

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 October 7, 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:

William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Patrick Skip Heaney, Commissioner of Economic Development and Workforce Housing
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
John W. Pavacic, Commissioner of Parks Department
Brendan Chamberlain, Aide to County Executive
Steve Tricaraco, Aide to County Executive
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Thomas Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Brendan Stanton, Aide to Leg. Horsley
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Dot Kerrigan, AME representative
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
William Shilling, Aide to Presiding Officer
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer
Scott Posner, Deepwells County Park
Steve Moll, Deepwells
Howard Essinfeld, Deepwells
Thomas Jones, Suffolk County Camping
Patrick Boyles, DSPBA Park Police Unit
And all other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:08 PM

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

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

SALUTATION

Thank you. All right.

CORRESPONDENCE

First, I just want to mention that I have -- we do have a bit of correspondence that has come to my attention. And there are a couple of letters from the Long Island Dog Owners Group regarding dog parks, various dog parks around the County. And we also have -- the first one, and if any of my colleagues on the Committee would like to see them, the first one is from the Long Island Dog Owners group, LI-DOG, that's based in Huntington, New York. I will make copies for the members of the Committee unless you would like me to read them into the -- read it into the record. Would anybody like that or can I just give you copies of this?

LEG. STERN:

Copy.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you.

We have another piece of correspondence from another side of that issue which is neighbors to Coindre Hall who have actually cc'd me on an e-mail that was sent to Jon Cooper, this person's Legislator, regarding neighbors who are being harassed on a daily basis is what I'm quoting from the letter. These are complaints about the noises that come from Coindre Hall where there are parks -- dogs that are running in the park.

And the other correspondence is from a constituent, I think of Legislator Kennedy, it's in Lake Ronkonkoma. And this is regarding the County parks marina facilities and this person is opposed to the privatization of the marinas. We have several of those letters.

And we have the Timber Point Boat Owners Association again referring to the RFEI. And that is signed by the Chairman, Joseph Sicinski. We also have a letter from George Hoerning of the -- regarding the RFEI. And he -- actually he gives quite a bit of correspondence regarding that issue. We have a letter from East Islip, Nicolas and Joan Worontzoff regarding the RFEI and the privatization of -- and these are all opposed to the privatization of the marinas.

I have about 20 other letters regarding that issue and they're all in opposition. So that is to have that on the record.

We do have one speaker today and that is Mr. Scott Posner. Mr. Posner.

PUBLIC PORTION

MR. POSNER:

Good afternoon. My name is Scott Posner. I'm the President of the Deepwells Farm Historical

Society. I just want to introduce a couple of the board members that are here with me today, Steve Moll and Howard Essinfeld are also on the board. And just wanted to give you a real quick less than three minute update what's going on.

Deepwells Farm Historical Society has been a perfect marriage between county parks and historical services and a local volunteer group. We've completed numerous enhancements to the house. We've redone the floors on both levels. We completed the restoration of the historic blinds, you might know of them as shutters, that'll be going up actually tomorrow or Friday. And, of course, the big news is this weekend is our annual fall festival. It's one of our -- it's our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have over 3000 people come to the property. It's become a wonderful tradition.

Part of the mission of the Historical Society was to utilize Deepwells for the community, the people of Suffolk County. And October's really our central month. Besides the fall festival we have our free haunted house. Actually it was Legislator Nowick who helped us start that with a grant and we've since enhanced it many times over with individual fundraising that we've done. And it's October 20 -- I'm sorry, 24th and 25th. I'm forgetting my dates. It's that weekend, whatever that weekend is, from one to six o'clock. And the reason we do it only two days is we don't want to compete with the for-profit haunted houses around. We don't want to offend them since ours is free. But the real reason we started was, you know, it costs the average family of four over \$60 to go to a haunted house. And they stay there less than 15 minutes. Our haunted house is free and the average attendee stays there for over an hour. So we're just real proud of that activity.

We also have the Acoustic Long Island event that now happens monthly at the house. So we're absolutely thrilled with the utilization of the house and what's going on and just wanted to give you a quick update.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I wanted to ask one thing. And the Acoustic Long Island is Wednesday nights, Isn't it?

MR. POSNER:

Correct. It's now the first Wednesday of every month. And that also is a free event where we get anywhere between 80 and 150 people who come. It's a noncommercial event. But if anyone's curious about it, they can hear it and see it; if you have iTunes, you type in Acoustic Long Island. It's actually the number one acoustic podcast in the country now.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Wow.

MR. POSNER:

It's just a little mom and pop thing that we started.

We also have a large summer concert once a year where we had a couple of thousand people on the lawn July 3rd. We usually have it the Friday right before the July 4th weekend.

And again, we're not very good commercially since we tend to give everything away. We finally made a little bit of money from Acoustic Long Island because we sold t-shirts. So we actually earn money for the house instead of it being a net cost for a change.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And are you ever going to bring back the tea parties?

MR. POSNER:

We would like to, but there is an issue with that that we're trying to work out.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Welcome, Scott. Scott, do you still do the movies, too, for the children?

MR. POSNER:

Thanks for reminding me. We do three summer movies.

LEG. NOWICK:

Gave you the opening line, didn't I?

MR. POSNER:

You did. Yeah, we do the summer movies. Again, another grant helped us get wonderful equipment and another partnership. Again, you know, we're all volunteers, but we partner with the Chamber of Commerce. They pick up the bill for renting the movie, to get the rights, and they give out popcorn and candy. And we have anywhere from 4 to 600 people.

We also came up with a very creative solution to a problem. What happens when a movie's over? Where does everyone go? They leave, right? Well, if you have four to 600 people leaving Deepwells at the same time at night, it was creating a little bit of a difficult situation in the parking lot. So we came up with an idea. Everyone who comes to movie night has their picture taken before the movie starts. We have festivities. Deepwells is very big on Simon Says. So we do Simon Says contests. We have wonderful prizes. Every child and most of the adults have their picture taken. After the movie we do a slideshow with music of the pictures that were taken that night. So people stay, wait for their picture and then leave gradually over the course of 20 minutes instead of all at once.

LEG. NOWICK:

I have to take this opportunity because I really have to say this on the record, the County has many acquisitions, many wonderful houses. And Legislator Vilorio-Fisher and I have been very proactive in that. But what you and your board and the rest of your volunteers do at Deepwells has to be commended. It's a building that the County has that works for the community. You give back to the community. And when you say, *not good business people, you do things free*, in this economy doing things free gives people something to look forward to. And, by the way, it also brings people into the community. And those people get to go to all the local merchants and purchase. So you are doing, you are giving back in so many ways. And this is an opportunity to say thank you to all of you.

MR. POSNER:

I thank you.

I also want to let you know for the first time if you are free this weekend, we're going to have Suffolk County's Got Talent at the fall festival. We have a wonderful benefactor who gives us prizes like you wouldn't believe. Typically we do Simon Says and people walk out with a brand new vacuum cleaner. But this year for Suffolk County's Got Talent the winners are going to walk away with a brand new Roomba robotic vacuum as well as new vacuum cleaners. So that'll be on the program as well. And any elected official's invited.

Also in November we have a local historian, a descendent of Stanford White, his daughter-in-law, Claire White is going to be speaking at Deepwells in November about the local history of Suffolk County, Smithtown and St. James.

LEG. NOWICK:

How do you win that vacuum cleaner?

MR. POSNER:

You either have to be really good at Simon Says or you can be the most talented person there. And

that can be singing, dancing.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And dance the rumba to get the Roomba. Thank you so much for coming, Scott.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. We are going to do dancing at the Legislature?

LEG. HORSLEY:

Short lived.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Any other questions for Mr. Posner? Thank you so much for coming. Thank you for your good work. We appreciate it.

MR. POSNER:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Is there anyone else who wishes to address the Committee? If not well go right to the agenda. Would you like to join us, Commissioner? Mr. Heaney, was there anything that you wanted to let us know about as we're going into the agenda?

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Happy to join the Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

We're at **IR 1354, To clarify the recent increase in parks fees authorized under Resolution No. 33-2009. (Romaine)** I'll make a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Horsley.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hopefully we're taking steps to avoid something like this happening in the future. And I think that Legislator Romaine made some great points. We also had a problem where people had actually signed contracts and that had to -- and I'm not going to say adjudicated, but we had to look into that problem where a fee increase was sent out after a signed contract had been received by people that were going to use some of our facilities.

So the question actually would be to the Commissioner, you're familiar with this legislation, this is going to create more problems than solutions.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes. I think I've testified about that before and Deputy Commissioner Bellone as well. In that first of all, it would require us to set up a two tiered rate structure in a POS system. And that would give the ability to our cashiers who are generally seasonals, the ability to alter the fee that's charged to a particular individual. And that's something that we've been striving to get away from. So that alone

would be a concern.

And then second would be the loss of revenue in having to return fees to certain people especially at this late date.

LEG. ALDEN:

And I don't want to support -- I actually supported this earlier but I don't want to support chaos at this point. And I think that's what it would create. But this is a resolution that actually sought justice for some people and a little bit a sense of fairness.

Because -- and I can see his point, if you called up and made a reservation and then by -- and you knew what the fee schedule was, by the time you got there to actually take advantage of that reservation and now you find out it's a completely different fee schedule. So hopefully this kind of situation won't exist this year. Although I think it does. Right?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

The issue first came up with those who had seasonal boat slips.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

And we received an opinion from the County Attorney's Office that because they had an actual contract that was executed before the fee increase went into --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

-- effect, that the prior lower fee should be effective. However, in the cases of other folks, the reservation system does not allow for prepayment at this time.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. That's why I said who had paid for --

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right. That's right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- a service. Those people who had paid for a service and paid a specific fee, that was honored.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

A reservation doesn't require payment so we hadn't taken money from the people. They hadn't paid something at a lower rate. So there was -- we did honor the slips that people had already paid for.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, there was a need for this. And if we had acted on it earlier we would have really had a sense of fairness and equality because I don't think it's fair when somebody calls up and makes a reservation to use one of our park facilities and then finds out when they go to exercise that reservation that it's a completely different fee schedule. But like I said, I'm not in favor of chaos

and that's why I'm going to support a tabling motion. But this was a timely resolution that sought justice and equality.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Legislator Alden. There's a motion and a second to table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. **1354 stands tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1800, Adopting Local Law No. -2009, A Local Law to regulate privatization of County owned marinas. (Alden)

LEG. ALDEN:

I have to make a motion to table that for a public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. I'll second that motion. All in favor? Opposed? **1800 is tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 5-0)** And I'm sure we're going to be speaking a great deal more about this. Before you came I had said that I had some correspondence regarding this issue. And if you would like copies of any of the correspondence that I have, I'd be happy to share them with you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, with your indulgence, can I ask Budget Review one quick question?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Sure.

LEG. ALDEN:

Has this come up in the budget discussions because it is included in the County Executive's budget. And if we don't take it out, then it actually gives them the authority to privatize the marinas.

MS. MOSS:

This issue will be discussed in the Budget Review report. It would be premature for me to say what's in there right now.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's going to be in the report, though; Right?

MS. MOSS:

Correct.

LEG. ALDEN:

Because, I mean, the County Executive's budget is -- as far as on this issue, it's completely smoke and mirrors. And if you actually extrapolate the income that we're going to be foregoing, it's millions of dollars to gain a couple of hundred thousand dollars this year. So I would hope that it would be in the report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

All right. Well, you know what, it's not really before us because we're tabling it. And why don't we just save it for the public hearing rather than debating it now.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Unless you feel compelled to respond to that remark. I don't want to shut off --

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Thank you. That the administration is not married to the notion of privatization. And it has been said and I'll state it, you know, if we're talking about fairness and equality or equity, if this issue were not boats but it were rent controlled apartments, we wouldn't have any hesitancy about having a discussion about why are we subsidizing a few people to the benefit or the exclusion of so many other normal folks.

In this matter we're talking about boat fees, you know, dockage fees. And we do have a situation it seems to me, I can speak as a businessman, I can speak as a boat owner, where there is a huge subsidy that exists that benefits a few people who own boats anywhere from 20 to 50 feet in length or maybe longer.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I knew you were going to lengthen our meeting considerably.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

And, you know, if I'm on my maiden flight and out of line here, you will -- you'll shut me down real quick. But I think that what has been impressed upon me and my understanding clearly here is that the RFEI is intended really to just ferret out as many possible ideas from the private sector to be considered. And that -- I'll end it with that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Before I recognize my colleagues, I just want to say that the concern here is that it's in the budget as if it were a fait accompli and so that really is contrary to the concept of exploratory.

But Legislator Alden wanted to speak and the Presiding Officer wanted to respond to that as well.

LEG. ALDEN:

Ditto. And I hope that's not your feelings because I know you for a longtime and you're very upfront and I consider you a great public servant. And you donated your life, part of it anyway, after you got out of business to public service.

But to make the comment or to buy into the concept that we're subsidizing boat slips, boat owners, well, then you want to take government and you just want to collapse government. Because you know what, every aspect of government I can see where it doesn't fit, maybe it doesn't do anything for me, like a health center, I don't go to a health center. But we're subsidizing people that go to a health center. People who want to play golf, we're subsidizing people that want to go play golf. We're subsidizing campers, we're subsidizing people that want to go and row a canoe around.

So to make the statement that we're subsidizing an activity, whatever activity that is; that's exactly what government is supposed to do. It's supposed to provide services for people. Whether it be housing for certain people -- because I don't get a house provided by government, but some people do. And I don't get any of my fuel costs subsidized, but some people do. That's exactly what government's supposed to do. Figure out what services we're going to supply to people and make them affordable to people.

So I hope it's -- I really hope it wasn't you speaking, but I did hear somebody that didn't look like you say exactly those kind of elitist, snobbish type of remarks. And it definitely was not you and it wasn't the gentleman sitting to your right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

The Presiding Officer is waiting to respond. Bill?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Skip, you opened the can of worms.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

I certainly didn't intend that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Now here's the other side because I disagree with Legislator Alden. If the administration feels that they're subsidizing the marine fees, why did you veto the bill last year when we increased the fees? You know, I mean --

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Well, now you know I can't answer that one because I wasn't here. But, you know, the concern here is really, I mean, there is nothing wrong with the notion that government should try to be more business like. Indeed, you know, we're compelled all the time to apply more corporate standings to financial reporting, financial accounting.

There is -- you know, if I approach this as a businessman and I look at what the typical cost that we're charging for dockage, and I don't think there's anything elitist in this if we observe that, you know, as a mean, and I'm not talking about a medium or an actual number, you know, when we look at the transient slips and we look at the number of fixed slips, on average we're charging about \$1100 a slip less than the market rate. And so, you know, is it not reasonable to look at that in the interest of protecting the taxpayers' investment here, you know?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, that's what I did last year when I introduced a resolution with a fee structure that would be well below market value. That was vetoed by the County Executive. It took a while to pass it. And in the County Executive's narrative to this budget, he indicated that he supported no fee increases. And yet this would result, if it were privatized, in a fee increase for boaters.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Possibly. Or if no privatization were to go forward but an RFEI were explored and indeed we did get some sound ideas that flowed from that document, that once implemented would reduce or make more efficient the operation of marinas, savings would be achieved and the same outcome could result without privatization. So that's just my view, I mean, that's, you know --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We're debating this and really it should be tabled for public hearing coming up.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Yeah, I appreciate that. And if I have overstepped that was not my intent. I am the furthest thing you would find from an elitist. Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

One more thing.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Legislator Alden is compelled to respond.

LEG. ALDEN:

I sorry, I just -- I can't leave the whole thing there. I agree with you a hundred percent. Should it be looked at, absolutely. Should it have been part of our budget, that if we don't take it out it's a fait accompli, as the presiding -- not the Presiding Officer, but as Madam Chair has pointed out, absolutely. But I'd rather see a little bit more consistency also. We approved a three or four or \$500,000 capital project to improve those docks. Why would we saddle the public with that much debt and then turn it over to a private operator? That's very inconsistent. So the consistency here has not been there.

And we also have, as we pointed out, if you want to know what's wrong it, get your user group down. And they can point out and they actually, they realize that they're paying less than a market value on the rental of those slips. And they also had about 20 or 30 other suggestions on how we can maximize profit and maximize the income from the operation of those marinas without going to a private operator.

But I also want to see -- I want to see the light shine on the truth that this isn't two or \$300,000 that we put in our pocket today. This costs us millions. Because when you turn over the revenue stream for X number of years, that should also be included in the discussion point. And it wasn't, as far as I'm concerned; I read what was put in the budget and that part of it was left out. That we give up millions of dollars in future revenue to get a couple of bucks today.

So I want to see a little more transparency. I want to see a little more honesty instead of more smoke and mirror.

COMMISSIONER HEANEY:

Thank you and I apologize for taking up the Committee's time.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Alden, you brought up a very good point. And I do want to put on the record that the people, the representatives, of the two boat clubs from both Timber Point and Shinnecock met with the Commissioner -- with the Park's Commissioner, and myself and they had very, very constructive ideas for raising revenue. They were actually willing to raise some of their own fees.

LEG. ALDEN:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And to attach utilities fees to the marina use because they were looking at fairness. And so this is a group that has really stepped up. And had they been given an opportunity before the decision was made to go to the RFEI, I think they would have been very cooperative and would have come up with some very good ideas.

