

**MINUTES**  
**Niagara River Greenway Commission**  
**Citizens' Advisory Committee**  
**Beaver Island Clubhouse**  
**Grand Island, NY**  
**December 5, 2006 7:00 pm**

The 6th meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Niagara River Greenway Commission was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Commissioner Paul Dyster who began the meeting by thanking all participants for their time and effort, followed by introductions of the Commission members in attendance, Commissioner Paul Leuchner and Greenway Administrator, Rob Belue. Also in attendance were Mark Mistretta, Dan Castle and Ellen Parker from Wendel-Duchscherer. There were approximately 20 people in attendance.

Chairman Dyster explained that this meeting was for informational purposes only. There would be an opportunity to ask clarifying questions at the end of the presentation.

Mark Mistretta of Wendel Duchscherer gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the draft plan. Dan Castle followed with a brief report on the SEQR process.

This was followed by a question and answer period:

- Margaret Wooster-Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
  - Likes the plan
  - Missing – Goat Island & Small Boat Harbor
  - RMP – discuss possible removal
  - Will submit comments in writing-summarizing relationship, concerned about decision making powers of greenway and standing committees. She asked what the Greenway's role in alternative funding is. Mark Mistretta responded that the partners and organizations associated with the Greenway would be the ones to apply for grants and funding, not the Greenway itself. Paul Dyster responded the state agencies are held by the legislation to keep funding consistent with the plan. Margaret repeated the statement made by the Niagara Power Coalition and spoke on the issues discussed at the LGAC meeting regarding the standing committees. She urged the public to attend the Public Meetings to make their comments toward working these issues out.
- Kevin O'Connor-North Tonawanda Waterfront Commission
  - Shares Margaret Wooster's concerns and concerned where they get approval for projects. Paul Dyster suggested they get in touch with their council members to discuss options and make their project proposals. Paul Leuchner suggested they put pressure on the members of the standing committee to begin developing their administrative process for deciding on projects.

Terry Yonker-resident of Youngstown

- Wants to be sure Niagara Power Coalition represents the view of the citizens of the Niagara County municipalities and the school systems there.

- Page 12-reference to GEIS needs to reference ecological more often throughout the document. Mark Mistretta responded it was omitted just to avoid repetition. Dan Castle offered to add the comment to both documents.
- #2-reference to network does not discuss what the network is.
- Michele Vanstrom-Niagara Frontier Wildlife Habitat Council.
  - Had a question about length of term of commission members and standing committee. Rob Daly responded that the legislation is not specific as to whom by name, just a representative from each municipality.
  - She requested that an ecological or environment or heritage group member be placed on the standing committee. Paul Leuchner suggested again that she be a part of the beginning of the establishment of the administrative process.
  - Asked if she could get a copy of the NYPA relicensing agreement.
  - Asked if Wendel studied the comments made by the Niagara Heritage Partnership that they made on the State Parks study on the Robert Moses Parkway. Mark Mistretta responded that the comments were received, acknowledged and filed. Paul Dyster added the commission had decided the plan could not try to solve the issue of the RMP directly, due to factors of time and cost, and there was another process underway to address it. The priority for the plan was to lay down general principles that would encompass whatever solution was eventually agreed by the parties. So the plan did address issues of improved access, connectivity, environmental restoration, and so forth, and these applied to RMP. If the commission's plan had set forth design alternatives, he would have insisted the complete removal alternative be one of them, but that was not the type of plan the commission was drafting.
  - Asked if the boundary in Niagara County is meant to allow Governor Pataki to connect the NRG to the Flight of Five. She pointed out Mayor Soluri referenced the plan as a “Master Plan” and asked if he was correct. Mark responded that there are many interpretations of the term “Master Plan” some are more flexible than others, which allows for opportunity and that this plan is a more flexible Master Plan.
  - Linda Schneekloth-University of Buffalo
  - No where is there any information on how or why the plan can be amended. Mark Mistretta commented the plan needs to resolve this issue before final draft is submitted.
  - Standing committees for Niagara and Erie and Parks – they tried to get a representative on the committee and were unsuccessful and they want to ensure that there is some way for a citizens representative on the State Parks committee.
  - Asked if diagrams could be more conceptual and not be misleading by suggesting support to certain projects. Paul Leuchner responded it is intended to give a generic idea of what is possible, it’s not intended to take sides or favor one project over another.
  - Feels the organizational chart graphics are misleading
  - Feels there are too many lists, needs to be simplified.

Linda Schneekloth motioned to adjourn the meeting, Margaret Wooster seconded it. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting – December 5, 2006  
Final Draft

*A tape recording of this meeting was made and is available for review at the NRCG office located at Beaver Island State Park.*