

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

NORMA GONSALVES,
PRESIDING OFFICER

RULES COMMITTEE

NORMA GONSALVES,
CHAIRWOMAN

1550 Franklin Avenue
Mineola, New York

April 22, 2013
4:24 p.m.

REGAL REPORTING SERVICES
516-747-7353

A P P E A R A N C E S:

NORMA GONSALVES
Chairwoman

HOWARD KOPEL
Vice Chairman

DENNIS DUNNE

ROSE MARIE WALKER

KEVAN ABRAHAMS
Ranking

JUDY JACOBS

WAYNE WINK

LIST OF SPEAKERS

EILEEN KRIEB. 5
TOM GORDON. 6

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Ms. Vocatura, would you like to call the roll for the Rules Committee, please?

MS. VOCATURA: Legislator Wink?

LEGISLATOR WINK: Here.

MS. VOCATURA: Legislator Jacobs?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Here.

MS. VOCATURA: Ranking Member Abrahams?

LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Here.

MS. VOCATURA: Legislator Walker?

LEGISLATOR WALKER: Here.

MS. VOCATURA: Legislator Dunne?

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Here.

MS. VOCATURA: Legislator Kopel?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: He's here.

MS. VOCATURA: Chairwoman Gonsalves?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Present.

MS. VOCATURA: We have a quorum.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you.

We have one item today. Clerk Item E-96-13, a resolution making certain determinations pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and authorizing the county executive to execute a permit agreement to Cosmos Team

2 Operations.

3 LEGISLATOR DUNNE: So moved.

4 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Motion by
6 Legislator Dunne, seconded by Legislator Walker.

7 Ms. Krieb, do you want to talk about it?

8 MS. KRIEB: Good afternoon. Eileen
9 Krieb from the Parks Department, and I have with
10 me Tom Gordon from Golf.

11 This is a U&O for the rehabilitation,
12 enhancement, and maintenance of Mitchel Field Six
13 with the New York Cosmos. The New York Cosmos
14 will contribute up to \$409,000 to improve Field
15 Six, which will include irrigation, a natural
16 grass field, and fencing. In addition to that
17 they will be donating \$20,000 for renovations to
18 the existing locker rooms at Michel Field. This
19 is a non-exclusive arrangement with New York
20 Cosmos, where they will play from 10:30 to 12:30
21 five days a week, depending on what their game
22 time is. Sometimes they will play Saturday and
23 Sunday, but most times it will be during the week
24 because they will be playing their games on
25 Saturday and Sunday.

2 Because of the sensitivity of placing the
3 sod at this time of year, we're looking to get
4 approval today and they will probably start
5 playing in June. They will be laying the grass,
6 which Tom can expound, on shortly. We will need
7 to leave a few weeks for it to take hold and then
8 they can start playing on it.

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Tom, do you want
10 to add to it?

11 MR. GORDON: Yeah. The construction of
12 the field is going to be done by the Parks
13 Department themselves. I will be leading the
14 construction. We're on a tight timeline to fit
15 their schedule. We would begin construction with
16 approval of this and be done in approximately
17 four to five weeks, in which we would put the sod
18 down and they would be able to use it a month
19 later.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: They're going to
21 put in an irrigation system, correct?

22 MR. GORDON: Yes. We will install that.

23 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Okay.

24 Any questions?

25 MS. KRIEB: I just wanted to add one

more thing.

Presently, the field is stone or hard soil. There is no grass there, pretty much. It's used on Sundays by a league from Westbury and Mexicana de Futbol, where they play a total of six hours on Sundays, but they will not be displaced by this. They will still be accommodated, as well as other leagues that we can play during the off time.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Can I just ask one question? Nothing traumatic.

Let me ask you this. What will, for example, a football league like that, what will they do to the sod?

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Soccer.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Wait. Who did you say uses it on Sundays? Mexican soccer. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. What happens to the sod during that?

MR. GORDON: We are going to build it to a specification which professional soccer teams play on these fields. It does create some wear and tear, but our job is to maintain that. We have a program where we would aerate and seed and

maintain the field throughout the year, like we do with the other fields there.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: So, in other words, you lay the sod and then obviously you seed it as it goes along.

MR. GORDON: Right. We lay the sod. It is irrigated. When the sod takes root and they are able to play on it, once they start using that we have a program in which we punch holes and aerate the sod because the roots need oxygen -- there's an agronomic principle to this -- and we continue to over seed throughout the season as they play.

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I have Legislator Dunne.

LEGISLATOR DUNNE: Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you.

I played soccer from fourth grade to eleventh grade, and then I played American football in my senior year. I also coached boy's varsity football at two different high schools and I officiated boys varsity soccer. I'm telling you the people I have spoke to since the

1 announcement, they really appreciate the Cosmo's
2 increased presence here in Nassau County.

3 I think it's a good thing. I'm
4 definitely voting for it.

5 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other
6 comments from the legislators?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 Any public comment?

9 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
10 Walker.

11 LEGISLATOR WALKER: I could tell you the
12 same thing that Legislator Dunne has heard.

13 My little grandson is in Hicksville
14 American Soccer and all the people involved there
15 and a lot of the other soccer youth groups are
16 very, very excited because now here's a
17 professional team coming back to practice, and
18 they could go watch them practice to really see
19 where their future could bring them, no matter
20 how many people make it to the professional
21 league or not, but just someone to look up to as
22 a role model. Plus, the fact that right now that
23 field is a mess. It amazes me that people play
24 on it now.

2 My only question is when we have that
3 month where the sod is laid and you're giving it
4 time to take, will the teams that use it now,
5 will we relocate them, try to find a place for
6 them to play? I don't know if that's their time.

7 MR. GORDON: They've already been
8 rescheduled for another field.

9 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Okay. Just
10 because, you know, if they were already involved
11 -- obviously, the community or other people will
12 be able to put in field permits for those fields,
13 maybe a high school team might get a game there
14 or any other groups if they put in the permits,
15 when it's not in use by the Cosmos, we will be
16 able to use it for that.

17 MS. KRIEB: Yes. That's correct.

18 LEGISLATOR WALKER: Okay. Thank you
19 very much. I'm very excited about it.

20 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Legislator
21 Abrahams.

22 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: How are you? I
23 just have a simple question.

24 Obviously, we've all been ready about the
25 Cosmos and what their efforts are, in terms of

2 trying to do something at Belmont. And I was
3 just sharing with a few of my colleagues some of
4 the renditions of what they're trying to do
5 there. Do they envision staying at Mitchel Field
6 beyond their time, of whatever their quest is
7 with Belmont?

8 MS. KRIEB: Their license they have with
9 us that we are representing today is a ten year
10 agreement, but it is revocable by us or by them,
11 if necessary.

12 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Revocable after
13 any period of time or revocable could be 30 days
14 after initiation.

15 MS. KRIBE: No, it's after five years.

16 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Five years.
17 Okay.

18 MS. KRIEB: And they would recover their
19 funding by then. They're using this as a
20 training field and their games are elsewhere.
21 We're not sure what they're going to be doing.

22 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Eileen, what
23 happens to the money that they have committed to
24 if they decided to leave? The capital monies.

25 MS. KRIEB: Their investment becomes

2 ours.

3 CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Thank you very
4 much.

5 LEGISLATOR ABRAHAMS: Thank you.

6 MS. KRIEB: Anything else?

7 LEGISLATOR WINK: I just have a quick
8 question.

9 I'm assuming that there's going to be
10 admission fees charged for watching the games and
11 want not. Does the county get any of that or is
12 it free?

13 MS. KRIEB: There are no games there.
14 It's just training. It's just 10:30 to 12:30
15 during the morning time that they will be
16 practicing. The games --

17 LEGISLATOR WINK: Where do they play
18 their games?

19 MS. KRIEB: right now are at Hofstra
20 University.

21 LEGISLATOR WINK: They're going to
22 remain at Hofstra?

23 MS. KRIEB: Yes.

24 LEGISLATOR WINK: So this is their
25 practice field.

MS. KRIEB: This is just a training area.

LEGISLATOR WINK: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: Any other comments?

(No verbal response.)

Any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

All in favor say aye.

(Aye.)

Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

I don't think so.

The motion passes.

Motion to adjourn?

LEGISLATOR JACOBS: Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRWOMAN GONSALVES: I'll second it.

All those in favor of adjourning please signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

The Rules Committee is adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Rules Committee adjourned at 4:34 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, FRANK GRAY, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby state:

THAT I attended at the time and place above mentioned and took stenographic record of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter;

THAT the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript of the same and the whole thereof, according to the best of my ability and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of April, 2013.

FRANK GRAY