But it is subject to -- you do have -- you do have obviously the grounds are used throughout the year for public events, some that have thousands of people. So there is -- there isn't a whole degree of privacy there both given its location on the Maritime Museum property plus being adjacent to West Avenue.

**LEG. STERN:**

Commissioner, I don't know if I understood you, what was the significance of the 2007 date? Did you say that there was an assessment, but it was as of 2007 just nothing done more recently?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Right. At the time -- at that time in 2007, I don't know the -- I don't have the exact month in front of me, but in 2007 Parks was looking to re-rent that property and I believe appraisals were obtained at that time.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

However, before we could move forward with selecting somebody to rent it to, at that time, the control was transferred to the Legislature so it became a moot point.

**LEG. STERN:**

Okay. All right.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes. Just quickly, would the director, the renter, would he be on 24 hour call for protection of the facility?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That's one of the things that normally it goes along with living in any County property, that having somebody there would provide eyes and ears and some degree of security over that because it is a little bit dark over that particular portion of the property.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

So he would be on call.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That would be up to the Museum board. The Museum -- the County owns the grounds and the buildings including the east gate house. However, the east -- the control over the use of the east gate house, though, is no longer under Parks control. It's under the Museum's control. So I can't speak for what the Museum would require of the Director in regard to their services, but I would assume that it would make sense that because they're there 24-7 anyway, that it would be assumed they would provide that service.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

All right. Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And you know the expectation when we have County employees living on parks properties is, one of the advantages is that we have the eyes and ears on the property. And so the assumption here would be that having the director there, there would be eyes and ears on that property all the time. So it's a deterrent to vandalism and other issues.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

If I may also add to Legislator Horsley's question, we do have occupants who are non-county employees such as in Coindre Hall who are, you know, provide rent to the County there. And they do provide service. We do get calls when there's an issue to be addressed; perhaps an alarm going off that needs to be serviced, some things of that sort. And they do -- they are very, very responsive in regard to looking over the property. So we do have a good track record with folks who do occupy and rent county property; County Parks property.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you, Commissioner. I'm going to make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1008 stands approved. (VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)** Okay.

**IR 1023, To amend the user fee schedule for Suffolk County Parks. (Viloria-Fisher)** And I'm going to just make a few comments very briefly. At the last general meeting -- yes?

My aide has given you a copy of the latest version. Tom? I had agreed at the last general meeting to review the Parks -- the fee schedule that we had worked on prior to that meeting. And I have to thank Budget Review again for the incredible amount of time that they had been putting into this. It's just phenomenal what Jill Moss has done and Lance and Roz. It's just been tremendous what you've done.

We have tried to limit any increases to 25% because there had been an analysis that indeed if the cost of living index is applied that in the seven years that have passed since the last rate increase, the cost of living has increased over 24%. And that's not even taking into account the cost of energy that has -- that we have realized in the past seven years. So we've done that.

There was also a request by colleagues that we sunset the schedule and so indeed the -- there is a termination date on this schedule. You could see it in the Third Resolved, which is toward the end of the resolution.

We also have a reverter clause in it so that at the end of one year of implementation of the new

schedule, we will revert back to the current fees. There was also a request that we not consider Friday part of the weekend schedule. And so Fridays now are part of the weekday schedule rates.

Another request was that we keep the green key, I almost said green card, I tend to say that, the green key for three years rather than two because that starts off being a 33% increase. So we were back to the three year green key pass. But that, again, had a 20% increase from \$20 to \$24.

So we have worked very hard to address all of the requests of members of the Legislature. And I hope that we can pass this out of committee today and have it before us on Tuesday. I will make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

I'll second the motion and on the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. On the motion, Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yes, Madam Chair, thank you for the explanation. I've gone through the resolution a few different times. And in going through the columns and you take a look at the Second Resolved clause and the Third Resolved clause, and I just wanted to be clear and just have Counsel's opinion, I mean, it effectively is a one year provision for the difference in fees. And then does in fact revert back in 2010. That's my take on it when you look at everything cumulatively. So it really is a legislation that does have a sunset provision without necessarily saying it has a sunset provision. So I just wanted to make sure that's -- that is in fact the case from Counsel.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Right. The new fee structure has to be implemented within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution. And then the resolution goes onto say that it will revert back to the current levels one year after that. So, yes, there is essentially a one year sunset provision.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. There is a motion and a second to approve. All in favor? Opposed? Shall I said hallelujah, amen. Okay. **Motion is approved.**

**(VOTE: 3-0-0-2 Not Present: Legislator Nowick and Legislator Alden)**

That is the final item on the agenda. Is there anyone in the audience who would like to address us on any of the issues?

There is one more thing that I would like to mention to the members of the Committee. During the weekend of February 21st I had asked the Commissioner if he would like to join me in going on one of the seal walks, which I have done with my family. It's a very exciting thing to see, Cupsogue Park, which is a County park. And I would like to invite the other members of the committee. Did we say the 21st or the 22nd, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I think the 21st.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

The 21st is a Saturday. The 22nd Sunday.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I think it's the 21st.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

I can't remember off the top of my head. But it's a great experience. If you have children, bring them because the seals are just all over the place out there. It's great. So I just wanted to put that invitation out to members of the Committee. Did you have the date on that? I'll let you know. We'll send you an e-mail.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

It's the 21st.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

It is the 21st, which is a Saturday. Okay. So I look forward to being out there. It's beautiful out there in the winter. Okay. If there is no further business I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Seconded by Legislator Stern. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:58 PM**

**{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**