

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
July 17, 2007 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 12:40 pm. Based on the roll call by the secretary of the Commission a quorum of members was determined to be present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Commission Chairman
Paul Leuchner, Commission Secretary
Paul Dyster, Commission Member
Ron Moline, Commission Member
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
(NYSOPRHP)
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission
John Giardino, Commission Treasurer
Richard Soluri, Commission Vice Chairman
Angela Berti, NYSOPRHP
Al Nihill, NYSOPRHP

Josh Maloni, Niagara Frontier Publications

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of April 17, 2007 and May 22, 2007 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Richard Soluri. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee

Treasurer John Giardino reported that austerity funding was necessary for the first quarter of FY 07-08 and even so actual spending was well below planned expenditure levels. Actual expenses amounted to \$20,898 with the majority being utilized for the salary and benefits of the executive director. The first quarter expenses were funded by the Quality Community Planning Grant received last year.

Dedicated line item funding by the State of New York will not occur this year but is likely for the next fiscal year of operation. In the interim a plan is being worked out between the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York Power Authority to jointly fund the operation of the Commission with a grant of \$160,000.

Event Committee

Chairman Paul Leuchner reported that most of the planning and organization tasks for Paddles Up Niagara 2007 have been completed. The event will take place in Beaver Island State Park on July 28, 2007.

Executive Director Rob Belue noted that participant registrations are arriving daily and that several new sponsors had come on board. He also introduced Angela Bertie who is the new public relations officer for the local parks regional office.

Rob Belue briefed the Executive Committee on the recently published Paddles Up Niagara Trail map and brochure. He noted that Paul Leuchner had developed a rough draft of the brochure providing the text, photos and other useful elements. This draft was turned over to Mathew Balling at the New York State Department of Transportation. Utilizing seemingly limitless artistic and creative skills Mr. Balling transformed the draft into the current trail map and brochure. His assistance was acknowledged and a letter of gratitude has been sent to the NYSDOT. The NYSDOT was also thanked for their support and assistance in getting 10,000 copies of the trail brochure printed for public distribution.

Commission member Paul Leuchner also added his praise and thanked Mr. Balling for his assistance. He also noted that the Paddles Up Niagara Trail brochure is a reference document that is intended for use by the general public. The brochure is not an advertisement for any current or future Paddles Up Niagara event and any attempt to date stamp the brochure for future such events would be inappropriate.

Executive Directors Report – Rob Belue

On May 17, 2007 the Commissioner of New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Carol Ash approved the Niagara River Greenway Plan. The approval ceremony took place at Harry's Harbor Place in Buffalo following a tour of selected project sites within the Niagara River Greenway.

Rob Belue reported that the required Annual Report of the Niagara River Greenway Commission had been prepared and distributed. He also noted that the Niagara River Greenway Plan had received the Comprehensive Planning Award from the Western New York Chapter of the American Planning Association..

Old Business “

Project Profile and Instructions

The draft Project Profile and Instructions form and the associated procedures for project consultation and review were reviewed and discussed at length. Commission Chairman Bob Kresse noted that the procedures adopted for use by the standing committees need to be considered before any final action is taken on the draft consultation and review procedures used internally by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. . Accordingly, Rob Belue was directed to schedule a follow on meeting on July 31, 2007 to allow time for Chairman Kresse to consult with Rick Chase at the New York Power Authority.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Bob Kresse appointed Commission member Paul Dyster as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and Paul Leuchner and Ron Moline as members of that committee. The election of officers will be held in September.

Motion to adjourn the Executive Committee Meeting was made by Richard Soluri, seconded by Paul Dyster. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Paul Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission