

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 December 15, 2010.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairperson
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas Barraga
Leg. Ricardo Montano
Leg. Steven H. Stern

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Joe Montouri, Commissioner of Parks Department
Steve Tricaraco, Aide to County Executive
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Bob Martinez, Aide to Leg. Montano
Dot Kerrigan, AME Legislative Representative
Dennis Brown, County Attorney's Office
Carol Ghiorsi Hart, Vanderbilt Museum
Noel Gish, Vanderbilt Museum
Marge Acevedo, Presiding Officer Aide
William Shilling, Presiding Officer Aide
Patrick Boyles, Park Police
Tany McKay, appointee to Vanderbilt Museum
Joseph S. Dujmic, appointee to Vanderbilt Museum
Rodney Rodriguez, appointee to Vanderbilt Museum
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:03 PM

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll call to order the Parks & Recreation Committee. We'll start with the salute to the flag led by Legislator Montano.

SALUTATION

Okay, good afternoon and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee, the last one of the year. Yeah, last one of the year.

And today we do have some appointments for the Vanderbilt Museum. And I thought maybe if any of the -- okay, we have a few appointees or possible appointees here so I thought we'd start with that. First of all -- let's see. I guess I make a motion to take -- okay, I'm going to make a motion to take four of these out of order. Is it three? Three out of order: 2230, 2237 and 2239. I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? These are to be taken out of order.

We'll start with **Introductory Resolution 2230, Appointing Tanya McKay as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 7). (Pres. Off.)** Is Tanya McKay her? Why don't you come on up and join us? Hi, and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. And I'm going to leave this up to you to tell us why you believe this is a position that you would enjoy and do well at.

MS. McKAY:

Good afternoon to everyone. Good afternoon to everyone. I come to you today first -- again, good afternoon to everyone. I come to you today, first of all, honored to have been asked to be elected to serve on the Vanderbilt Museum. I come to you with ten years experience in development, with fundraising, with donor cultivation and stewardship, with event planning, with volunteer management. I have experience both in large not-for-profits and small not-for-profits, higher education, college settings. I also come to you today with a zeal and a zest, with a great attitude, a willingness to serve as a board member for this museum and a willingness to make this museum as great as it once was and still is.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Just quickly, you say you come to us from -- but I don't have your resume in front of me. Could you just explain that a little?

MS. McKAY:

Okay. Currently I serve as a donor relations associate and stewardship cultivation for Stony Brook University where I've served for three years. And in that role I'm responsible for all of the cultivation for our major donors, which involves annual reports, endowment reports, receipts, end-of-year receipts and all of the given bequests, plan giving, that sort.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. I see for the record you served in the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport area. Does anybody have any -- Committee have any questions of Miss McKay? Well, it certainly sounds like you have a background. And I want to thank you for volunteering, so to speak; the County of Suffolk does appreciate it. It's a very important position. Okay. Legislator Barraga, do you have a question?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Just a quick question. With reference to your background at Stony Brook, in terms of donors, I take it you mean you have some interaction with people who you solicit to raise funds maybe for the university or for some other element of the university?

MS. McKAY:

Yes, I do. In the office that I work in, it's major gifts. And these gifts really comprise of gifts of 5,000 and greater for the university which we steward and cultivate. And in my role I don't meet directly with donors; what I actually do is all of the -- all of the letters for Dr. Stanley I write to the donors, all the receipts for gifts to the university I generate and send out. All of the annual reports each year, I'm involved with that process as well as all the endowment reports. I'm involved with Planned Giving news letter. So I have a very active role, although I'm not directly face to face with the donors.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Do you think any of that expertise can be used to assist the Vanderbilt Museum in terms of giving them a greater capability of raising funds?

MS. McKAY:

Absolutely. I think we have a great front line at Stony Brook University, but I also think with that front line we need a great administrative background staff, which is what our department is. We're relatively new. We've been there for about three years. But as we all know, it takes a lot to cultivate and to steward a prospect or a donor and to keep them, to retain them as donors for your organization. And I think that's a big piece that I can bring to the museum. How do we keep the donors that we have, how do we bring new donors on board and how do we cultivate them to keep them there and to continue their giving.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Barraga, did you think it was organ donors? Was that the confusion at first?

LEG. BARRAGA:

No, although in a few years it might be worth it.

LAUGHTER

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Horsley, did you have a question? Legislator Horsley, did you have a question?

LEG. HORSLEY:

No, I'm good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, okay. Are there any other questions?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I'm good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, with that I'll make a motion.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by -- who's the second? Second by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** This will be coming out of Committee today. And we will take this to the full Legislature

on Tuesday. And it's really not necessary that you come and spend the day there, but if you want to, good for you.

