

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

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislature Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on February 27, 2013.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairwoman  
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair  
Leg. Kara Hahn  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley  
Leg. Steven H. Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Robert Doering, Budget Review Office  
Greg Dawson, Commissioner/Parks Department  
Lance Reinheimer, Director/Vanderbilt Museum  
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro  
Deborah Tinnirello, Aide to Leg. Hahn  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Thomas Vaughn, County Executive Assistant III  
Marie Berkoski, Aide to County Executive  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Leg. Gregory  
Patrick Boyles, DSPBA, Park Police Chairperson  
Rick Brand, Newsday  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

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**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:10 PM**

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Welcome to the Parks Committee. We'll stand for the Pledge to the flag led by Legislator D'Amaro.

**SALUTATION**

Good afternoon and welcome to the Committee once again. Is there anybody that would like to address the Committee from the public? Okay. I see the Commissioner sitting there. And, Commissioner, how are things going? You still like your job?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

I still like my job; couldn't be better. Just real quick on the agenda, we're going to be respectfully requesting 2228 be tabled again. We were -- Commissioner Anderson and I were supposed to go out to Lindley House last month before the next meeting, but the day we had scheduled we had the snowstorm. So we're going -- actually we rescheduled for this Friday, if that's okay with you guys.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Oh, I'm sure nobody has a problem with that.

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Thank you.

**LEG. HAHN:**

It's a short cycle.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Yes, that's right. Okay, Commissioner, was there anything else that you wanted to talk about?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No, I'll just wait for the resolutions to come if you have any questions.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Getting the beaches ready and the golf courses ready?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

Yes. The golf courses will be open up two weeks, March 15th. We're scheduled ready to go, so.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Did anybody else want to -- there you go, Lance, come on up. Lance, I'm sorry, I didn't see you if you were waiting before.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I wasn't.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I figure I'd let the Parks Commissioner go first and I'd bat cleanup.

Thank you very much. Lance Reinheimer, Director of the Vanderbilt Museum. I just want to emphasize we're opening March 14th with a private reception and we're opening to the public on March 15th. This is 15 years in the making. And I want to thank the Legislature for appropriating the funds, for expanding the scope so that we have updated HVAC, energy efficient lights in the

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lobby, new ceiling in the lobby. And that's all from the additional funds that you appropriated in addition to having the pit dug out so that the camera goes below the sightlines.

We really will have a world-class planetarium right here in Suffolk County. Something to be really proud of. And I'd like to say on the record, too, Public Works has gone above and beyond in doing this project. The contractors and the people that they retained to do the work are so thrilled to be working on a planetarium. And it's just all coming together nicely. We raised \$150,000. We're painting the lobby. We're redoing our museum store. We're going to run the store so that it can make money. This really is going to help the museum attain sustainability.

And I'd also like to report that during this past month, we got a major donation of \$10,000 for the opening of the planetarium. And we also received a \$13,000 grant from National Grid Foundation for the travelling classroom. We haven't been able to get the travelling classroom on the road with the planetarium renovations and the work that went into that, and a limited staff, we haven't been able to do that. And, to be honest with you, I've been waiting for this grant. This is something that I've been on working on with the foundation for probably seven or eight months. And this provides the financial foundation to start to get the classroom out. And we've had some interest in it. I know there's interest for it. So that will help with public relations to show that we're out here, we're doing well and we're expanding our programs when other institutions aren't.

So I want to thank you for your help in appropriating the funds to really do the planetarium right. I've been associated with the County for a long time. And I said to Public Works today, "this is one of the few capital projects that wasn't value engineered to the point where it doesn't reflect the original scope." So we expanded the scope and it really is spectacular. Thank you.

### **CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Lance, if I haven't said this to you before, and maybe I haven't, I think that when you retired, it was probably the luckiest day for the Vanderbilt Museum. Because you really, really have impressed me. Your -- you are so devoted and you've done such a great job. And I just think they're very fortunate to have you.

### **MR. REINHEIMER:**

Thank you.

### **CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

As we are.

### **MR. REINHEIMER:**

And I'm fortunate to have this opportunity. Like, Greg, I still like my job. I still love it. And I wonder why sometimes, too.

Also, Channel 55 is carrying a segment Sunday at 11 o'clock. I'm going for taping on Friday. They were out to do some file tapes. They ran a small segment 9:30 on -- the other day. I think it was -- it was Tuesday, I think it was. New York Times was out and they're doing a story on us this weekend. Newsday is coming out on Thursday. And I assume they'll be doing a story for us, also. So we're getting some good press and well-deserved press because this is -- this is the best thing that's happened to the museum since the planetarium opened in 1971. So this is big news. Thank you.

### **CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you. Does anybody else want to ask Lance any questions or make any comments?

### **D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Do we get an invitation?

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

I don't think yet, but I think last time we talked about it.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Well, no, I sent invitations out to the whole Legislature. And if you didn't get it, that's the fault of e-mail, but, you know, please let me know if you're coming. It's March 14th, seven to ten PM. Basically, you know, hors d'oeuvres, coffee, dessert. Planetarium show. It's going to be a nice time. So if you are able to come, I welcome all of you; but I did send invitations to the whole Suffolk County Legislature. Thank you.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Thank you. Did anybody else have any comments? Commissioner, did you want to address anything else while we're here?

**COMMISSIONER DAWSON:**

No. No thanks, I'll just wait for the -- for the agenda.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

So we will go to tabled resolutions.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

**IR 1949, To modify golf fees for Veterans. (Schneiderman)** Do I have any motions?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, I thought we had a discussion about this at the last meeting.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

There was no way to quantify the --

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

I think that's what you had asked. Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

The Fiscal Impact Statement indicated that the impact was indeterminant. And I think the Budget Review Office was going to look at whether or not the discounts were enhancing -- generating more revenue or less revenue and what the impact was. So to BRO is there any further information that you have on that? Rob is here.

**MR. DOERING:**

Yeah, we did modify the Fiscal Impact Statement. Essentially we determined that there would be a slight increase in revenue of 24 to \$42 as a result of these changes.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

A total of \$22; is that what you're saying?

**MR. DOERING:**

An increase in revenue, yes, on an annual basis of somewhere between 24 and \$42.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Total?

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**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Are you saying yearly?

**MR. DOERING:**

That's correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Well, so in effect by providing the discount, which is a nice thing to do for veterans, at the same time the County's not taking any kind of hit with respect to generation of revenue, so that's a win/win.

**MR. DOERING:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. Good.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

Through the Chair, what did your economic model look like to get a number like --

**MR. DOERING:**

We applied the national average price elasticity of demand for a round of golf.

**D.P.O. HORSLEY:**

I should have realized. And it comes out to that number?

**MR. DOERING:**

Yeah. The three different rates would be discounted. In two of the cases you would encourage 29 additional rounds of golf. And 30 -- there would be 30 rounds of additional golf. And there was only 41 rounds of non-senior veteran golf played in 2012.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

If you want that clarified, ask Rob. He's very clear. (Laughter)

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I want to thank you for making that analysis. I mean, it's good news, I think. And now we know in the future that when we're looking at discounts or fees, you know, that we have some model to go by in order to determine what the impact would be rather than indeterminant. So I appreciate that.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Steve, did you want to make that motion?

**LEG. HAHN:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Hahn, second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1949 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**Tabled Resolution, 2228, Authorizing Montauk Chapter of the Boy Scouts to enter into a License Agreement. (Schneiderman)** I'll make a motion to table, second by Legislator

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D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **2228 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1020, Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to enlarge qualifications for Museum Director. (Pres. Off.)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll offer a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Motion to approve by Legislator D'Amaro; second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed?  
**1020 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**Introductory Resolution 1025, Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property in 2013 by the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library's Family Literacy Project. (Browning)** And I'm assuming that the appropriate fee is in that resolution. I'll make a motion.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1025 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**IR 1070, Authorizing use of Smith Point Park property by Getco Company, between the Ports and Event Power, Long Island, for a triathlon. (Browning)** Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1070 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1071, Authorizing use of Makamah Preserve in Northport by Northport Running Club. (Spencer)** Again, the same fee. I'll make the motion; second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1071 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1086, Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Local Law to prohibit distribution of stimulant drinks in County parks. (Spencer)** This has to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make that motion; second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1086 is approved -- excuse me -- tabled. Who recused?**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It's approved. Kara recused.

**LEG. HAHN:**

I recuse.

**CHAIRWOMAN NOWICK:**

Okay. Put that on the record that Legislator Hahn is recusing. **Tabled for Public Hearing (VOTE: 4-0-0-0-1 Recused: Legislator Hahn)**

Does anybody else have anything for the committee? Commissioner? Great. Having said that, we'll adjourn.

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**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:22 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**