

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Parks & 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 July 29, 2009.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair  
Leg. Cameron Alden  
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick  
Leg. Steven H. Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk, Clerks Office  
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office  
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Parks  
Tom Isles, Director, Department of Planning  
Steven Tricaraco, County Executive's Office  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader  
Thomas Ryan, Aide to Legislator Vilorio-Fisher  
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern  
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Representative for AME  
Marge Acevedo, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office  
Patrick Boyles, DSPBA, Park Police Unit  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:11 PM)**

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Welcome to today's meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Salutation**

I don't see any cards and I do not have any correspondence. Is there anyone who would like to address the committee? Okay. In that case, we will go directly to the agenda. Commissioner, if you can join us up here in case we have any questions.

**Tabled Resolutions**

***IR 1115 - Authorizing the transfer of property to Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and creating a new Suffolk County Park (SCTM No. 0200-538.00-05.00-001.005). (Beedenbender)***

The sponsor has asked that it be tabled, so I will make that motion. Seconded by Legislator Lynne Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1115 stands tabled. ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Alden)***.

***IR 1273 - Adopting Local Law No. 2009, A Charter Law to clarify powers and duties of Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. (Browning)***

The sponsor has asked that that be tabled. I will make that motion. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1273 is tabled. ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Alden)***.

***IR 1354 - To clarify the recent increase in parks fees authorized under Resolution No. 33-2009. (Romaine)***

I will make a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1354 stands tabled. ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Alden)***

**Introductory Resolutions**

***IR 1596 - Approving a license agreement for Eleanor Tramaloni to reside at Robert Cushman Murphy County Park, Manorville. (Co. Exec.)***

And just to refresh my memory, Commissioner, this was one of the items that we went over with the committee on rentals?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And we adjusted the rate accordingly?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That's right.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. I will then make a motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1596 stands approved. ***(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Alden)***.

***IR 1599 - Reappointing Anthony J. Pecorale as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 12). (Cooper)***

You are from Huntington, Steve. Would you like to make that --

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Motion by Legislator Stern. Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? IR 1599 is approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

Ms. LoMoriello, can I ask you to switch your hat for a minute and just give us a short report on how the Vanderbilt Oversight Committee is going?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Sure. The Vanderbilt Oversight Committee met with the members of the Vanderbilt and regarding the cell tower, they're looking at a 120, I believe, foot tower and they have gotten -- they are looking into T-Mobile. They have gotten support letters from all the neighboring communities. They are presently working, going through the Huntington Town Board and Huntington Supervisor to see if they can get their support. That's something they didn't do initially.

Regarding the catering contract, the RFP rather, they are getting responses that they feel would take over the museum and not really give it its due as an education center, so there is always concern about that on their behalf. But they're actually looking at other RFP's that they haven't reviewed yet. There was maybe one or two. What else has been going on.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And the day camp is moving nicely?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

The camp is doing very nicely. They had a July 4th small fundraiser. It brought in a lot of people. It was a very nice effort. They had a carnival and they had something that night. They're putting out an RFP, and we've all seen in the committee, for a development person. So that is going forward also.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Thank you, Barbara. Yes, a question.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Barbara, did you guys get a chance to review the latest business plan, because actually a bound copy came to my office and I read through it.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Now, I don't know if you reached the same conclusion that I did, but looking at that, their maximization of income won't be for another two, probably over two years, because they cited the GOTO projector and that coming on-line next year in the October range. So as far as to keep the museum going, it looks like Suffolk County is going to have to continue with what we are doing this year and that's approximately \$100,000 a month as far as a subsidy. Is that how you guys read it, too?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

I don't recall that. I don't recall that coming about. I have actually the minutes if you'd like copy of them.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just -- and maybe just take the sense, you know, from me anyway, back to the Oversight Committee --

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

I will.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

-- that we're going to need some guidance because we are going to start working on the budget for next year. My estimation reading that business plan, they're not going to be anywhere near that amount of money, generate the amount of money that they are going to need to keep the museum open and actually functioning unless they get about, and that's my estimate on it, about \$100,000 a year going forward in '10 and probably in '11. So maybe if you guys could take a look at it and then advise us, too, because we have a little bit of time. It's something that would have to be addressed in the Operating Budget.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Lance might have some information on that.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Yes. The museum has submitted their budget request for 2010. The business plan reflects their requested budget. Their requested budget, they met with the Budget Review Office and the Executive's Budget Office prior to putting their budget together. Their budget was contingent on receiving \$750,000 through the hotel/motel tax and approximately \$250,000 from the endowment. And that's what's the business plan should reflect.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's what I was looking at. But if we take 250 out of the endowment, that endowment is dead then forever, because it doesn't give you any wiggle room to invest in something that's actually going to grow, and the tax is speculative at best. I don't know how Albany is functioning today, but --

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

New York State -- it's signed. That bill was signed.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Signed. Okay.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Right. So the next step is there will be -- if the County chooses I think there is a resolution to amend the local law to increase the hotel/motel tax.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

So that should be, you know, given the long, you know, timetable and getting the local law approved, that should be, if everything goes okay, in effect by January 1st, possibly December.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And then, again, it's a function of if we collect that tax then we can transmit it to the Vanderbilt. But still, in the best case scenario, I didn't see them being self-sufficient even with an additional tax like that for a little while.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Also they are including and hoping and at this point, you know, it's hard to say exactly what they'll have, approximately \$120,000 from cell tower revenue. So a combination of those things they should be okay. I agree with you on the endowment that if we take \$250,000 from that it hinders your investment decisions on how you manage the fund. We are in the process of developing an RFP to be sent out for an investment advisor. We went through the first part, which was request for expressions of interest. I think we -- that committee selected six or seven responsible proposals that would be eligible to go on to the next step, which would be the request for -- the RFP.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Because a couple of investment advisors had contacted my office, too. Was Fisher Investments one of the ones that you sent -- I will get in touch with you. But at least you're on top of --

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I have the list. I can give you the list of who responded and who complied with all the County regulations, who was considered, and who the committee ultimately selected to go on for the RFP. I have that information. I'll forward that to your office.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks, Lance.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Thank you. Commissioner, did you have anything that you wanted to share with us?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Sure. I would just like to correct a statement I made earlier. This prior resolution was for Unit 114B. That one is -- was not one of the ones that was acted on by the Housing Rental Board. That will be one of the other ones that will be acted on in the future. It was 114A that was acted on and I apologize for that.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. So if we -- but we just passed a resolution to rent it. So at what level will it be rented? How are we determining the amount?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

At the prior 2008 market rent.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

So once we consider it we can lower the rent --

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN VILORIA-FISHER:**

-- or raise it, depending on how -- I mean, we usually wind up lowering them a little bit.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Right. What we have been doing is batching them, as you know. As the appraisals are completed inspections are done and then they are acted on in a group. So that one would be among the next one. Again, I apologize for that.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you for clarifying that, Commissioner. Okay. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Just through the Chair. How are we coming on the Interpretive Center and the Scully Estate?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

The major construction work and renovation work is completed. It's my understanding the contractor is -- should be done by the end of August. We are just waiting for a few minor details, including some interior doors, some finishing work. The site will then be clean both inside and outside, and then we're looking to early fall for opening the center.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And the contracts were executed for the operational or operational contracts between Seatuck and the County of Suffolk?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

That's correct.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Do you have those in your office or should I get them from the County Attorney's Office?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

We both have copies of the executed document.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I just want to see like as far as break down and, you know, what their responsibilities are going to be, what our responsibilities are going to be.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Certainly.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good. And then I just had one other question, and I hope you're the right one to ask. As far Park Police and our controlling and policing of the open space that we have been buying, do we have more Park Police, do we have less Park Police then say six months ago or a year ago, and how are we coming with that? Because we tried to address that in the budget with additional Park Police, authorizing additional Park Police Officers, and I don't know what the final wind up of that was.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

In late 2007 a new class of officers began. That was to add 14 additional Park Police Officers. Those 14 officers graduated from the academy in the summer of 2008. They then engaged in field training with a veteran officer, and then they went out on their own in the early fall. So that was an addition of officers. So there has been an increase in the number of officers.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Did we lose any to retirement?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

There have been some retirements over the last several years. I don't remember the names offhand.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. It's just going to be another thing that we have to look at for the budget coming up, because we are not in compliance with our requirement that when you own X number of acres of open space you have to have X number of Park Police Officers. I'm sure, Lance, you're on top of that, too, right? You'll be advising us?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

We look at that as the normal process of the Operating Budget review as a normal course of

business, yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Thanks a lot.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

And we'll have more discussion at our next meeting on the deployment of the Park Police, where they are, because some questions have been coming up. But, Commissioner, I am looking forward to having a meeting before that time so that we can go over that together.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Thank you. If there is no further business -- oh, I'm sorry. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Hi, Commissioner. How are you?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Fine, Legislator Nowick. How are you?

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Okay. I see that we are starting to fill some of these spots in the County owned sites, and I wondered if there is any type of movement on the Mills House in St. James?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

The Isaac Mills House, yes. As we speak we are replacing the roof. It's something that has not been done. That's something that needed to be done before that structure was occupied. I know it -- the appraisal team has gone out to the site, but that was one of the last elements we needed to get done before we could rent it out. What we are doing is also restoring it. We're removing the 20th century skylights that were added to it and restoring it to its mid-1700's appearance. That will also make it more watertight and weather tight and reduce the leaks that we have encountered there.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So you get to do two things in one shot. You repaired the roof and restored it back by not putting skylights in. And then what would be the chances of having that rented out in the near future?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I would say that's a very good chance to have that rented out in the near future. I think because of the sheer size of the building we have to look to make an apartment out of a portion of it because that single structure, if it were to be rented out to one person, the rental rate could be significant for that individual or that family.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Well, knowing the house it seems like it's an easy thing to do, to make an apartment.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Yes. We have had -- our maintenance team has been up there and they believe it should be readily able to be turned into apartments on the second floor.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So what would you say, a few months, three months? What would you say before someone is in there?

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

I would not want to hazard a guess, but I certainly would want to get somebody in there before wintertime, before the end of the year, if not earlier.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

That sounds great. That's wonderful. Let me know, please, if that's coming up soon.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

Sure thing.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:**

You're welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:**

Legislator Nowick, I agree with the fact that it could be easily divided. When we went for the tour it seemed like a natural division there.

Is there anyone in the auditorium who would like to address the committee? If not, then I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:28 PM)**

**{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**