MS. McKAY:

Thank you for so much for your attention. Have a great holiday.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. **2237, Appointing Joseph S. Dujmic as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 13). (Cooper)** You're going to have to help me with that. Dujmic?

MR. DUJMIC:

Dujmic.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Would you like to come sit before us and tell us a little about yourself?

MR. DUJMIC:

Absolutely. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the Committee. First and foremost it's an honor to be here and to be considered for appointment to the Vanderbilt Museum Committee.

To tell you a little bit by myself, I come here first and foremost as a loving dad. My son is five and a half years old. One of his favorite places to visit is the Vanderbilt Museum. I want to ensure that in 20, 25 years from now this is something that he'll be able to do with his children.

I come here secondly as a taxpayer, as someone who is concerned with the future of the Vanderbilt Museum and what may need to be expended on it to have it continue to exist.

That being said, I initially -- my first time in this body was quite a few years ago. I was here as a County Executive Assistant under County Executive Levy. Since that point in time I had become a member of the County Attorney's Office where I served mostly in the Family Court Bureau but also spent some time with Bureau Chief Denis Brown, who's here today, and municipal law. Just a few months ago I left to go into private practice where I am of counsel to two different firms and also am a small business owner myself and just started my own private practice.

In addition I spent five years as an adjunct professor at St. John's University where I taught a course, I think, appropriately Discover New York. We discussed the Vanderbilt family starting with obviously the Commodore and leading up to what takes place today in modern day New York. I think just all those different areas I would hope would make me a beneficial addition to the Vanderbilt Commission.

In addition I was just overwhelmed by Miss McKay's testimony, you know, what she brings to the table is very important; because I think one of the things we need to look at is the fundraising aspect in order to keep the Vanderbilt Museum or to make the Vanderbilt Museum more self sufficient. I think that's an important part of what we need to do as a member of the Commission.

I'm excited. If you'll give me the opportunity to move forward and become a member of the Commission. And, you know, I know you might have some questions for me. And I'll be perfectly honest and tell you that, you know, as a member of the Commission, I'm going to have a lot more questions than I do answers. And I think that's something that's very, very important moving forward with regard the Vanderbilt Commission. So I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. First of all, it's nice to see you again although I can't pronounce your last name.

MR. DUJMIC:

Very nice to you see you again, too.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And, you know, what you say is right. I was doing some backup work about the Vanderbilt. And some of these things that I'm sure that young children in school were being taught, the Vanderbilts building the Motor Parkway so they can drive their car -- be the first motor car to come out. I mean, very interesting things. Long Island has a lot of very incredible history. And we have to thank you for volunteering. And I know you're very busy with a young son and being of counsel, but it's important to the County and it's important to history.

Does anybody have any questions?

LEG. MONTANO:

Just one.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Who is that? Okay, Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Hi, how are you, Joe? How you been?

MR. DUJMIC:

Legislator, it's been a while. How are you?

LEG. MONTANO:

Good, good, good. I see you relocated from Ronkonkoma to Huntington Station?

MR. DUJMIC:

Yes, that is correct.

LEG. MONTANO:

You're in practice. Congratulations. Good luck. Just out of curiosity, which legislative district do you reside in?

MR. DUJMIC:

I presently reside in the Seventeenth Legislative District. That is Legislator D'Amaro's district.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Thank you. And good luck to you.

MR. DUJMIC:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Any other questions?

LEG. STERN:

Very quickly.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

How are you?

MR. DUJMIC:

Very good, Legislator, how are you?

LEG. STERN:

Good, good, thanks for coming down and thank you for your willingness to serve. It seems like not so long ago I was in that kind of a seat, you know, young family, in practice, you know, professional responsibilities. The kind of time that the Vanderbilt requires of all of its trustees to keep it going, to take it to the next level, I guess maybe the question for you is with everything else that you have on your plate, do you think you'll have the time?

MR. DUJMIC:

Legislator Stern, I think it's so important that I have to make the time. I think it's important to our community. Being a resident of Huntington, which I absolutely adore the area, it's something, like I said when I first started, it's something that I really want to ensure that my family is able to enjoy with their children and grandchildren in the future. And I think the only way to do that is to have individuals with, you know, the management experience, fundraising experience; like I said again, I think that's so important to make the time necessary to contribute to the community. And I absolutely will make it a top priority.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I can't imagine a more difficult job in times of this economy. Did I have a motion?

MS. ORTIZ:

No.

LEG. STERN:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, motion by Legislator Stern, second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **2237 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** And you know this will go to the full Leg on Tuesday. And you don't really have to go spend the whole day there with us.

MR. DUJMIC:

Okay. I just want to thank you very much and I look forward to working with all the members of this Committee as well as the full Legislature.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Actually thank you.

LEG. MONTANO:

He is not required to be there Tuesday.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

What's what I said.

2239, Appointing Rodney Rodriguez as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 1). (Montano)

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll make that motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll take that under advisement.

LEG. MONTANO:

Oh, you wanted him to speak first.

LEG. MONTANO:

Thank you. I'll second it.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Did I bring any wine? Off the record, I didn't bring any wine with me but I can come back with the wine.

LAUGHTER

For those of you -- first of all, it's an honor and a privilege to be asked to be on the Board. I've been a resident of Suffolk County most of my life. I've gone to the museum when I was a child and gone on trips there. I brought my kids there. I think the museum is a focal point of our culture here on Long Island. And having the planetarium is a big giant plus there as well. I think it's something that is maybe not used as much as it should be with the schools and maybe other organizations to have events there.

I know that seeing my kids grow up and going there time and time again, it's a little disappointing seeing that the souvenir shop almost had nothing in it. And the museum, I think, should be run as a business, should be run, so that it can generate as much income from its own -- the attributes of the museum has such as people come into the planetarium, you go into Manhattan, that planetarium is constantly packed. And those people aren't getting in there for free.

I think that we have some assets in the museum that need to be exploited more for the community and maybe even for others because we have so many things on Long Island that are within driving distance that most people don't even realize. And maybe what needs to be done with the museum is treat it more like a business. And, I'm sorry, I look at things more from a business perspective because I have an insurance agency I've run for 26 years. I delegate most of what gets done there to people who I have working with me who have been me for years. So it allows me some time to do other things because I also have a business where I import and distribute wine. But, again, I have people I delegate to. And I do a lot of hands on myself with this.

And I'd like to see that the museum grow to a better level. I'd like to see it have more money come in from patronage than it does from the County. I think the museum is a viable place where it should have more money come in from patronage.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Does anybody have any questions? So we do have an interesting group, a business man and a fundraiser and a dad who has a love for the museum and has his heart and soul into it. So I think we're very fortunate. Legislator Barraga?

LEG. BARRAGA:

You sound like an individual who's got some assertive ideas with reference to the Vanderbilt Museum. You've run your own business for many years. It's been my experience, not in all cases but in some cases where people are appointed to boards, they just fall into going to the meetings, taking up the agenda and waiting for the next meeting. They're not very aggressive in between meetings.

Like you mentioned that souvenir shop. Well, I don't know about the other members, I got a letter the other day from somebody working for the Vanderbilt Museum that was very critical of that particular area and the management team running it right now. And so maybe, you know, if things go well with you, and I'm sure they will, you might want to take a look in terms of what's actually going on in that souvenir shop and some of the other areas of the Vanderbilt Museum. The last

thing we need is just a trustee who shows up for the meetings; because when you show up just for the meetings and you do the agenda, the agenda is being given to you by the administration.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

I have enough distractions in my life where I don't need a reason to not go there. But I venture to say they might get sick of seeing me walking around the museum.

LEG. BARRAGA:

That's all right with me.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Because I happen to really like the museum. I like the planetarium. And I'd like to be able to spend time there. I'd like my kids to spend time there. I'd like my grandchildren to be able to spend time there. I'd like to see that it lasts, but that it starts looking better than it has. I mean I've seen that -- I've been going to that museum for over 20 years. And I've seen it where it was really, really nice and I've seen where it started not looking so nice. So whether I'm going to show up to help and do things, well, maybe they might say, you know, *can you tell him not to come here anymore?*

LEG. BARRAGA:

Good luck to you.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just for the record --

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

No, I didn't bring any wine.

LAUGHTER

LEG. MONTANO:

Just for the record, though, and I know you well, and I know your business and Casa de Vinos, you know, just for the record, the wine that he imports is from Chile, from Argentina. I think you're also looking at other countries; am I correct?

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Yep.

LEG. MONTANO:

And you are very busy. But respect to fundraising, could you just put on the record or give us an idea of how many fundraising events you involve yourself with for different organizations, you know, on a yearly basis so that we get an idea of what your commitment is to not-for-profit causes and particularly the Vanderbilt?

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Well, it's true. We host a lot of different fundraising events. A lot of people think that we're a non-for-profit organization because we give away so much wine for these events. But on a yearly basis probably go through about 30, 40 different fundraising events; probably sponsor more than that because I'm not able to go to every event that we sponsor. And we know how to raise money. But at the same time we know how to raise money intelligently. Because it's one thing raising money to contribute to something; it's another thing that money being wasted. And I'm a little surprised -- I looked at the budget that was given to me for the museum. And it seems like there was more money raised for salaries than there was for operation of the museum. And I thought that was a little odd. I didn't know the museum was a non-for-profit organization for employees.

LEG. BARRAGA:

You are going to do very well.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Are there any other questions? I believe we have a motion by Legislator Montano, second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **2239 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** And, Rodney, you know that you do not have to come and spend the day on Tuesday.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Well, thank you. And thank you for having me here today. But I will send some wine -- is there a party at that next meeting?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Could you come off the record. Kill the mike.

LAUGHTER

Okay. Thank you very much.

LEG. MURATORE:

Happy New Year.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Commissioner, do you have anything you want to talk to us about?

COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:

No, I don't. Happy holiday. Happy New Year.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. And same to you.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, we'll go right to tabled resolutions. **1950, Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law strengthening the Social Host Law to deter the consumption of alcohol by minors within the Suffolk County Park System. (Co. Exec.)** We have to table that for public hearing; correct?

LEG. MONTANO:

No, no. I'm going to make a motion to table subject to call because in essence -- is the public hearing open or closed?

MR. NOLAN:

No, it's been recessed.

LEG. MONTANO:

Oh, so we can't table it subject to call. All right, so we'll table it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So I made a motion to table for public hearing, second by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? **1950's tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

2093, Authorizing Site License Agreement to Strawberry Fields, site Town of Southold. (Romaine) I believe that has to be tabled as well. Right, Counsel?

MR. NOLAN:

Correct. The sponsor's going to have a meeting with the County Attorneys, some other interested parties so it needs to be tabled now.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **2093 is tabled.**
(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

I'm going to go over to **introductory resolutions. 2187, approving a license agreement for Polly Weigand to reside at Black Duck Lodge at Hubbard County Park, Flanders. (Co. Exec.)** And I'm going to make a motion, second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **2187 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** It's really good that these different County buildings are being resided in.

2188, Authorizing First Amendment of a License Agreement with Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference for Blydenburgh-Weld House, Smithtown and Pine Barrens Trailside Information and Exhibit Center, Manorville. (Co. Exec.) Counsel, what does it mean first amendment; first amendment license agreement?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, there's an existing agreement which is being modified. So it's going to involve the improvement of the Blydenburgh-Weld House, Smithtown and the Pine Barrens Trailside Information and Exhibit Center, Manorville.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, then I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Montano or Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **2188 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

2194, Amending the 2010 Capital Budget and Program, appropriating funds and accepting a Community Capital Assistance Program (CCAP) grant in the amount of \$165,000 from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for the installation of a concealed fire sprinkler system at the main house at Deepwells County Park (CP 7510). (Co. Exec.) And I'm going to make that motion again myself, second by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? **2194 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

2202, appropriating funds in connection with rehabilitation of plumbing system at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7447). (Cooper) What is the amount of that, Budget Review?

MS. MOSS:

\$50,000.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

\$50,000. We need to have the plumbing so I'll make a motion. Seconded by --

LEG. STERN:

I'll second. I have a question.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Stern. And Legislator Stern has a question.

LEG. STERN:

To anyone who can answer. This is previously in the budget?

MS. MOSS:

It was included in the adopted budget.

LEG. STERN:

Okay.

MS. MOSS:

It was a BRO recommendation and the recommendation was for them to do a comprehensive plan.

LEG. MONTANO:

And that was my question.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **2202 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

2203, appropriating funds in connection with the rewiring of historic structures at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7445). (Cooper)

Again, Budget Review?

MS. MOSS:

150,000.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And this is part of also the umbrella? This was already in the capital --

MS. MOSS:

It was previously included, yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. And, okay. Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **2203 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

2204, Appropriating funds in connection with restoration of facades at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7441). (Cooper) Again, Budget Review.

MS. MOSS:

This is for 300,000.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And this is already in the budget?

MS. MOSS:

Yes, it is.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Capital? Okay. Same motion, same second.

MS. MOSS:

For construction.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All in favor? Opposed? **2204 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. BARRAGA NOT PRESENT)**

2233, adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law to broaden qualifications for the Vanderbilt Museum Trustees. (Cooper) It has to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **2233 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. BARRAGA NOT PRESENT)**

And that ends the last meeting of the year for Parks and Recreation. Have a good holiday. We are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:31 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**