

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Niagara Falls State Park
July 28, 2006 12:00 noon

Meeting was called to order by Commission Chairperson Robert Kresse at 12:10 p.m.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chair
Richard Soluri, Commission Member
Paul Leuchner, Commission Member
Paul Dyster, Commission Member
John Giardino, Commission Member
Dominic Jacangelo, Deputy Commissioner, NYSOPRHP
Edward Rutkowski, Asst. Deputy Commissioner, NYSOPRHP
Rob Belue, Administrative Coordinator

Chairman Kresse asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2006 Executive Committee meeting. Dick Soluri made the motion, seconded by Paul Leuchner. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Robert Kresse encouraged participation in the upcoming Paddles Up Niagara event. He also provided an overview of the New York Power Authority relicensing process and how this process led to the establishment of the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Status/Update of NRGC Plan Development

Al Nihill reported on the progress by the consultant responsible for the development of the Niagara River Greenway Plan. He noted that the Wendel-Duchscherer team was within a week of the established schedule milestones and that four of the six work tasks had been completed. Workshops are planned for September 2006. Dominic Jacangelo explained the role and responsibility of New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS Parks) as lead agency in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process Rob Belue noted that Karen Terbush is the SEQRA coordinator for NYS Parks.

Financial Report

John Giardino presented a line-by-line financial report on the activities of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) The travel budget is related to NRGC members need to attend necessary meetings, conferences and a possible tour of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. It was noted that additional funds are needed through March 2007 and that such funds may be available if the Quality Communities Grant request by the Town of Tonawanda is approved.

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Report

Rob Belue presented a brief report on the LGAC meeting held on July 17, 2006. He noted that presentations were made by river corridor communities outlining their plans for inclusion in the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Paul Dyster reported on the CAC meeting held on July 19, 2006. Presentations were made by 13 organizations outlining plans or goals for the Niagara River Greenway.

Paddles Up Niagara

Paul Leuchner presented an update on this event scheduled for July 29, 2006 at Beaver Island State Park. He noted that this is the first annual event that is wholly sponsored by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. A byproduct of the planning for this process was the establishment of the Paddles Up trail that follows the coast of Grand Island and includes marked launch and recovery sites that are available for public access to the Niagara River. In response to questions from the public Paul Leuchner suggested that a brochure be developed providing details about the new Paddles Up trail. The brochure will be developed during the next few months and public distribution is planned for the spring of 2007. Bob Kresse asked representatives of the media present at this meeting to promote the event.

Old Business

None

New Business

Rob Belue discussed options for the location for the next Niagara River Greenway Commission meeting. The Niagara Arts & Cultural Center (NACC) was proposed for the next meeting which was tentatively scheduled for the evening of August 22, 2006. A motion was made by Dick Soluri to have the meeting at the NACC and seconded by John Giardino. The motion was unanimously approved. Rob Belue stated he would poll the commissioners on the final date for this meeting.

Rob Belue distributed a proposal received from Full Circle Studios to develop a media presentation on the Niagara River Greenway at a cost of \$95,000. A motion was made by John Giardino to table the proposal which was seconded by Paul Leuchner. The motion was unanimously approved.

Rob Belue reported that Tim Synor of Synor Design has offered to host our website at a cost of \$150/month. The proposal will be referred to the full commission for a decision.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Bob Kresse to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by John Giardino. The vote was approved by the members present and the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.