

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees, which was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., was held on December 4, 2003 in the Lobby of the Planetarium at the Vanderbilt Museum, Centerport, New York.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman - President
Carl Luecke - 1st Vice President
Michael Broxmeyer - 2nd Vice President
Dr. Anthony Pecorale - Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann - Secretary
Bertram E. Seides - Trustee
William Macchione - Trustee
Dr. William Rogers - Trustee
Deborah A. Gray - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo - Executive Director
Rob Snyder - Staff
Leslie Tannen - Todd Shapiro Associates
Ann Marie Pastore - Stenographer

Absent:

Donna deLuca Periconi
Edward J. Hahn
Susan LeBow
Mary Anne Jedrlinic

(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good evening, everybody. This is a regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees. Do we have a list of attendees?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Is there anybody that wishes to ask the board any questions or make any statements? Thank you for being here. Marge, the minutes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes be accepted as filed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The minutes are approved unanimously. (Vote: 9/0/0/6 Absent: Ms. Periconi, Mr. Hahn, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Jedrlinic. Two vacant positions.)

Public Relation's Report, Leslie.

MS. TANNEN:

Would you like to watch the videos this evening or postpone them until the next meeting?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I believe we'll postpone them until the next meeting.

MS. TANNEN:

Even though he is not here, I would like to extend a thank you to Dave Bush who participated enormously in the Total Lunar Eclipse Program. He really did an outstanding job. He's hoping to be a star on Fox 5, but we'll have to see. I would also like to thank Lance and Stephanie who showed up here to help out with Carol Silva from News 12. We had three really lovely segments that you will see next time, one on the mansion, one on the planetarium, and one on the mummy. As you can see again with the newspaper clips, a large thanks to Dave Bush whose participation got him on page three of Newsday. When you see him, tell him thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, would you please stay because we have some other issues that involve public relations.

MS. TANNEN:

Certainly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Development Committee, Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Actually, there is no Development Committee report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, where are we putting the Vanderbilt Cup?

MR. BROXMEYER:

I think that will wind up being part of the Development Committee and maybe part of another committee as well. I don't know if we have anything concrete specifically to report.

DR. PECORALE:

As I understand it, you're the Chairman of the Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let me clarify that. Michael is the Chairman of the Committee.

MR. BROXMEYER:

The Development Committee.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What happened was that I went to give a speech because Todd Shapiro and Associates thought it was a good idea. The two County Executives suggested that I chair a bi-county event. They just announced it. So at the moment, I was assigned that role. The museum, on the other hand, I believe has it's own piece of that bi-county event. What I'm looking for is for the museum to take the lead from this end and then come up with a structure that perhaps we can present to people in Nassau County and Suffolk County perhaps either to the transition team of Steve Levy or to whomever he would like us to present it to. I assume that because Bob Gaffney blessed this, that Steve Levy might also want to bless it. I can't be 100 percent sure, but what I was hoping for was that the museum would take the lead on it, and that we Trustees would get the ball going.

As far as my being the Chairman of it, quite frankly, if it's not something that we want to do, then I will make it clear that it's not something we want to do. If it's something we do want to do, then we have to put some structure to it very quickly.

MR. LUECKE:

I think that's something we want to look into, whether or not we want to do it. I don't know if we know enough about it to -

MR. BROXMEYER:

We had one meeting a few weeks ago and there was a lot of discussion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But it was just the two of us.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Right. We were brainstorming but nothing concrete came from that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I think we need to meet immediately to come up with some structure, if we can come up with something that's going to work in the short time frame that we have.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there any problem with discussing it now?

MR. BROXMEYER:

No.

DR. GITTELMAN:

On the record, there is no reason not to.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Lance gave a report on his trip to Florida, the Ormond Beach anniversary. Maybe you want to take it from here.

MR. MALLAMO:

Certainly, Michael. Thank you. The museum had been planning several activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Vanderbilt Cup. As part of the normal course of business, we have been planning an exhibit on the Cup Races for 2004, a lecture series on the Vanderbilt Cup and the Long Island Motor Parkway, and even a recreation of the 1904 Broadway Show, the Vanderbilt Cup, which starred Elsie Janice and played on Broadway. It was a musical comedy. We have secured the original music score and the script, which actually we secured from two different locations. We have applied for a New York State Council of the Arts grant seeking \$35,000 to fund that project. That was written by Rob Snyder. We're just waiting to hear on that.

We had been planning certain activities anyway. Recently we became interconnected with a group in Ormond Beach, Florida. This is the city where in 1904 our William K. Vanderbilt, II, broke the mile per hour speed record in January 1904. That city which calls itself the birthplace of speed is actually going to be celebrating the 100th anniversary of that record the weekend of January 29, 2004. Literally seven weeks from now they're going to be having a big celebration. They have been doing this for a number of years having vintage automobile races on the beach in Ormond Beach, just as they did at the turn of the century.

When I was down in Florida on a conference last month, I went over to Ormond Beach to meet with them, inspect their facilities and their beach, and hear more about how they operate. They are really very happy to make the connection here with the Vanderbilt Museum. They look forward to coming up here and working with us. They were able to share with me a number of major insightful elements that I think would assist us in planning an event. They seemed very supportive of the concept of having some kind of competitive event. They felt that a vintage car show or rally would not attract the vintage cars that we would really want to attract as part of this event. They gave me a number of different concepts that could be played out to pursue that. What they suggested is, since our race is in October, that we may want to combine a gala event spread over the course of a weekend, maybe have an opening reception on one night, the following day a car show and rally, with an evening gala, and then the following morning or during the day a competitive event.

This need not be the 30 mile race that Mr. Vanderbilt had through the farm fields of Long Island in 1904, but this could be the shortest half a mile to one mile. They thought if we could secure a stretch of the Motor Parkway, the original Vanderbilt

Parkway, even though that's not where the first race occurred, that that would be very interesting to competitors. These people come from all parts of the country and not only have the vehicles but have the resources to bring them to different areas to compete where they are interested in competing. They felt that the combination of the Vanderbilt name, the Motor Parkway, and the 100th anniversary of the Cup Race would be very attractive to people becoming involved.

I certainly think that this is something that could be achieved. We were planning our gala in the fall anyway, so to move it a few weeks to that weekend is something that could be done. I think we would be opening our event up to a whole new market of interest and actually not only do this for 1904 but for future events. The Vanderbilt Cup Races ran on Long Island until 1910. The Motor Parkway was started and opened through a number of years from the early 1900's into the 1920's. So this could be the start of a whole new interpretive dimension for the museum. We really never focused on this area before, in spite of the fact we have extensive archives in our collection. In fact, we had a whole album on the races at Ormond Beach that I brought a few copies from the album down with me. They did not have these photographs. They were thrilled to see them when I showed them to them. Yes, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

I think there is a very big difference as far as what the Vanderbilt Museum can do as part of the celebration versus sponsoring and organizing a larger celebration between the two counties and interstate. I think that's what we need make a decision on.

MR. MALLAMO:

I agree.

MS. GRAY:

Do we just want to do our part of the larger celebration or are we prepared to provide leadership across two counties and interstate? That's where I see we need to make a decision as to whether or not we have the resources and time to do the larger piece. If we don't do it, who might we engage to do that because the impression I got from Steve at the last meeting was the two County Executives were looking for us to do it because they didn't have another place to kind of plant this. If we're not willing to do it very shortly, we need to let someone else know that someone else needs to provide the leadership or it won't happen for Long Island. It's a huge endeavor. It's going to take a lot of resources, a lot of time, and we would have to get other people besides all of us who sit on this board to help participate in something that large to develop. I think the things you're talking about, Lance, are what we as the Vanderbilt Museum can do to add to the celebration. It isn't necessarily organizing it across two counties and perhaps many states from Florida to New York to make this larger celebration, which it should be and which it needs to be and is deserving of.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think it's an opportunity that we may choose not to do in terms of the larger scope, but I do feel that we have to make that decision very quickly or we're being unfair to anyone else who might step in our place. I think you hit it right on the head.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Does anyone here think that we have the resources amongst the board to do this?
The gala - you were talking about the gala, that's simple.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We can do the gala.

MR. BROXMEYER:
That's not a big deal. We have done galas, just a different theme. That could be done; we do that every year. Putting on a race is a whole other level.

DR. ROGERS:
Lance pointed out the keynote of this whole thing is really the race factor of it.

MR. BROXMEYER:
Right.

DR. ROGERS:
Bringing in antique cars, getting use of the Motor Parkway, and organizing that, that may not be within our scope, but it certainly could be something that we can suggest and try to get the automobile clubs and the antique car organizations to participate in it, but we can certainly initiate the correspondence and set up the format and see who we can get to participate and be part of this thing.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Someone has to take the lead, and the question for us is, are we that group to take the lead or should we be looking for someone to share that lead other than us. Yes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Never mind.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I think that -

MR. BROXMEYER:
It would require an enormous amount of time.

DR. GITTELMAN:
And effort.

MR. BROXMEYER:
Yes, and effort. I don't know whether we have that on this board. Part of it is great, that there should be multiple organizations putting this together. We would maybe become the gala part of it. Someone else could handle the race part of it. Putting it all together is massive. You were saying that Ormond Beach planned it for five years, the entire city. We're a museum of 13 board members with nine months.

DR. ROGERS:

What other organizations would you feel or recommend can be part of this or might consider participating in it? What organizations do we have out here on Long Island that we can go to?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't think we have a problem with getting other organizations, like for example, the automobile clubs and the like to join in and be very thrilled to be part of it. The question becomes whether or not we want to take the responsibility. I think Michael hit it on the head. We may not have the resources or we don't have the - maybe nobody here wants to dedicate that big a piece of their life for the next nine months toward coordinating this. That's one of the reasons why I forced the issue and I insisted on -

DR. ROGERS:

But because you were approached, or rather you were appointed, I think you should take certain initial steps such as at least getting a list of the organizations that you think would participate and send out some sort of correspondence to them indicating what you have in mind and see if they would be willing to attend a meeting or participate in it and get something initially started. Maybe from that group, you can get somebody to lead this thing.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Or at least participate in it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, there is a difference between lead and participate.

DR. ROGERS:

If you turn it down, you're doing nothing. If you take that initial step, that indicates that you're attempting to do something, and we can get other people to participate, get newspapers, get automobile clubs, counties. Somebody's got to start the ball rolling. All it really takes to get the ball rolling is a list of organizations that you want to contact and some letter writing.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have a question. Do you think you were asked as Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum or were you asked as you?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't know.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I wasn't there. I didn't hear the press conference. I didn't hear the way the question was posed to you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It was never posed to me.

MS. FUHRMANN:

When they turned to you and said, "Do you want to do this--"

DR. GITTELMAN:

They didn't do that. They announced it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

They just said, "You're going to do this."

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

DR. ROGERS:

I would approach this as they meant you as the President of the Museum.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think it's a legitimate question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It is.

DR. ROGERS:

It should be the museum that's doing it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I was representing the museum.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Suozzi can't commit this museum. It's a different county.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Lance?

MR. MALLAMO:

I got the distinct impression -- Steve was representing the museum and I got the feeling Suozzi was saying, I want you to take the lead on it, so I assume it was the museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

I have a little different concept of the way we should go. I think you should send a letter over our stationery thanking them for appointing you or anointing you, whatever you want to call it. The letter should ask the two County Executives for the names of people at the two counties who can assist the Vanderbilt in this endeavor. They would recommend people that we could use to be kind of the focal point of moving this forward. I happen to agree with Mike that I don't know that we have the manpower, especially since we have recently cut back on our staff. I don't know whether we shouldn't ask for help because I have a feeling that if the two County Executives would like to see something like this occur, that they would be prepared to provide some assistance with respect to the area. They may have some staff that

they can supply to help us get this off the ground. I really feel you don't have much of a choice. I think that we have to do something.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Mr. Suozzi said that we should be contacting his people, and that he would allocate staff.

MR. MALLAMO:

Through his Economic Development Department.

DR. PECORALE:

So you are the Chairman. I think you should send that letter and ask him to contact Lance as quickly as possible with the names of the individuals. Then set up a meeting and invite a couple of Trustees to come to the meeting as well so that it's got some Vanderbilt Trustee support. Let's just see how much support we're going to get from the two counties with respect to this endeavor because if they want it, and they are willing to not only provide the PR, which is what I think they were doing at this initial meeting, they might be prepared to not only provide additional staff to help but they might be willing to provide an impetus to do some of the things that have to be done. For example, do you need part of a parkway if you're going to have some sort of an event? Suffolk County, obviously, has parkways all over this area. Nassau County has parkways all over Nassau County. They're going to have to take a lead in that. They close the Wantagh Parkway for their race every year. Maybe they would want to have a two-tiered thing. Maybe they would want to have something in Nassau County and something in Suffolk County, and they would provide the space and the endeavors to do it.

MS. GRAY:

Steve, I don't disagree with what Tony is saying about reaching out, but I think the first question we need to ask ourselves is, are we prepared to take a leadership role in this? Do we believe this is important to the Vanderbilt Museum? Will it help us either for political reasons, for lobbying reasons, for financial reasons? If it will, then what part of it should we do, and how do we reach out to others to get the resources to get it done? Because if we're not prepared to take any kind of leadership role, then asking for help is only asking for help to a group of people that aren't willing to take the leadership role to do it.

The minute you ask for help, you're assuming some sort of leadership role in it, versus saying we're not prepared to lead this but we're prepared to be participants. I'm not afraid to say that we should take a leadership role because it is the Vanderbilt holiday, and it is something that would be rewarding to the museum. We, collectively, here have to make the decision that we're going to take this role and seek out funds from the County, the Long Island Association, and other businesses that might be doing this. It is a huge job. Anybody that's done that kind of massive organization knows that it's a full time job for about ten people. Maybe those ten people don't sit at this board. Maybe they're ten people, three that come from the county and three that come from the Long Island Association, but someone has to manage and organize it. What I think they asked you to do was manage and organize it. The question is, are we prepared to manage and organize it?

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's exactly correct. Carl?

MR. LUECKE:

Deborah, I think we're being asked to manage and organize something, we're not quite sure what yet. Do we have the support -

MS. GRAY:

They want us to design it.

MR. LUECKE:

But do we have support of the Chamber of Commerce? If we knew what resources we would be given, we would have much better input in order for us to manage it.

MS. GRAY:

They are asking us to go out and seek those resources and identify whether or not these people want to contribute to this. If they want us to be the ones, not the two counties, to go out to the local organizations and say this is an important thing to Long Island, will you participate? If they wanted to do it, they wouldn't have asked us. I think that we need to recognize that. If we're not prepared to go out and ask all these organizations to be participants in this, if we don't have the connections or the resources, then we need to say that now because it's only eight or nine months away. Someone needs to do it, or there won't be anything. I see why Steve was a logical person to ask, because he is Chairman of the Museum, and he's involved in a lot of different things, but one person can't do this. This is a group of twenty.

DR. PECORALE:

There is one point that I want to make. What other organization in Nassau County or Suffolk County has the name Vanderbilt tied to it?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Idle Hour.

MR. LUECKE:

There's a hotel.

DR. PECORALE:

Idle Hour really doesn't have the name Vanderbilt tied to it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We all know it's the Vanderbilt House.

MR. MALLAMO:

You mean Dowling College.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Well, actually I meant the county park.

DR. PECORALE:

The county park?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, the Suffolk County park and the Dowling College House.

MR. MALLAMO:

Dowling College is the Idle Hour estate.

DR. PECORALE:

I feel reaching out is our first step to the two parties who did this. Obviously, they must have some staff that they can get to us. I don't see any other organization.

MR. BROXMEYER:

You mean more than some staff. You mean considerable staff.

MS. GRAY:

Let me ask a different question, since you raise that. What is our fear of doing this, that we won't be successful, that there's not the staff support to do it, none of us, since we all are working and don't have enough time? What is the fear factor? I think the fear factor is that we don't have the resources to complete this. If we knew that Suffolk or Nassau had a list - I mean, we're working off the museum list for the guests of the gala, that's not going to work. Is the Chamber of Commerce behind us? Exactly what resources are we being ask to manage? If we're being asked to manage this just with the people here at the museum, that's a problem. But to say we're going to have the Chamber of Commerce, we're going to have this and that -

MS. GRAY:

Well, I think they are saying go out and seek out these people to see if they will participate with us.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I think the fear is the reality that no one here has ever planned a race, put together a race, or put together anything of this level. Again, when you hear that Ormond Beach took five years to put it together, an entire city doing that, it makes you see how large a project it is. It doesn't seem like something that can get done by a small group with no experience in nine months.

DR. ROGERS:

I think that the fear factor is that the staff and the Board of Trustees do not have the time or the capability or the experience. We are hesitating to tackle it. But I think the initial approaches that were mentioned contacting the Suffolk County and Nassau County Executives, telling them, yes, give us some leads, give us some people, give us some personnel, and try to bring other people into the fold. We are the logical organization because of the name to do this.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let's look at some scenarios. One scenario is that this is a very popular idea. Let's say it was me, that I went out and made a sequence of phone calls, and four out of five of the phone calls got extreme interest, and before I knew it, I had a planetarium full of willing participants to shoulder all kinds of responsibilities for this event. What I'm saying to you is, in the abstract it's something that's supported by a lot of people. I ask the question, it's not a question of whether we'll get enough help. It's a question of whether we want to even manage the help that we get. Why don't we just decide whether we want to - if it were to become a tidal wave, why don't we decide whether we want to be surfing on it. I mean, let's just be honest with each other and say, is that what this board wishes to do? I would also add to that scenario, that if we were successful in doing so, it would be a good thing. Now I ask the question, the assumption is here, bright people and resources fall in our hands.

DR. PECORALE:
Why don't we put it on the table and take a vote.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Well, what's the resolution?

DR. PECORALE:
I move that the Vanderbilt Museum Board support the concept of a Vanderbilt Cup Race and appropriate activities in that event as determined by a committee that will work under the directorship of our President.

DR. GITTELMAN:
You're doing the same thing to me that Suozzi did.

DR. PECORALE:
My point is that that's already out there.

DR. GITTELMAN:
My point to you is -

MS. FURHMANN:
Can I rephrase that resolution?

DR. GITTELMAN:
What?

MS. FUHRMANN:
Can I rephrase that resolution?

DR. PECORALE:
Be my guest.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I move that we form an exploratory committee -

DR. GITTELMAN:
We're at the point where we have to decide whether we're going to commit to this event.

DR. PECORALE:
Do we have a second for my motion?

DR. GITTELMAN:
I have an objection to your motion, but go ahead. Somebody please give him a second so that I can object.

MS. GRAY:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Now you've got a second. Discussion? I would like to add to the discussion, that one of the things that I have learned in the past two months was that in the last meeting, I simply had to get on this. I urged a Development Committee meeting to be created. I think our board meeting was on a Thursday, and the committee was something like a Thursday to a Tuesday. I realized it was a short timeframe, but I said we have to get together and discuss this. I got to the meeting, and it was Michael and I. I understand that it was at Michael's office so he had to show up. But let's be honest, I wasn't overwhelmed by the presence of a quorum.

DR. PECORALE:

I didn't even know about it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That point has already been made.

DR. ROGERS:

You're missing the point. You've already been given the responsibility but now you have to decide whether you want to accept it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But it's not my responsibility - I have to say to you that -

MS. FUHRMANN:

But that brings me back to my question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Go ahead, what?

MS. FUHRMANN:

That brings us back to my question. Was it you or was it the museum? That's what Bill just said again.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No matter -- whether it was me or it was the museum, I can't do it without the museum.

DR. ROGERS:

We've been given the responsibility. I'll change that phrasing. We have been given the responsibility.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let me clarify one thing.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You can't do it alone. It's impossible.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I simply can't do it without the support of this board. If this board is not willing to throw themselves into it, then I simply will gracefully involve others.

DR. ROGERS:

But the board itself cannot do it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Regardless of whether this board involves themselves or others, you're going to have to include others. We're too small a group.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I understand that, but -

MS. GRAY:

Steve, have we reached out to anyone else to see if there is interest, or have we just talked amongst ourselves from the last meeting to this meeting?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I will tell you that we have been approached - there's interest.

MS. GRAY:

Are there other parties that would work with us if someone took the time to do this?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Absolutely.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I did a racing show on East Hampton Cable, which is an hour-long show several weeks ago because they had heard about this. They were very anxious to be involved in it. They want me to come back every other month and do a show and update them on what's happening next.

MS. GRAY:

Would they want to be participants in organizing this?

MR. MALLAMO:

I think that they would be. What I have found, and if there is any hesitancy in my voice it's because race car driving is not my forte. I'm kind of hitting the ground at 90 miles an hour, but I've learned a lot in a few weeks. What I have learned is this is a very close nit, very well connected group, particularly in the vintage auto field. Many of them have connections in the current racing field. The fact that I already have a list from this group in Ormond Beach I think that list took them several years to develop. Who are these people? All of these people are going to be at their event in January.

Actually, one of the key players in the 1906 race was Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, whose grandson was here last November. I have e-mailed Mr. Vanderbilt because they are hoping he is going to go down there and participate in their event. I think that there are groups involved, but it's going to be a task to find out who they are and where they are.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Let me express it to you this way. I have no doubt that if someone of energy took the reins of this and dedicated themselves full time, this would be a ton of fun and a very successful event. But it would take a tremendous amount of time. Now I will tell you what my reaction is. Immediately, Lance and I became involved in other aspects of managing the museum's future. If I have to prioritize something, it's going to be other aspects because we have to focus. It's the end of the year. We have things that we have to get done. I don't feel Lance and I have made adequate

progress on this event alone. I'm reluctant to suggest that Lance be given a heavy responsibility in doing it. There is nobody on staff that I can think of that I would give a heavy responsibility to.

DR. PECORALE:

That's why I feel you have to reach out. The two County Executives may have somebody who's got the expertise, they have this as a burning desire, and until you see who is available, I have to say to you, that that's when you're going to be able to determine whether this is a go or not.

DR. GITTELMAN:

One of the problems we have is that Mr. Levy is in transition. Mr. Gaffney is on his way out. We cannot go to an existing County government and speak to people in place. I would also say that one of the things that concerns me is, as good as Mr. Levy's intentions might be, there are people in position come January 1 who might be trying to figure out what they're doing in County government. They might make commitments to us and might not be able to fulfill them because they don't have their sea legs yet. They're forming new government.

MS. GRAY:

I have to say personally having worked with both County governments, County government is not the right place to go to organize this. You have to go to business, Chamber of Commerce, Long Island Association, and people who have the resources to do it. Both counties are struggling with their own budgets, their own priorities. If you really want this to be successful, it has to be a business venture.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There are other organizations of that type that will jump in with us.

MS. GRAY:

Yes, because it's a good marketing strategy but you have to have the talent to go out and find those resources and organize those people. I would be willing to lead on a short term basis a little exploratory group to see if we could gather ten or fifteen other organizations to help us with this, but I think we have to be fairly objective. If we can't get four or five other groups to provide some leadership in this collectively, we can't be successful at it.

MR. LUECKE:

You're thinking of groups like Long Island Business Association or -

MS. GRAY:

Or car associations that would help sponsor the race. I think it goes beyond just the race. The hotel industry might also be benefited.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Tourism.

MS. GRAY:

Tourism might be benefited from it. There are a lot of - Simon Mall might want to have their name on something, who I happen to have a connection with. It's those kinds of businesses that could add some resources to this.

MR. LUECKE:

When you say short term, how long do you think it would take?

MS. GRAY:

I think in about sixty days if you don't have ten or fifteen groups that want to do this with you, then we're not the right people to do it. I'm not sure who is the right group, though. My fear is if we don't do it, it doesn't happen because I don't see any other organization that has the name. We may not have the talent or resources to do this, but we have the name that might bring other talent and resources to the table to organize it for Long Island.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would argue that we have the talent, okay, but we -

DR. ROGERS:

But we don't have the time.

MS. GRAY:

We don't have the time.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I don't think it's the talent; it's experience.

MS. GRAY:

It's time also. It's a huge investment.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I wouldn't use the word talent. I would use the word experience.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we could do it. I believe we could do a bang-up job but we have to want to, and we have to be willing to do this. That gets back to your resolution.

