

MINUTES
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Citizens' Advisory Committee
The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society
25 Nottingham Court
Buffalo, NY
April 12, 2006 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Commissioner Paul Dyster who then introduced the Commission members and staff in attendance, Paul Leuchner, Richard Soluri and Rob Belue. After a brief review of the Niagara River Greenway Commission purpose, new groups were invited to introduce themselves. A draft list of the stakeholder groups was distributed to the attendees. This list will be updated continuously. There were approximately 51 people in attendance.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes and they were accepted unanimously.

Mark Mistretta, Project Manager for Wendel-Duchscherer provided a power-point presentation reviewing Wendel's role in the process of developing the Greenway plan. The presentation included discussion on the following:

- Team Organization
- Greenway Planning Process
 - Public Participation Process
- Resource Inventory & Analysis
- Vision Statement/Goals & Objectives
- Demographic, Economic & Planning Analysis
- Draft GEIS Preparation
- Recommendations/Action Plan/Greenway Plan Draft

Margaret Wooster of the Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper provided a presentation of the Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper's proposals for the Greenway plan, which will be submitted to the Greenway Commission at the next commission meeting. The presentation's emphasis was on the Greenway's boundaries and consistency with present LWRP boundaries and Coastal Zone boundaries. Wooster said the BNR would solicit suggestions and support from other groups and submit the result at the next commission meeting April 25th.

The floor was opened for a public comment period. Chairman Dyster requested that any proposals read by any group be submitted to the Commission for the record.

- Rick Bara – Wheatfield – asked if there will be a parkway in the Greenway in the River Road area. Suggested that would be an improvement. Paul Dyster responded that DOT has a seat on the commission and that transportation issues will be part of the planning process.
- John Jordan – N. Tonawanda resident – suggested inviting NFTA to future meetings.
- Thomas Frank – had concerns regarding boundary issues.
- John Martin – resident – was pleased with the Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper presentation.

- Michele Vanstrom – Niagara Heritage Partnership – read a statement on greenway purpose.
- Joan Johnson – Niagara Heritage Partnership – read a statement regarding the removal of the Robert Moses Parkway.
- Jim Hufnagel – Niagara Heritage Partnership – spoke about Niagara County issues.
- Kevin O’Connor – N. Tonawanda Waterfront Commission – would like to see information on past projects by HOK & Synagraphics.
- Larry Beahan – Sierra Club – had a procedural concern, not much opportunity for citizens to provide input on issues to be voted on.
- Harvey Albond – suggested the committee not allow political agendas at the meetings.
- Larry (?) – commented on website, suggested we pay for it. Rob Belue commented that the commission is in the process of going to a new site which will allow direct updates by him.
- Jack Zimmerman – Adirondack Mountain Club – advocates habitat restoration and open space.

Announcements on upcoming events were made. The next NRGCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Beaver Island State Park Clubhouse. The deadline for the Logo Design Competition is May 15th. No dates have been scheduled for the next LGAC or CAC meetings yet. The next CAC meeting will be held at a Niagara County location.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:55 pm. Unanimously accepted.