LEG. ALDEN:

I agree with you a hundred percent.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And there is a member of that group, of the -- the boaters' group who will be represented in the RFEI committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. So we have a tabling motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1800 stands tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1804, Authorizing use of Smith Point Park property by Anti-Hamptons, Between the Ports and Event Power, Long Island, for a triathlon. (Browning) I'll make a motion, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Their title notwithstanding. Okay. **Motion is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1834, Authorizing a Custodial License Agreement with the North Fork Audubon Society for Inlet Pond County Park, Greenport. (Co. Exec. Levy) I'll make a motion to approve. I do have a question for the Commissioner about this.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. Commissioner, what's their role there under this custodial agreement?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

They are stewards there. They lead nature walks there and they have some events there. So it's similar to the custodial arrangements we have with other -- with historical societies at some facilities. This is an historical site. It has an historic structure on it. This was the residence of Issac Green who was a famous architect from the late 1800's and early 1900's. And they provide our eyes and ears and also they do some maintenance work on the facilities as well and maintain the grounds.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, good. Thank you, Commissioner. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1835, Authorizing a Custodial License Agreement with the Great South Bay Audubon Society for Brookside County Park, Sayville. (Co. Exec. Levy) I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Stern.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is this an exclusive use agreement?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

No, none of our -- these are all license agreements. So none of our license agreements are exclusive.

LEG. ALDEN:

We're just asking them to help out with, you know, keeping their eyes and ears there and things like that.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Right. And none of these are, you know, they can preclude other uses from happening.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good, okay.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Correct. But they're not exclusive.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And, Commissioner, this is a renewal. They've had a longstanding relationship there.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

This is a renewal. They've done a very good job.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. Okay. There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1835 stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1839, Authorizing use of Indian Island County Park by Peconic Community Council, Inc. for its Walkathon Fundraiser. (Co. Exec. Levy) I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1839 stands approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1841, Appointing a member of the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Dawn Hopkins). (Kennedy) I'm going to make a motion to table because Miss Hopkins was not able to come to this meeting.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1841 stands tabled. (VOTE: 5-0)**

Are there any other questions or comments from the audience? If not, I'll call for a motion to adjourn. Legislator Alden.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

Vivian?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yes.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

I need to just make some comments regarding the Vanderbilt.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I'm sorry, Barbara. I thought you were looking to see if I was finished. Okay. I'm sorry.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

Brief, very brief.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

There is comments by Barbara LoMoriello who's my representative on the Vanderbilt Oversight Committee.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

September 16th Vanderbilt's Board Meeting. A few things were discussed. First thing is that they raised -- the Vanderbilt raised \$10,000 to sponsor two or three of their shows.

In addition to that they will be eliminating --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Barbara, how did they raise that?

MS. LoMORIELLO:

The board did. There wasn't any discussion as to how.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, it came in from the board.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

It came in from the board, yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Very good.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

They're also, at the end of September, they were eliminating outside security -- outside security agency and they were doing it in-house.

In addition they were preparing a new RFP for the cell tower and it would be going out this month.

They also have a new fundraising initiative, which is to purchase a brick, put your name on it and the bricks are located outside the planetarium. So that's it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

How much are the bricks going for?

MS. LoMORIELLO:

One hundred dollars.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Barbara, I also wanted to add to that that they had a successful fundraiser where they had the grand opening of the habitat.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

Yes, I want to tell you about that, just a moment on the habitat. That was a -- to redo the habitat, that was a grant they received, it was called Save America Treasures Grant. I don't know the amount, but that was used to refurbish it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

They also have a beautiful brochure which was -- they also have a beautiful multi-colored brochure that was facilitated by one of the board members who's in the graphic arts business, I think. And it's a very handsome brochure. And I'm wearing a pin that was given to me by one of the members of the board and this is a beautiful pin, you know -- you know, the great fish exhibit that they have.

LEG. ALDEN:

Shark pin.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, it's a shark.

LEG. ALDEN:

You should be wearing a shark pin.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That's right, I'm after you.

MS. LoMORIELLO:

Just to add I was down at the Vanderbilt this week. The board threw the staff members and volunteers a picnic, a barbecue rather. And actually everybody I spoke to is very enthusiastic about having Noel as the Chair and what's going on at the Vanderbilt.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

He did a lot of the cooking, didn't he?

MS. LoMORIELLO:

He actually cooked chowder for them. So they're actually very happy and they're enthusiastic about their job.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you very much for that report and I think it's a good report. It's optimistic what's going on at the Vanderbilt. They're on the upswing as well, so on that high note I will make a motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Alden. Thank you very much.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:40 PM

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY