

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
April 15, 2008 @ 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 1:33 p.m. and the roll was called by the Secretary Paul Leuchner. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Commission Chairman
Richard Soluri, Vice-Chair
Paul Leuchner, Commission Secretary
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission
Ray Goll, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Ron Hayes, NYS Department of Transportation

Members of the Public:
Angela Berti, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Julie O'Neill, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Thomas Frank

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Ray Goll. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairman Kresse reported that the State Budget did not include the \$150,000 allocation for the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The Chairman also indicated that he has been in contact with Senators Rath and Maziarz and Assemblyman Hoyt and was confident that funding would be provided in equal shares from the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly within the next 48 hours.

Executive Director Rob Belue reported on the results of the last quarter on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino. He also presented the proposed budget for 2008-2009 that is based on an annual planned expenditure of \$160,000. This budget does not include the funds that were originally proposed for inclusion in the State Budget and subsequently deleted. A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Richard Soluri. The budget was approved unanimously.

Paddles Up Niagara 2008

Paul Leuchner reported that letters requesting funding support has been sent to past supporters and some new potential supporters. The US Coast Guard recently issued a permit for this event and new potential advertising sources are being pursued. A recent email was received from the American Canoe Association (ACA) responding to a request by Paul Leuchner that the Paddles Up Niagara Blue Water Trail receive their endorsement and certification. The anticipated budget for this year's event is \$3,000.00. The ACA is now reviewing the trail and anticipates granting the request for certification. Rob Belue added that he had been in contact with the former editor of the Grand Island Dispatch who is interested in doing a story about Paddles Up 2008.

There was some discussion about other events and a reference to those that are sponsored by the Hudson River Greenway. The Hudson River Greenway only sponsors two events consisting of an annual kayak trip down the Hudson River and a bicycle event through the same greenway corridor. Paul Leuchner noted that dedicated funding of the Niagara River Greenway Commission will be needed before any firm plans can be made to expand activities beyond their current level.

Evaluation Matrix – (Rob Belue)

The Executive Director Rob Belue briefed the Executive Committee on the proposed project evaluation matrix that will be used to determine consistency with the approved Niagara River Greenway Plan. The scoring method associated with the use of the proposed matrix was also explained. After some discussion Chairman Robert Kresse decided to appoint a committee to continue the review of the matrix. He also added that the Chairs of the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Citizen's Advisory Committee will be asked to schedule meetings to get input on the methods and procedures that could be used to determine consistency. In addition, the proposed evaluation matrix will be posted on the internet for public comment. In the interim Commission members should continue with using existing resources to review those projects that are currently before the Commission for consideration. Paul Leuchner noted that all members of the Commission need to make a better effort to participate in the project review process. In this regard, the Chairman asked Rob Belue to send frequent reminders to members about project review deadlines.

Status of State Agency Review

Chairman Robert Kresse advised that all agency members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission will be expected to report on the procedures that they have adopted to comply with the provisions of Subsection 39.19 at the next meeting of the full Commission.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Richard Soluri. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission