

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2009
MARITIME MUSEUM, WEST SAYVILLE, N.Y.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Chairman, Town of Riverhead
Ray Corwin	Member at Large
Amy Engel	Member of the Board
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Edward Walters	Trustee, Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gregory Dawson	Vice Chairman, Town of Islip
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Bill Shilling	Member of the Board

PARKS DEPARTMENT

John W. Pavacic	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Terry Maccarrone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Karen Nicholson	Superintendent
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

GUESTS

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Pamela Greene	Acting Director, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Janet Longo	Acquisitions Supervisor, Division of Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Roger Podd	County Attorney's Office
Tom Ryan	Office of Legislature Viloría-Fisher
Legislator Viloría-Fisher	Legislature

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC PORTION

There were members of the public present, however, they did not wish to speak.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher congratulated the Maritime Museum on receiving a grant for the Ockers Transportation Center.

Tom Malanga introduced Natasha Alexenko, the new Director of the Maritime Museum.

Natasha reported the grant from the N.Y.S.D.O.T. for the Ockers Transportation Center is approximately \$530,000. It's part of the T.E.P. (Transportation Enhancement Program). There is \$63,000 from other sources and \$63,000 that the museum has to raise through fundraisers, donations, etc. The total comes to over \$700,000 to build the Ockers Transportation Center on the bay, with the marine railway running underneath it which will allow the museum to restore vessels for the museum as well as vessels across Long Island.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher spoke about I.R. 1273 (on the Parks Committee agenda) which was introduced by Legislator Browning regarding the charter powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Parks Department. The Trustees would no longer “approve matters having to do with the regulation, use, fees and charges with regard to Parks and recreation facilities” changing that power to “make recommendations” on such matters. The Charter Review Committee is presently reviewing I.R. 1273. If anyone would like to speak at the next Parks Committee meeting, it is scheduled for April 22, 2009 at 1:00 PM in Hauppauge.

Trustee White asked what precipitated this action.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher responded that Commissioner Pavacic would know specifically what precipitated Legislator Browning to introduce this legislation.

Commissioner Pavacic said he had not had any discussions with Legislator Browning and had no idea this was coming.

Trustee Walters said perhaps this legislation was a result of the motion voted on by the Trustees at their last meeting not to approve I.R. 1104-2009, introduced by Legislator Browning, regarding a dog park at Southaven County Park.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher responded yes, that may have something to do with it. She thought there may have been something Legislator Browning didn't agree with. It was also very humbling when the issue of Parks fees came up and the Lindenhurst property was another issue.

Trustee McKay said the Lindenhurst property has nothing to do with this particular provision. The Lindenhurst property was under Article 12-5-E of the original Drinking Water Program which is a totally different issue.

Trustee McKay asked if Legislator Viloría-Fisher would reveal her position on I.R. 1273.

Legislator Viloría-Fisher responded she would rather wait for the Charter Revision Committee to review this before she comments. Although she didn't agree with some of the discussions we had regarding the Parks fees, she would rather have the Charter Committee review I.R. 1273.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2009

Trustee McKay questioned the Trustees language used in last month's minutes when the Trustees “approved” the acquisitions presented by the Department of Planning and Real Estate. He suggested in the future the Trustees should be careful whether they say “recommend” or “approve” regarding acquisitions.

On page 2, paragraph 6 - change *John Fritz Pier* to read “John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier”.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

There were not any acquisitions on the agenda for the April meeting.

Lauretta Fischer introduced Pamela Greene, the new acting Director of the Department of Environment and Energy, Division of Real Property Acquisition.

Chairman Cardillo introduced Gary Herold, a long time Trustee of the Maritime Museum and Secretary of the Museum.

Mr. Herold welcomed everyone to the museum and offered a tour following the meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Smith Point Master Plan Update

The Commissioner reported that copies of the Smith Point Master Plan were distributed at the last meeting and asked if there were any questions regarding the plan.

Trustee Corwin had a question on the egress traffic pattern of sending people back on the same route when we can utilize the emergency exit at the northwest corner of the parking lot.

Commissioner Pavacic responded there is a very steep angle and if you have a significant day at the beach, you'd be stacked up in the parking lot to leave. We will discuss this with our operations personnel, internally, and also with DPW and the consulting engineer.

Commissioner Pavacic said after the Trustees vote on this plan, it will go to CEQ.

A motion to approve the Smith Point Master Plan Update (on the condition that we investigate Trustee Corwin's alternate exit suggestion with Parks operations, DPW and the consulting engineer) was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Walters. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Commissioner Pavacic reported an unfortunate, tragic event that happened at Smith Point a few weeks ago – the crash of a single engine plane off Smith Point. The recovery operation has ceased, however, the son of the person who was killed requested permission to continue the search. We have given him our approval to continue his search.

Farmingville Hills

The Commissioner reported a new trail head has been established. We have also established an off-street parking area.

Earth Day Celebration

There will be an Earth Day celebration at Indian Island County Park this Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Commissioner extended an invitation to the Trustees to attend this event.

Coastal America Award

The Commissioner reported that last month the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the Coastal America Award for a number of projects across the country. Suffolk County Parks was involved in a

project to install a fish ladder at Southaven County Park. We partnered with a number of entities. The EPA held a ceremony and presented awards to all the agencies involved, but in particular with the Parks Department, a certificate was issued to Nick Gibbons for his role.

Cordwood Landing in Miller Place

The Commissioner reported the rental house at Cordwood uses well water. We've had problems with the well over the last couple of years. Repairs to the well required the use of heavy equipment, however we avoided damage to any large, significant, mature trees.

Parks Trustee Vacancies

Legislator Vilorio-Fisher asked about the Trustee vacancies.

The Commissioner reported there were three town vacancies: Shelter Island, Babylon and Brookhaven. The appointment letters are generated by the Town Supervisor. About a year ago, letters were sent to the Supervisor of Shelter Island and Southampton. In Brookhaven, then Supervisor Brian Foley nominated a candidate, but that person became part of Senator Foley's staff. Commissioner Pavacic will be sending a letter to the new Supervisor. Deputy Commissioner Bellone has been in contact with the Town of Babylon regarding this issue. We would welcome any assistance with Shelter Island.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier

Chairman Cardillo reported that he, along with Trustee Dick White, Mrs. John Fritz and her daughter, attended the last Legislative meeting where all 18 members of the Legislature voted to confirm the official naming of the John Fritz Memorial Fishing Pier. The Chairman thanked Legislator Vilorio-Fisher and Legislator Schneiderman for their assistance in this endeavor.

Trustees Mileage Reimbursement

Chairman Cardillo reported the Trustees have been asked to submit their mileage on a quarterly basis. Reimbursement forms have been distributed to the Trustees. The mileage reimbursement for the first quarter of 2009 is \$.55 per mile.

ROUND TABLE

Contracts Department Update

Colleen Hofmeister reported Parks' contract with the Long Island Maritime is due to expire the end of this year. We are presently renegotiating that contract.

Ms. Hofmeister said many of our concessionaires have a capital improvement requirement. Our concessionaire at Cupsogue and Smith Point, Fred Marsilio, is embarking on projects at both of those facilities.

Ms. Hofmeister reported that Trustee Dawson is serving on the Scully Design RFP Committee, working along with Seatuck and Park staff, looking for a professional organization to come in and develop an actual plan for the Interpretative Center.

Ms. Hofmeister reported Coindre Hall continues to move along. Lessings has been doing some nice interior work and already has some bookings.

Update on East Gate House

Tom Malanga said it was his suggestion that the Board meet at the Museum this month. One of the things the Legislature approved about 1 ½ years ago was to give the East Gate House (garage not included) to

the Maritime Museum to renovate for office space and/or housing. Last night the Museum Trustees voted to move some of their staff into the East Gate House. Colleen Hofmeister's staff is working on the agreement for this move.

Parks Foundation

Tom Malanga reported negotiations for the contract have been ongoing for a year or so. Recently there was an internal meeting with Tom Malanga – Director of the Parks Foundation, Jay Miller - Chairman of the Board of the Parks Foundation, John Corrado – member of the Parks Foundation Board, Jeff Szabo - Deputy County Executive, the County Attorney, the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. There are some concerns regarding the structure of the Parks Foundation and we are proceeding cautiously. We are looking at Westchester County's Foundation and hope we can follow their model and have a contract in the near future.

Stimulus Program

Trustee Engel recognized and thanked Tom Malanga for putting together the grant application for the federal stimulus package for the park police. Tom did a fantastic job and the application got in on time.

Nature Conservancy

Trustee Corwin asked if the contract with the Nature Conservancy has been signed.

Commissioner Pavacic responded the Nature Conservancy signed the contract and we need to attach one more exhibit to the contract before we sign and execute.

GATR Site Maintenance Facility

Dick White asked if there has been any activity on the maintenance facility.

Terry Maccarrone responded we are on track. We should be getting the bond this month and then we will have a kick-off meeting.

I.R. 1273

Trustee McKay said he received the legislative committee agenda for their next meeting and was taken aback to see Introductory Resolution 1273 on the agenda. Copies of the legislation were available.

Cupsogue Boardwalk

Terry Maccarrone reported that if DPW didn't have the elevations complete for the boardwalk we would move forward and include a request for elevations into an RFP.

Smith Point Master Plan Update

Nick Gibbons asked if the Trustees had any additional comments. We have what we need to go forward however there is still time for Trustees comments before it goes to CEQ. Any additional comments can be directed to Commissioner Pavacic.

Trail Head in Manorville Hills

Terry Maccarrone reported our maintenance staff has almost completed the handicap horse mounting ramp.

Fishing Pier

Trustee Cardillo asked about the progress on the fishing pier.

Terry Maccarrone reported we are waiting for the bond before we can move ahead. We hope to have the pier completed by the end of this year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at Southaven County Park in Yaphank, NY.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Walters. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0