

1

2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

4

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS

5

- - - -

6

Room 696, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, October 1, 2003
10:25 a.m.

7

8

- - - -

9

BILL 030426 - An Ordinance authorizing the
Commissioner of Public Property...

10

BILL 030485 - An Ordinance naming the playground
currently designated as the Rhawnhurst Memorial
Playground... as the George C. Pelbano Playground.

11

BILL 030486 - An Ordinance naming the park currently
designated as Northwood Park... as the Joseph
Colligan Park.

12

13

BILL 030556 - An Ordinance naming and designating
the Passyunk Branch of the Free Library of

14

Philadelphia... as the Thomas F. Donatucci Branch of
the Free Library of Philadelphia

15

BILL 030563 - An Ordinance amending Title 13 of the
Philadelphia Code...

16

17

PRESENT:

18

COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY, Chair

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO

19

COUNCILWOMAN JOAN KRAJEWSKI

COUNCILMAN RICHARD MARIANO

20

COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL

21

COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

22

- - - -

23

V A R A L L O Incorporated

Eleven Penn Center

24

1835 Market Street, Suite 600

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

25

215.561.2220 215.567.2670

1

2

I N D E X

3

4

BILL 030556

PAGE

5

DOMINIC SABATINI 4

6

THOMAS KELLY 4

7

MONSIGNOR THOMAS FLANAGAN 5

8

JODY DELLABARBA 6

9

DAUNTE MATTIONI 8

10

JOHN FURY 11

11

RONALD DONATUCCI 13

12

JOE VENDETTI 14

13

ROCKO MONTANA 18

14

BILL 030485

15

LISA MARIE DEALY 27

16

BILL 030426

17

KEN SIPOS, Public Property 34

18

TOM KNOWLES, Northern Liberties 35

19

DAVID GLEASON, Northern Liberties 37

20

BILL 030486

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good morning, ladies
3 and gentlemen. The City Council Committee on Public
4 Property and Public Works is now in session. We
5 have a quorum present to hear a number of bills; the
6 first which is Bill No. 030556, an ordinance naming
7 and designating the Passyunk Branch of the Free
8 Library of Philadelphia, located at 20th and Shunk
9 Street as the Thomas F. Donatucci Branch of the Free
10 Library of Philadelphia.

11 The Chair recognizes Councilman O'Neill.

12 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. I just want to make a formal request for
14 a continuance on Bill No. 030563, the last one
15 dealing with water and sewer laterals. The Managing
16 Director and Water Commissioner have asked me for a
17 short continuance on this. And the Law Department
18 is also working on another way of accomplishing it.
19 I'm meeting with them in about 10 minutes.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

21 Let the record note the Councilman's
22 request.

23 I'll ask Mr. Kelly and Mr. Sabatini to
24 please take the witness stand.

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Whoever would like

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 to go first, please identify yourself for the
3 record.

4 MR. SABATINI: Dominic Sabatini. I'm
5 here to testify in support of this bill regarding
6 Mr. Donatucci. I knew that the senior Mr. Donatucci
7 many, many years ago when I was first starting my
8 career. He was a really wonderful person. He was
9 active community leader, devoting a lot of his time
10 to community improvements, to community projects and
11 really at a time when the City really needed that
12 kind of leadership, providing it. And that same
13 quality is kind of passed on to his sons and
14 daughters who continue to be active in public
15 service and helping the community. I think it would
16 be a great honor for his memory and his family to
17 name this branch after him.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.
19 Mr. Kelly.

20 MR. KELLY: My name is Thomas Kelly.
21 I'm a long-time resident of South Philadelphia. I
22 knew Mr. Donatucci very well. He was a very active
23 community leader. He worked very hard for the
24 neighborhood. He was also active in politics. He
25 was a committee member of former Councilman Guerin

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 who served on the first Council here. He was a
3 wonderful guy, very supportive of St. Monica's
4 Church and all the endeavors of the neighborhood.
5 And I think it would be a great honor to his memory
6 to rename this branch.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

8 Any questions for these witnesses?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you for your
11 attendance.

12 The Chair now recognizes Monsignor
13 Flanagan and Jody Dellabarba, please.

14 Good morning, Monsignor. Please
15 identify yourself.

16 MONSIGNOR FLANAGAN: I'm Monsignor
17 Thomas Flanagan, and I come in support of this bill.

18 I grew up in South Philadelphia in the
19 same neighborhood as Mr. Donatucci. And growing up
20 in Philadelphia, the City of Philadelphia still is a
21 city of neighborhoods and certainly he was what
22 neighborhood was about. He worked in the
23 neighborhood tirelessly to assist anyone that needed
24 help. And this is what I remember most vividly in
25 growing up, the respect that he had by the people of

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 the neighborhood because of all that he did for
3 others. So I think it would be a very appropriate
4 designation of that library branch in his honor.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

6 Jody, please identify yourself.

7 MS. DELLABARBA: My name is Jody
8 Dellabarba. I'm the president of GER, Girard Estate
9 Residents, and I would like to read a prepared
10 statement.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please.

12 MS. DELABARBARA: "At the turn of the
13 20th Century, the largest wave of immigration this
14 country ever saw forever changed the face of
15 Philadelphia. At the same time, the first planned
16 rental housing community was about to be constructed
17 on the farm land owned by the Estate of Stephen
18 Girard. The Board of City Trusts then turned to
19 many of these immigrants, most of them Italians, to
20 use their skill to make these homes the jewels of
21 South Philadelphia. They were belt to perfection by
22 hands of gold over a period of 15 years. A library
23 and a school were also built for the community.
24 These immigrants could only have dreamed of owning
25 one of the very homes they belt so well. But in

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 1950, the City Trust decided to sell them. It was
3 then that the very people who built them, mostly
4 Italian Americans and their families, were the very
5 people who purchased them. It was then in 1951 that
6 Thomas Donatucci, Sr., son of immigrants, moved his
7 young family to the Girard Estates where most of
8 them still reside today. He soon became a legend by
9 helping everyone who needed his help. After his
10 untimely death 33 years ago, his family continued to
11 carry on the tradition of service to the community.
12 The center of our community is the Passyunk library,
13 where if not for the generosity of State
14 Representative Robert Donatucci would surely fall by
15 the wayside. Girard Estate now enjoys historic
16 designation, with the help of the Donatucci family
17 and families like them who chose to stay in the
18 area. This is why I recommend that this City
19 Council vote to change the name of this library to
20 the Thomas Donatucci, Sr. Library to commemorate not
21 only this son of Italian immigrants, but all of us
22 in this community, children and grandchildren of
23 those tireless immigrants from so long ago who
24 helped make this City the great City it is today."
25 I would also like to add that I have

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 numerous letters from community leaders in our area
3 and residents in favor.

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: They will be added
5 to the record formally. Thank you very much. Thank
6 you for your testimony.

7 Mr. Fury. Is Mr. Mattioni here?

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Good morning.
9 Please identify yourself for the record.

10 MR. MATTIONI: Daunte Mattioni. Members
11 of the City Council, members of the Donatucci
12 family, ladies and gentlemen, today I'm especially
13 honored to speak on behalf of an extraordinary human
14 being. A good father, a good husband, a good
15 neighbor, a good and decent politician, but most
16 important, a good friend to almost everybody that he
17 knew. Tom was not a person seeking personal gain in
18 his lifetime, and I knew him well. He was selfless
19 when it came to helping others. And it is because
20 of this more than anything else that Tom's light
21 shines and will ever shine immortal.

22 Not born to riches, Tom knew what it was
23 to work hard. He attended local schools in South
24 Philadelphia, went to a local college, earned a BS
25 degree, became a Realtor later in his life. He

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 began his work life as a stock boy and became a
3 manager through dedicated hard work and creativity
4 with the Acme y stores.

5 In 1944, Tom opened the first
6 self-service supermarket in South Philadelphia. In
7 1960, Bob Casey selected him as an Auditor General
8 for the State. And later on in 1967 because of his
9 creativity and his work effort, he was elected to be
10 Deputy Auditor for the Liquor Control Board of
11 Pennsylvania.

12 During all this time that Tom worked to
13 support his family, he was also a committee person
14 in the 26th Ward. In 1967, he became ward leader.
15 And in 1969, he was elected to the Policy Committee
16 of the Democratic Party. In 1970, a party was given
17 in honor of Tom at Palumbo's and nearly 750 loving
18 people attended.

19 Tom was always helping someone in need,
20 someone in a jam. No problem was too big, no
21 problem was too small. The thing that made Tom so
22 different that I remember is that he enjoyed helping
23 others. He helped everyone with a smile.

24 Notable among his many, many
25 contributions were that he dedicated his life to

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 Philadelphia. He was a Philadelphian, a south
3 Philadelphian second, and he worked to improve the
4 lives of all Philadelphians. But he made major
5 contributions to creating and opening an office at
6 2008 Passyunk Avenue to service other people. He
7 also helped to create the Recreation Center at 16th
8 and Jackson and helped to create the Barry
9 Playground and helped to create the Edgar Allan
10 Summer Program.

11 Tom was a special, warm human being. In
12 1958, an editorial was written about him in the
13 city-wide newspaper La Libra Parola. The comment
14 was, "There must be a reward for Tommy Donatucci."
15 Forty-five years later, in part, that
16 question will be answered by naming the library
17 after this person we honor today. This is a very
18 fitting tribute for Tom who was always there to help
19 other people.

20 And when you look at a family, you've
21 got to see the family and it shows you the greatness
22 of the parents. Yolanda can't be here, but she was
23 a committee person and is a committee person even to
24 this day. And look at the Donatucci family.
25 They've created a legend in business, in politics,

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 have carried over to his children. The neighborhood
3 and the library enjoys prosperity and success
4 because of the funding directed there by our State
5 Representative who has been up there for a few terms
6 and make sure that the library receives all the
7 necessary funding to maintain it and enhance it.

8 Also, we have another elected official
9 from the family, the Register of Wills who's also
10 the political leader as the Ward Leader for the
11 area, also sits on the City Board of Trusts, which
12 is part of the Girard Estates.

13 So the family has for years supported
14 this library and the neighborhood. And those of us
15 in the neighborhood see that it's only fitting to
16 name the library after a prominent family such as
17 this. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much
19 for your testimony.

20 If there are no questions, thank you for
21 coming.

22 Would anyone from the Donatucci family
23 like to have anything to say?

24 The Chair recognizes Councilmember
25 DiCicco.

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 COUNCILMAN DICICCO: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chair. Although I'm not a member of this Committee,
4 I felt it was my obligation to come up here this
5 morning to support this bill. Although I didn't
6 know Mr. Donatucci all that well, they did own a
7 grocery store about a block from where I was born
8 and raised. And actually, I still live there on
9 Federal Street. But I've been very familiar with
10 Ronnie and his brothers. We all grew up together
11 and had a wonderful relationship. Not many people
12 can say that after having spent almost 50 years
13 together that we still get along very well. And I
14 know the Donatucci family has always had the
15 interest of our community at heart. And I think
16 this is befitting to name the library after Ronnie
17 and Tommy and Bobby and Grace's father.

18 Again, I'm not a member of this
19 Committee, but I wanted to be up here this morning
20 to lend my support.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.
22 Please identify yourself.

23 MR. DONATUCCI: Ronald Donatucci. I
24 just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the
25 many people that testified today and the support

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 that the community has shown. As part of the
3 record, there are signatures from the immediate
4 neighbors. I'd like to point out the first
5 president of GER, which is an official civic group
6 which now Jody is now the president, Dr. Tom Gamba.
7 His father was a classmate of my father when they
8 went to Temple. The overwhelming support,
9 Councilman Kenney, just makes my family very happy,
10 and my mother for many days and nights of
11 frustration being married to a politician. So I
12 thank everybody for the kindness today. And I know
13 he's looking down. Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: You're welcome.
15 Is there a Mr. Vendetti in the room?
16 Please come forward. And I think a Mr. Montana.
17 Please identify yourself for the record.

18 JOE VENDETTI: Joe Vendetti. I want to
19 thank the Honorable Councilmen and women. The
20 naming of the Passyunk Library at 20th and Shunk
21 Street, Pennsylvania, after Stephen Girard, 1750 to
22 1831. The South Philadelphia Review of the 19th of
23 June 2003, Page 12, had an article about the history
24 books and a write-up about the Passyunk Library
25 being 90 years old. The library supervisor, Mr.

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 David Mariscoti (ph), I spoke to him Friday, the
3 20th of June. Monday, the 23rd of June I met with
4 Mr. Mariscoti at the library, was given a tour that
5 included the conference room wall mural of Ben
6 Franklin, Adrian Carnegie and Stephen Girard. There
7 will be a mural ceremony. Girard College officials
8 were notified along with the Philadelphia Masonic
9 Temple, as Franklin and Girard were both masons.
10 Copies of the South Philadelphia Review had proposed
11 naming of the Passyunk Library after Stephen Girard,
12 a copy for circulation around the country, France,
13 and Brussels. Letters were made up and hand
14 delivered to Wills and Deeds Department, City Hall,
15 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, attention Ronald R.
16 Donatucci and to Robert S. Donatucci, Pennsylvania
17 State Legislator, the second floor, the building
18 next to Dunkin Donuts, the northwest corner of 18th
19 and Shunk Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
20 seeking their support for naming the Passyunk
21 Library after Stephen Girard. No response from
22 either one.

23 Thursday, the 25th of September 2003,
24 Page 13, City Council article list of ordinance,
25 there's a list here, Passyunk Library named after

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 Thomas F. Donatucci. Notice appeared in the paper,
3 The Public Record. The hearing is schedule for
4 today and I'm here. Thank you, I want to thank you
5 again. And if I might add that the Honorable
6 Dominic Cemelia, Girardian Class of '59, is a
7 resident of Girard Estate and he's the present
8 President of Girard College. Many South
9 Philadelphians are Girardians. The will of Stephen
10 Girard to this day provides \$30,000 a year for
11 lighting on Delaware Avenue that he named, plus
12 heating assistance for the needy of Philadelphia in
13 Girardville, Pennsylvania. The library entrance
14 wall plaque, the land in which this building is
15 erected was set aside by the City of Philadelphia
16 Trustees under the will of Stephen Girard for the
17 Passyunk Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia,
18 and they mention the year, and the building was
19 given to Andria Carnegie.

20 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: So as I understand
21 your testimony, your position is that you want the
22 library named after Stephen Girard?

23 MR. VENDETTI: I would like to see the
24 Library named after Girard. I think it's more
25 fitting there than anywhere else in the City.

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Certainly, we
3 appreciate your testimony and we will seriously
4 consider it. The problem is that you've been to
5 everybody but the District Councilperson who has the
6 responsibility of making these requests. I mean, I
7 sympathize with you, but it's kind of late at this
8 point to do a bill once we're considering this one.
9 And although you've been to the State Representative
10 and the Register of Wills and other people, the
11 District Councilperson is always the person who
12 makes these requests.

13 MR. VENDETTI: I agree with you. Is
14 there a possibility of a compromise where they might
15 consider naming the library at Broad and Morris for
16 Mr. Donatucci?

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: That's not before
18 this Committee right now. Frankly, Stephen Girard
19 certainly was a historic figure in the City and did
20 some very good things, and there's some not-so-good
21 things too that went on back in the time when people
22 were doing not-so-good things to others by selling
23 them. The issue, though, is that we have Girard
24 Avenue, Girard College, Girard Estate, Girard Park.
25 It seems that Mr. Girard has a pretty good presence

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 in Philadelphia life with a number of things being
3 named for him. From my perspective, it would seem
4 that it's also important to recognize people who
5 start with humble beginnings and through hard work
6 and education, like the library stands for, made
7 something of himself and his community and has left
8 a legacy that is perhaps not equal in amount of
9 money to Stephen Girard, but certainly equal in the
10 amount of pride and importance to that neighborhood.
11 So I do think it's an appropriate request to name it
12 after Donatucci, considering all the things that are
13 named after Mr. Girard. And that's probably the
14 direction we're going to be going in. But I do
15 appreciate your testimony. I'm willing to listen to
16 what this gentleman has to say also.

17 MR. MONTANA: My name is Rocko Montana,
18 born and raised in South Philadelphia. I'm a
19 product of Girard College. I graduated in 1937.
20 Everything I've done, I owe to Girard College, and
21 nobody in my position can ever repay them for what
22 he did.

23 Some background -- I may repeat what my
24 friend Joe said. Some people do not know that
25 during the War of 1812 when the government went

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 soliciting for money, they came to him and he said,
3 "Go out and raise what you can and come back and see
4 me."

5 They did. They were \$8 million short.
6 Stevie gave them a check for \$8 million. If it
7 wasn't for him, we might all be English today.

8 Another thing is thousands, thousands of
9 students have attended Girard College completely
10 free, room, board, clothes, eating, everything. At
11 first it was for orphans, now they've changed it
12 dysfunctional families.

13 There are five other libraries in South
14 Philadelphia. Why can't they pick one of them?
15 From what I understand, the Estate of Stephen Girard
16 still owns that ground, and they get one dollar a
17 year from the City of Philadelphia for that. As
18 matter of fact, in his will, the results of his
19 will, the City still benefits from money donated to
20 them from his estate for the upkeep of old Delaware
21 Avenue and the whole City of Philadelphia.

22 Mr. Kenney had mentioned the humble
23 beginning of Donatucci, which is no doubt true. I
24 don't doubt that. But nobody could have been more
25 humble than Stephen Girard. At age 14, he joined

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556
2 the French Navy as a cabin boy and was promoted to
3 the youngest captain in the French Navy. From
4 there, he went on to buying his own ships for
5 transportation of materials and that's where he
6 amassed his fortune. During the war, he was taking
7 a load of materials up to New York and the British
8 blockaded and he came to Philadelphia and he sold
9 his materials he had. He bought a home on Water
10 Street which has been demolished for 95. And to me,
11 with my feelings, if this name is taken away from
12 Stephen Girard on that Library, it's going to be a
13 slap in the face to that man who has done so much
14 for this country and is continuing to do for it
15 today at Girard College with the students that he is
16 educating and paying everything for.

17 Now, Mr. Donatucci probably deserves
18 everything these people said. And I don't disagree
19 with them. Normally I'm not a person who will
20 compromise. I'm strong-headed. But I would be
21 willing to see the name Girard Donatucci Library be
22 considered because a lot of people do not know what
23 that man owned in South Philadelphia. He owned from
24 17th Street to the river. He owned the Atlantic
25 Refining Company. He owned the old quarter masters

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 depot. He owned all those homes. And this is the
3 thanks that that man is getting.

4 As a matter of fact, to me, they
5 insulted the man when they removed his statue from
6 Rayburn Plaza and put it in back of the library
7 where nobody goes and sees it. They don't even take
8 the tour bus around there for the man who is, in my
9 opinion, the greatest man in the City of
10 Philadelphia, if not in the United States when he
11 bailed them out of the War of 1812.

12 Thank you for your time, and I hope you
13 consider my suggestion.

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much
15 for your testimony. There's no one else to testify
16 on this bill?

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Council President.

18 COUNCIL PRESIDENT VERNA: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. I'm sorry I'm late. I had people in my
20 office. But I did hear part of the testimony. I
21 simply want to say that I, too, am a member of the
22 Board of City Trusts, and we are ever grateful for
23 the generosity for Stephen Girard. I sponsored this
24 bill because I knew and worked with Mr. Donatucci
25 for many years. And I can tell you that he was

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 always very, very outgoing, had great concern for
3 his immediate community. And he did believe in
4 public service. And that certainly is evidenced by
5 his two sons who followed in his footsteps. Let me
6 just say that -- and I did hear some of the
7 testimony that was said. We all know as Members of
8 Council that funds have been very scarce for our
9 libraries. State Representative Robert Donatucci
10 year after year -- and I don't know if he's here,
11 but he can attest to the fact that he has made
12 certain that that library got the funds that they
13 needed to make the necessary repairs.

14 I submitted to you, Mr. Chairman, a very
15 thick file of people from the immediate community
16 who are sponsoring and supporting this bill. I am
17 asking my colleagues to give this bill favorable
18 consideration. Thank you very much.

19 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Madam
20 President.

21 Anybody else to testify on this bill?
22 Councilman Rizzo.

23 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. I also want to go on record of, first of
25 all, looking back and thanking Thomas F. Donatucci

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030556

2 for all the great work that he did here in
3 Philadelphia, making this a better place. And no
4 disrespect to Stephen Girard but, unfortunately, we
5 don't have a piece of legislation to vote on to name
6 anything in behalf of Stephen Girard. So I plan to
7 be supportive of this particular bill, 030556. And
8 again, I thank the entire Donatucci family for their
9 commitment to Philadelphia. I think this is an
10 honor that should have occurred a long time ago.
11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.
13 Is there anyone else to testify on this
14 bill?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing none, what
17 I'd like to do, because the family is here and there
18 are a number of people here to testify, I'd like to
19 recess the public hearing and convene the public
20 meeting of the Public Property and Public Works
21 Committee.

22 - - - -

23

24

25

1

2

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC MEETING

4

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS

5

- - - -

6

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

7

- - - -

8

9

Public meeting conducted by the
Committee on Public Property and Public works, held
in Room 696, City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
on the above date, to consider action on the
following:

BILLS 030426, 030485, 030486, 030556,
030563.

13

14

PRESENT:

15

COUNCILMAN JAMES KENNEY, Chair
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNA C. VERNA

16

COUNCILMAN FRANK DICICCO
COUNCILWOMAN JOAN KRAJEWSKI

17

COUNCILMAN RICHARD MARIANO
COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER

18

COUNCILMAN BRIAN O'NEILL
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN

19

COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - PUBLIC MEETING

2 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: I would like to
3 recognize Councilwoman Krajewski for a motion to
4 amend Bill No. 030556 to include Thomas F.
5 Donatucci, Sr., because the word "Sr." was left out
6 of the original bill. And I'd like to entertain
7 that motion, if you'd make it.

8 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, I
9 move that Bill No. 030556 be amended.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: To be amended
11 accordingly. So Councilwoman Krajewski moved the
12 amendment.

13 Do I have a second?

14 (Duly seconded.)

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Moved and seconded.

16 All in favor?

17 (Aye.)

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are none
19 opposed. Bill No. 030556 will be amended
20 accordingly to include Thomas F. Donatucci, Sr.
21 Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

22 The Chair now recognizes Councilwoman
23 Krajewski for a motion on the amended bill.

24 COUNCILWOMAN KRAJEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, I
25 move that Bill 030556 be reported out of this

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - PUBLIC MEETING

2 Committee, as amended, with a favorable
3 recommendation.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Moved and seconded.

6 All in favor?

7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are none
9 opposed. Bill No. 030556, as amended, will be
10 reported out this Committee with a favorable
11 recommendation. A request will be made for rule
12 suspension to allow first reading at our next
13 Council Session.

14 I will now recess the public meeting and
15 reconvene the public hearing.

16 I'd like to thank you for your
17 attendance.

18 - - - -

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030485

2 Pelbano throughout my adult life, but also as a
3 child. When I think of that, I begin to imagine all
4 the thousands of children who at some point in their
5 life knew Mr. P; Mr. P on the baseball diamond or on
6 the football field, Mr. P. running the court. There
7 is not a child who is part of the athletic program
8 at Rhawnhurst who did not know Mr. Pelbano.

9 It was his vision, hard work, and
10 determination that gave us Rhawnhurst Athletic
11 Association. Building an athletic association on
12 the scale of Rhawnhurst was not an easy task. It
13 took a commitment of extreme measure. Making
14 Rhawnhurst family, dedicated husband to his lovely
15 wife, Doris, and father to six children took a level
16 of sacrifice few citizens make. His untimely death
17 in May has left his family shocked and saddened.
18 The effect his death has had on the community has
19 been twofold. It has left us saddened, but it has
20 also motivated us. We are more committed than ever
21 in making service to Rhawnhurst Athletic Association
22 and the community our priority.

23 The boss is watching us now as we
24 continue in his tradition striving to make him
25 proud. Renaming the Rhawnhurst Memorial Playground

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030485
2 the George C. Pelbano Playground is a great thank
3 you to his family -- his two daughters are here
4 today, his daughter Terry and Sandy and Sandy's
5 husband Mark -- for the sacrifice they made and for
6 sharing their dad and husband with us. It will also
7 serve as a constant motivator and a reminder of a
8 life of dedication that did not go unnoticed. Thank
9 you.

10 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.
11 Councilman Mariano.

12 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chairman. Just really quick. Anybody that ever had
14 anything to do with either coaching against
15 Rhawnhurst, fortunate enough to be an elected
16 official, community activist, anybody that had
17 anything to do with this organization knew George or
18 Mr. Pelbano or Mr. P or whatever you referred to
19 him. And it's one of those guys -- we blow in and
20 out different areas, elected officials. You know,
21 you get to Rhawnhurst once every couple weeks if
22 you're lucky, maybe once a month and you hear
23 something, you run up and your friends let you know.
24 But for George not being there now, this is perfect.
25 George was always there and will always be there in

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030485

2 my mind. I coached against him with Juniana, and he
3 was a great coach and there's a lot of guys my age,
4 younger, that played for him, coached with him.
5 This is perfect.

6 This was brought to me by some of these
7 people in the room, and not necessarily his family,
8 but Lisa, State Representative Butkovitz, and a few
9 of the other people. And it was something that --
10 it's no-brainer in my world.

11 So I appreciate the time everyone coming
12 down here. This is something that's due because
13 George Pelbano was one of them people -- in the back
14 of the Reader Digest I remember there used to be
15 something about your most lifelong unforgettable
16 character. George is definitely one of the top two
17 or three lifelong unforgettable characters that I've
18 ever known. So thank you for your patience, Mr.
19 Chairman and Committee, and I hope we can pass this.
20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

22 Is there anyone else from the family to
23 testify or is there any other testimony?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing none, is

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030485

2 there anyone opposed to this?

3 (No response.)

4 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing none, we will
5 do the same. We will try to be as respectful as we
6 can, as we did with the Donatucci family, by
7 recessing the public hearing of the Public Property
8 and Public Works Committee and reconvening the
9 public meeting.

10 - - - -

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROERTY - PUBLIC MEETING
2 your patience.
3 - - - -
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426

2 - - - -

3 PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED

4 - - - -

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The next bill for
6 consideration is Bill No. 030426, an ordinance
7 authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property on
8 behalf of the City of Philadelphia to execute and
9 deliver to the Redevelopment Authority of the City
10 of Philadelphia without consideration a deed or
11 deeds conveying fee simple title to five parcels of
12 City-owned land with the buildings and improvements
13 thereon situated at the northwest corner of Third
14 and Fairmount Streets and known as 700, 702 and 704
15 North Third Street and 309 and 311 Fairmount Avenue
16 for the purpose of entering into a redevelopment
17 agreement with Northern Liberties Neighbors
18 Association or its designee for such properties, all
19 under certain terms and conditions.

20 Please identify yourself for the record.

21 MR. SIPOS: Chairman Kenney, Members of
22 the Committee on Public Property and Public Works,
23 my name is Ken Sipos. I'm a real estate specialist
24 with the Department of Public Property. I'm
25 representing Andres Perez, Jr., Commissioner of

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426

2 Public Property.

3 The bill will permit the conveyance of
4 the five parcels for non-profit community
5 development via Redevelopment Authority
6 redevelopment agreement.

7 The Department of Public Property
8 supports the measure, and accordingly, I
9 respectfully ask the City Council approve Bill No.
10 030426. I also ask that the rules be suspended so
11 the ordinance may be passed upon second reading at
12 Council.

13 Thank you. I'll be happy to answer any
14 questions you may have.

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.

16 Any questions for the witness?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Anyone else to
19 testify on this bill?

20 Please come forward. Please identify
21 yourself for the record.

22 MR. KNOWLES: I'm Tom Knowles. I'm
23 Executive Director of the Northern Liberties
24 Neighbors Association.

25 MR. GLEASON: David Gleason, member of

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426

2 the NLNA and also the Northern liberties CDC.

3 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Please proceed.

4 MR. KNOWLES: First of all, I want to
5 thank you, Councilman Kenney, for taking action and
6 having the Committee take action on this ordinance.
7 And I want to especially thank Councilman DiCicco
8 for his leadership. The Northern Liberties
9 Neighbors Association is partnering with the
10 Northern Liberties Community Development Corporation
11 to create a community center on this site. I'm
12 pleased to be able to tell the Members that our
13 organizations have a strong track record of
14 accomplishment. We have taken previously vacant,
15 open land and turned it into what I think is one of
16 the largest community-owned parks in the City, known
17 as Liberty Lands. We have previously completed
18 successfully an affordable housing project known as
19 Garden Looms.

20 The community center we're proposing to
21 build will serve the Northern Liberties Neighborhood
22 Association, the entire community, the arts and
23 social activities needs of the community, and it
24 will unlock the economic value of this unused parcel
25 of land which can be used for the benefit of the

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426
2 community. Northern Liberties we see as the City in
3 miniature. It's one the City's most diverse
4 neighborhoods. We see it as an urban village, and
5 we're very pleased that you are taking this bill
6 under consideration. Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you very much.
8 Sir.

9 MR. GLEASON: I really just wanted to
10 echo Tom's comments. We couldn't be more excited
11 about this project and we are really looking forward
12 to it. The neighborhood is very much behind it and
13 committed. We want to thank Councilman DiCicco for
14 shepherding us along this far. And certainly,
15 Chairman Kenney, thank you and the rest of the
16 Members of the Committee. We hope that we can move
17 forward. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you for coming
19 in. It's a great neighborhood. This will enhance
20 it even more. Thank you.

21 Anyone else to testify on this bill?
22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing none, the
24 last bill for consideration is Bill No. 030486, an
25 ordinance naming the park currently designated as

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426
2 Northwood, located at 999 Arrott Street and bounded
3 by 4700 Castor Avenue, 1000 Foulkkrod Street and
4 1000 Arrott Street and 4700 Northwood Street as the
5 Joseph Colligan Park.

6 Councilman Mariano.

7 COUNCILMAN MARIANO: Thank you,
8 Councilman Kenney. Let me just make an explanation
9 about this one. I introduced this bill on June
10 12th. This was brought to me by Fortunato Perry,
11 Jr., and Officer Kirk Dodd. It's a little hard to
12 do because naming the park after Joseph Colligan,
13 I'm married to Joseph Colligan's daughter Susan. So
14 Joseph's daughter and his widow Elizabeth are in the
15 audience. They don't want to testify. Fred Perry
16 is out of town on business and Officer Dodd is
17 defending the streets of Philadelphia as a
18 Philadelphia Policeman. There's no one really
19 against it.

20 I knew Joe Colligan, Chief Colligan for
21 about 10 years before he passed away in 1998. He
22 was just another one of them unforgettable
23 characters. That's why it was just great to have
24 Pelbano and him today. It just turned out that way.
25 He was the guy that played full-court basketball

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - BILL 030426
2 with the kids until the day he died. He was out
3 there every weekend. Didn't have a daughter until
4 later in the life, so for the first 10, 15 years of
5 his marriage, he ran everything that went on in that
6 park. So that's why Dodd and Perry brought this to
7 us, so without anybody wanting to testify and no one
8 showing up, I think it just would be great in his
9 memory to name this Park Avenue him.

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Thank you much.

12 Is there any other business for this
13 committee?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Seeing none, we will
16 conclude the public hearing. Reconvene the public
17 meeting.

18 - - - -

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - PUBLIC MEETING

2 - - - -

3 PUBLIC MEETING CONTINUED

4 - - - -

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: The Chair recognizes
6 Councilmember Donna Reed Miller for a motion on Bill
7 No. 030426.

8 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. I move that Bill No. 030426 be reported out
10 of this Committee with a favorable recommendation
11 and that the Rules of Council be suspended so as to
12 permit first reading at our next Session.

13 (Duly seconded.)

14 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Moved and seconded.

15 All in favor?

16 (Aye.)

17 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are none
18 opposed. Bill No. 030426 reported out of this
19 Committee with a favorable recommendation. A
20 request will be made for rules suspension to allow
21 for first reading at our next Council Session.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilmember Rizzo
23 for a motion on Bill 030486.

24 COUNCILMAN RIZZO: I move that Bill NO.
25 030486 be reported out of Committee with a favorable

1 10/01/03 - PUBLIC PROPERTY - PUBLIC MEETING
2 recommendation and that the Rules of Council be
3 suspended so as to permit first reading at our next
4 Session of Council.

5 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: Moved and seconded.
6 All in favor?
7 (Aye.)

8 COUNCILMAN KENNEY: There are none
9 opposed. Bill No. 030486 reported out of this
10 Committee with a favorable recommendation. A
11 request will be made for rules suspension to allow
12 for first reading at our next Council Session.

13 That concludes the business of Public
14 Property and Public Works Committee. Thank you for
15 your attendance.

16 (Council adjourned at 11:05 a.m.)

17 - - - -

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

RE: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND PUBLIC WORKS

14

15

16

17

18

Lisa C. Bradley, RPR

19

20

21

22

23

24

25