DR. PECORALE:

But then you're speaking in support of the resolution.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm speaking in support of the resolution. I don't feel that I could be that point person that you're asking to be.

DR. PECORALE:

We just had a volunteer.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would have great confidence in Deborah.

DR. PECORALE:

I have to tell you I cannot make a commitment between now and March. After March I may be able to make one.

MS. FUHRMANN:

At all?

DR. PECORALE:
At all. I'm lucky I'm here tonight.

MR. LUECKE:
I think that -

MS. FUHRMANN:
Why don't we see who can?

DR. GITTELMAN:
Well, I certainly can commit time.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I can.

MR. LUECKE:
I think what Deborah is saying is instead of going to government, Deborah is saying to go to business, which makes a lot of sense. I will certainly be able to help on the short term with the understanding that at a certain point in time we come back and say, do you know what, we can't do this, or we can have a gala but we can't do the race and the whole thing.

MS. FUHRMANN:
We need to establish a drop-dead date.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Deborah has suggested sixty days.

MS. FUHRMANN:
The firm drop-dead date.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I can live with sixty days.

MR. BROXMEYER:
Into February.

DR. ROGERS:
I think if you don't accomplish it in sixty days it's not going to be accomplished.

DR. GITTELMAN:
I agree.

MR. BROXMEYER:
Absolutely.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Deborah, do you want to take a deep breath and make sure you want to do this?

MS. GRAY:
Yes.

MR. LUECKE:
I'll be glad to help you.

MS. GRAY:
Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay, so now what is your resolution? Could you re-word your resolution?

DR. PECORALE:
I move that the Vanderbilt Board support an exploratory series of meetings to look into the possibility of activities and events leading up to a possible Vanderbilt Race.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Second?

MR. BROXMEYER:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Discussion?

MS. FUHRMANN:
And other activities.

MR. MACCHIONE:
With a sixty-day time period attached to it.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Okay. Do you accept that?

DR. PECORALE:
Sure.

DR. GITTELMAN:
As amended. Further discussion?

DR. PECORALE:
Call the question.

DR. GITTELMAN:
All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved unanimously. (Vote: 9/0/0/6
Absent: Ms. Periconi, Mr. Hahn, Ms. LeBow & Ms. Jedrlinic. Two vacant positions.)

Deborah, thank you.

DR. ROGERS:
Congratulations, Deborah.

MR. LUECKE:
Let me ask you a question. In terms of the people who are here now, if anyone does have a connection to any one of the groups, because this a development issue here

too, if anybody has any connections with any groups, it would be one of the fifteen groups or whatever number it is, we should try to get as many as possible. We really need everybody's help. We can't sit back and say sixty days and then say, Deborah wasn't able to do it, unless we all go into whatever industry we're in and see if we can find support.

DR. ROGERS:

I assume that we're all going to do that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, we're all going to help.

MR. LUECKE:

Well, you know before we all leave here, and before you know it, it's February just like that. We say we're going to do it, and we may have the best intentions in the world, but -

MS. GRAY:

I'm a pretty good pest. Trust me.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I don't think we should think in terms of Deborah doing it. I think we need to think in terms of, we are doing it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I agree. Does everybody else agree? Is there anybody who disagrees? Please speak up. Then the sentiment is unanimous by the lack of a response.

DR. PECORALE:

It's not the lack of response, it's that we're all in agreement.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're all in agreement. Double negative on my part. All right, with that, Michael, is there anything else? See, there was a lot in your report.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I guess so.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You just didn't know it.

MR. BROXMEYER:

That is the Development Report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much, Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I guess we're going to make a separate committee.

MR. LUECKE:

No, I don't think we should do it that way. I wanted to mention that. If you don't mind, Deborah, this is -

MS. GRAY:

It's part of the Development Committee.

MR. LUECKE:

Yes, this is part of the Development Committee and we meet there. Otherwise you're going to spread it all over the place.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are you comfortable with that?

MR. BROXMEYER:

I'm comfortable with that. I just want to make sure that it's not limited to just the active Development Committee members. It should be all of us.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right, it's all of us. So when there is a Development Committee meeting, try to put it on your calendars. Let's be honest. We don't all attend that committee, but now we're accepting a broader responsibility.

Dinosaur Committee, Ed Hahn is not here today.

MR. MALLAMO:

Ed Hahn wasn't able to make it. The architect is just finishing up the detail of the subterranean plans with DPW. We're awaiting the final written estimates to go over with the committee and the letter from DPW authorizing the work program. Hopefully we'll be able to get this underway. We have received a check for \$50,000 from New York Institute of Technology to reimburse us for the loan from the Rogers' Fund. There is a release with that. I'm reviewing it with Ed Hahn currently. So we have not signed that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are there any strings attached to that check?

MR. MALLAMO:

That's what we're trying to clarify because we have one outstanding invoice with that.

DR. ROGERS:

Does the check have any markings on it indicating that you have to sign a release?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. ROGERS:

The check itself does?

MR. MALLAMO:

Not the check itself but the letter that is accompanying it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're arguing the terms of that release.

DR. ROGERS:

Well, that was not the conditions in which the check was sent.

MR. MALLAMO:

I did speak to the attorney, Bill, and he didn't think it was going to be a problem. He asked that I send him a letter to that effect to explain we had an outstanding invoice, which I did, and he said he will send me a new one.

DR. ROGERS:

Okay, I brought that to their attention through the back room and supposedly it was going to be taken care of. If there are no markings on the check indicating that this is a final settlement or something, I think you can deposit the check.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, I sent the letter off and I'll just -

DR. ROGERS:

I'm not an attorney, but -

MR. MALLAMO:

Let me give Ed Hahn a call about that tomorrow and we'll do that. We do have the check and we're keeping it in a nice home in our safe.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Where do we stand on our discussions with the company that built the structure?

MR. MALLAMO:

At the last meeting I said that they were here and we would hear from them within two weeks. They were here with an architect. We have not heard from them. The County Attorney has not heard from them. That's where we stand.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Please contact the County Attorney and ask her to take whatever she deems is the next step.

Educations and Exhibits Committee, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

In your packets you should all have a letter from the Department of Interior officially notifying us of the diorama hall restoration that was discussed at last month's meeting. We are the only site on Long Island who has received the grant this year, which is very exciting.

The consultants from American Museum of Natural History and Yale are just waiting for the actual funding to come through, and then they will begin work on the projects. We are just awaiting the start date. It turns out that the two consultants that we are talking to from Yale and American Museum of Natural History know each other and have worked together before on the Ackley Mammal Hall at American Museum of Natural History last year, so they won't have any getting acquainted time. They will be able to begin work right away.

In the next year, Stephanie is proposing the following projects for herself. She is going to be designing interpretive signage for all the galleries, bird and invertebrates and Hall of Fishes. She will be revamping the Hall of Fishes' lighting with the existing spare parts currently housed in the basement. She will be redoing labels on the existing wet specimens and resealing as necessary, continuing the computer cataloging of the ethnographic histories as necessary, re-labeling photographs as necessary, doing object work sheets as necessary, and condition reports as necessary.

DR. GITTELMAN:
On that point.

MS. FUHRMANN:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
If Stephanie is going to be doing this, would it be okay if I meet with her because for the past 14 years I have been simmering with ideas on how to interpret the exhibits.

MR. MALLAMO:
I think she would love that.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I think she would welcome the input.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Much of the stuff falls within my area of expertise.

MS. FUHRMANN:
That's true. You go back into science. I'm sure you would enjoy that, actually. At the same time, of course, you will also be dealing with her grant. Some of these proposed projects will, of course, go into the year 2005.

We will be losing one more educator, unfortunately, but two more people have been hired who are already teaching. The February break ideas have been proposed and are going forward. We will be utilizing more time with the breaks. The classes will be given twice a day so that we can accommodate more children during the holiday season and hopefully the weather will be better this year and we will not be stormed out.

During our committee meeting today we got into a discussion on how to enhance the display of the mummy in its current housing until the curators cottage can be open for exhibits. Currently there is a Plexiglas piece so that public groups that come through - not school groups - just the public on the weekends, particularly, they can't go into where the mummy actually is. So you have a situation where parents have to generally pick their children up so that they can see over the Plexiglas into the mummy case if the children are short. This means that you may have a case where if you have one parent and a couple of children, you have a situation where a child might be left standing without anyone holding their hand in the mansion. What we have come up with is an idea of putting in a mirror over the mummy case at an angle so that the children can see the mummy in the case without having to be lifted

at all. Therefore, parents will not have to let go of their children lifting them up over the Plexiglas. It will be a lot safer for everyone involved. It will also enhance the visit for those persons who are physically challenged because then they will be able to see into the mummy case. At the current time, they can only see the case itself as they are physically challenged.

There is currently a contest going on at the museum called "Name the Mummy." There have been a number of entries submitted. The contest continues to the end of February. We expect a lot more entries.

The house is decorated. Florence would like to thank the garden clubs, the staff, grounds, custodians, and especially Mary Ann for all their help. The theme of the decorations is 1942 and the Alva. There is a lot of information about the Alva and photographs of the Alva throughout the house because Mr. Vanderbilt is missing his Alva who he has now donated to the war effort. The decorations will be up until January 6, 2004.

In the library cases, the information that we as a board recently accessioned will be opened next week to the public as a display in the closed cases.

During 2004 the major mansion project will be the refurbishing and redoing of the ship model room.

We have also secured a grant from the Elsner Company, who will be doing repairs to the Aeolin house organ that would cost generally over \$1,000. They will be doing these for free, and we do thank them. Of course, thank you letters will be issued to the garden clubs, the Elsner Company, etc. for donating all their time, effort, and work.

On Saturday, Florence will be going down to Philadelphia for the Samuel Yellin Symposium. Samuel Yellin is the company that did all the wrought iron work around the museum. Florence will be meeting with Samuel Yellin's daughter. She has submitted a grant for the library preservation survey, and she should be hearing something in March of 2004. She has reapplied for the lower Hudson Valley grant for the restoration of the organ room tapestry. She has begun a program of meeting with the guides on a monthly basis. The current meeting was discussing the holiday themes.

In every newsletter from now through October 2004 each newsletter will include a blurb concerning some other aspect of the Vanderbilt Cup, another piece of history about the Vanderbilt Cup. The upcoming newsletter there will also be a bio on Samuel Yellin

The laser shows -- as some of you may know, we can hear them because they're practicing now and there is a training session going on -- the laser shows are starting on Saturday. Everything else concerning the planetarium is doing fine.

That is my report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Any questions or comments? We'll move on to the Finance Committee, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

Each member has a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Essentially we are solvent. As always, money is very tight. Any questions about the Treasurer's Report? Any additional areas that you want additional information on?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Cash flow is very tight.

DR. PECORALE:

Cash flow is very, very tight. I would like to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What did you say, Tony?

DR. PECORALE:

Just to acknowledge that they received it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Thank you for that report. Are there any questions, comments? Okay. Personnel Committee, no report. Lance is out of the room right now. He is actually seeking a date for the January meeting.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We should be getting our dates tonight, shouldn't we?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well, we certainly should figure out January. We'll go to the President's Report first while we're waiting for Lance. Lance and I have been meeting with various Legislators in an effort to get them to come down to the museum and see what we have been doing. I wish all of you could be with us when we do that because they are very impressed. They are very pleased with the progress we have made. They are very excited by it. It's very good to have them come down. Lance, have you had - we had one person come down from the Legislature that hasn't walked away I think at least very pleased.

MR. MALLAMO:

Everybody who has come has been absolutely thrilled. I have been to a number of Legislative offices and have been very warmly received. They are very interested in what we're doing and what the activities are.

DR. GITTELMAN:

You have some proposed dates for January, 13th, 14th and 15th. What day of the week is the 13th?

DR. PECORALE:

A Tuesday.

DR. PECORALE:

Would that be acceptable for next month?

MR. MACCHIONE:

I'm out of town.

DR. PECORALE:
I can't be here on Tuesdays.

DR. GITTELMAN:
You can't be here on Tuesdays?

DR. PECORALE:
I can't be here on that Tuesday.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Would the 14th be acceptable?

DR. PECORALE:
The 14th is okay with me. I don't know about anybody else.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Is there anybody that has a problem with the 14th.

MR. MACCHIONE:
I'm out of town that week.

DR. GITTELMAN:
The 15th?

MR. BROXMEYER:
You're out of town that whole week?

MR. MACCHIONE:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
The whole week. How about the 20th, 21st or the 22nd?

DR. PECORALE:
I'm available the 20th and the 21st.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Is the 20th acceptable to everyone?

MS. PASTORE:
What day is that?

DR. PECORALE:
Tuesday.

MS. PASTORE:
I don't know what the Legislative General Meeting schedule is for the year 2004 yet,
and we always meet on a Tuesday.

DR. PECORALE:

How about the 21st?

MS. PASTORE:
Wednesday is fine.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Is the 21st okay with everyone?

MS. GRAY:
Lance, you will send everyone an e-mail?

MR. MALLAMO:
Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Lance, do you want to do your report?

MR. MALLAMO:
Well, I think Marjorie filled you in on everything we have going on here. We are looking forward to laser shows starting on Saturday. On Tuesday we did have a project unanimously approved in the Suffolk County Legislature to fund an engineer study for this building that will investigate why part of it is cracking, renovations to the lobby, and replacement of the doors and windows of the building. We're very thankful that those funds were appropriated. We have two other resolutions coming up at the next meeting. Steve and I, as he said, have been hosting Legislators here on an almost daily basis and we will continue to do so for the next week or so.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Yes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:
May I make a suggestion that if you're hosting a Legislator that appointed one of us, that you let us know. Maybe we should join you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
Sure.

MR. MALLAMO:
Sure.

MS. FUHRMANN:
If we have a relationship with the Legislator who appointed us, that might help.

DR. GITTELMAN:
That brings up a point. All of you should know that there are two pieces of legislation that are coming up. Neither one of them has gone through committee. One is the endowment, the renewal of the legislation that keeps us in business. We must get that through. The second is the waterfront. It's the planning money, \$145,000 for the waterfront, particularly that portion of the waterfront that connects the boathouse and the seaplane hangar. This is a do-or-die situation for us because the legislation expires at the end of the year. If you could access the Legislators who appointed you, if you could speak to them about the importance of these two pieces of legislation, I would greatly appreciate it. We are really down to the wire. This is

December. We seem to come here every year, but this is a tough December. We could use your help.

MR. MALLAMO:

That's my report, Steve.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm very grateful to the Legislature for approving the money to help us with this building. I am grateful to those Legislators and their aides who have come down and spent time with us. I do want you to know that every time they visit - I think Lance and I see the place through their eyes, and we're very proud of what we're showing them. I strongly recommend that you take a walk around the things that are familiar to you. Go to the house. Go into the marine exhibits. Take a look and listen. It's what you won't hear that sounds great. You don't hear the hum of the fluorescents anymore. It's really looking good. Go in and look at the ethnographic stuff. You won't believe the colors it has. I never knew they were red. Everything is just looking terrific. Staff has done a fabulous job of taking advantage of the capital projects and making them work for us. We do have a huge hump to overcome, and we have to get the seaplane hangar and the boathouse linked.

One of the reasons why I had Leslie stay is that one of the partners, since Leslie and her boss got us into this, Leslie and her boss, Todd Shapiro, are going to have to help us pull this off. Please carry the message back to Todd. Great idea, but we have to get going. We need partners brought to the table, and we need them fast.

That's the end of my report. I hope we'll be seeing each other tomorrow night.

MR. MALLAMO:

Tomorrow night we have dinner planned. We're going to have dinner at Normandy Manor. If we have a piano player among us, feel free to bring your fingers and limber them up because we have a wonderful gift over there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What's the weather look like for tomorrow?

MR. MALLAMO:

The last I checked, maybe an inch or two tomorrow night.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I told you Lorraine was wrong.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So we're all right.

MR. MALLAMO:

But then she said eight inches on Saturday. Did you hear that also, Michael?

MR. BROXMEYER:

I heard someone say that.

MS. FUHRMANN:

But she's wrong.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, besides that, we're on a go status.

MR. MALLAMO:

We're on a go status. I can't stop it now. Bring blankets.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We'll all go on a candle light tour. Is there any old business?

MR. LUECKE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Carl.

MR. LUECKE:

I just want to go back to the discussion about the Vanderbilt Cup. We will not have a meeting until the 21st, which means 45 of the 60 days are gone. There are 15 days after that to make a decision. Right now we're together. I just want to clarify. You mentioned that we already have three things going, an exhibit, a lecture, and a play. Are they all set up and ready to go?

MR. MALLAMO:

I wouldn't say they're all set up and ready to go, but the play, we're really awaiting the funding. I'm quite confident we'll receive that funding because of the way we designed it as a collaborative effort and due to the nature of the celebration. I think the hard thing here - I think we can clearly do the gala. I think we're all concerned about the race aspect of it. The other activities we were going to do anyway, and if we decide that this is something we're not to take on, we're going to continue to pursue those anyway. We're going to have the exhibit. We're going to have the lecture series.

MR. LUECKE:

So we're not looking for anybody to support us in the items you mentioned in terms of funding. We're not looking for anybody for the play.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I don't necessarily know if I'd say that because if we really - when I say exhibit, we were not talking a major blockbuster exhibit. We were talking something smaller.

MR. LUECKE:

What are we exhibiting?

MR. MALLAMO:

If we were to have a blockbuster exhibit, we would certainly want as the major item in the exhibit the actual Vanderbilt Cup. If we were just doing a small scale exhibit in the turntable on the Vanderbilt Cup Races, I think we would be hard pressed to get that. If we were having a major blockbuster event, I think we would get the cup. I think we would get the recognition that comes along with it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we might be able to get some of the race cars right here in this lobby.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, we probably could.

MR. LUECKE:

But we're going to do this anyway. What are we going to do?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, we were going to do an exhibit.

MR. LUECKE:

Of?

MR. MALLAMO:

Of photographs and artifacts from the Vanderbilt Cup Race in our collection.

MR. LUECKE:

But our goal now is to get the cup and to get the old cars.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:

In other words, we want to expand on the theme.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, expand the exhibit.

MR. LUECKE:

So we're looking for sponsors.

MR. BROXMEYER:

You could turn that into a car show.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't want to overstate it, but you could turn it into an exhibit that travels the country.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You have experience in that area.

MR. LUECKE:

What is the lecture going to be on?

MR. MALLAMO:

So that everyone understands the significance of this, this is really the event that was associated with the transition of America from a horse-drawn to a motor-driven society. It's really a major change in the way Americans thought up to that point. I think it's our job to raise people's consciousness to that effect.

MR. LUECKE:

Who is going to give the lectures?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Wait a second. William K. Vanderbilt is not really known for much except for this. This is his thing. The importance of it goes beyond the race. The race brought the concept of automotive travel to the forefront in the United States. It was a European thing. Americans weren't leaders in automotive manufacturing at that point. We weren't there. We weren't on the map.

MR. MALLAMO:

It was a rich man's sport.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It was purely a rich man's sport. The Motor Parkway was the first limited access highway in the world. In other words, when I say limited access, entrances and exits controlled not by intersections. The concept of a limited access highway is certainly something that changed the shape of our country, and that started here. That was because when he ran his races, some of the race cars plowed into the public, the cows couldn't cross the roads, and the dust was consuming. He started the concept of a toll road, which was a rich man's highway. It cost you \$1 or \$2 to go on that highway. Willie K. is not really spectacular for anything because nobody has made him spectacular. We have a chance of taking our Willie K. and taking him up a notch. Nobody knows half this history. You can go on the web and there are good sites on the Vanderbilt Parkway, the Vanderbilt Cup Race. Everybody in the world seems to know this happened except for us. We haven't made a big deal over the importance of our Vanderbilt.

MR. MALLAMO:

In the earliest writings that William Vanderbilt wrote on the Motor Parkway and the need for it, he wrote, this road is going to enable millions to live on Long Island and business to expand here. He was thinking much bigger than, I need a race track to race my cars. He was thinking that in 1906.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He was going from the city to Ronkonkoma.

MR. MALLAMO:

To Riverhead.

DR. GITTELMAN:

To Riverhead. He was going from the city to Riverhead and he did write millions will be able to travel on this. Of course, I think he was expecting a toll, but okay. Robert Moses carried the theme and basically is the guy who put Willie out of business. Robert Moses said, look, we'll build a public one that won't be a toll.

MR. MALLAMO:

And Willie K. is also the first one that I have been able to find, and while I'm not a racing buff, I can tell you I am somewhat of an expert in automotive architectural history, which by good fortune or not, I came to via the Big Duck and the County's

acquisition of the Big Duck. Vanderbilt foresaw 25 years earlier that some day the state will build roads, government will build roads like this, but for now it's up to the private investor to do it. He knew he was going to be put out of business eventually, but he did it anyway.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think Vanderbilt's accomplishment is as big as Levittown.

MR. LUECKE:

The thoughts that you're giving us will be the lectures that you're talking about.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, and, Steve, Levittown would never had happened had the parkway not been built.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But if you think the concept of Levittown was and how revolutionary that was after the war, think of the concept of limited access highways and how revolutionary that was. He is the first limited access highway, and he is the 100th anniversary of the race that started the whole thing. It's our guy. That's why we've been asked to do it. It wasn't me. It was us.

MR. LUECKE:

That wasn't my point at all. My point is when we're looking for support, should we be looking for support for lecturers? Should we be looking for support for items for the exhibit?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we could do to the major car companies and look for support in a much larger scale than we ever thought of. I think we can go to - pardon?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think it's too late for that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Fine, but -

MR. BROXMEYER:

Do you want to schedule a meeting for -

MR. MALLAMO:

This is so hot right now, have you all seen the recent show on PBS on Horatio Nelson Jackson, the man who did the first auto trip across country?

MS. GRAY:

I thought maybe I would organize an agenda and then pass it around to people and let them add or subtract. It would put the ideas down on a piece of paper. We could then divide that into the kinds of people we might approach to assist, organize, or support various things such as the race and certain events. Something needs to be on a piece of paper so we can start to think, are these things we're interested in? Are these things we would reach out to others for? Then I would list some organizations maybe that might help and see what people's thoughts are. I planned on doing that

in the next few days. When we get something on a piece of paper, we will see if people feel there are enough various organizations we could contact, and then we'll contact them and see if there is interest. If we have some interest, then we know we've got a group of people.

MR. MALLAMO:

If I could be so bold, I know we said a 60 day time limit, but today is December 4. Technically that would be February 4, which would be a week after our next meeting.

MS. GRAY:

We probably have to do it before the next meeting.

MR. MALLAMO:

I know the Ormond Beach event is that January event, which I told them I would come back and represent the museum and provide some input there. At which time, I will be able to meet these players with the races, etc. Maybe if we could schedule the February meeting for the second week of February, that would give us another week or so to play a little bit of catch-up.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Not on Valentine's Day.

MS. GRAY:

I just think somebody needs to start with something, and then everybody else can add to it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Valentine's Day is a Saturday.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Good. I'm in the clear. Okay, pick a date in February.

DR. PECORALE:

You said your thing is the 10th?

MR. MALLAMO:

Do you want me to pick a date now?

MS. FURHMANN:

How about the week after Valentine's Day?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We don't want to wait that long.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think if we're having a meeting on January 21, maybe around February 10th?

DR. PECORALE:

That's a Tuesday. February 11 is a Wednesday.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is February 11th good?

MR. MALLAMO:
That would be good.

DR. GITTELMAN:
So the meetings will be January 21st and February 11th.

MR. SEIDES:
Lance, I would also like to request a list of our current board members, their addresses, and their e-mail addresses if they have them.

MS. FUHRMANN:
I can e-mail that to you.

MR. SEIDES:
I know my list is old. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:
That was old business. Is there any new business? We have not mentioned the need for an executive session. I'll assume there is no need. Motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:
Motion.

MR. SEIDES:
Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:
We stand adjourned. Thank you.

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.)

Note: Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Media Report for December 2003 is on file in the Legislative Clerk's Office, Hauppauge.