

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
August 24, 2007 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 9:07am and the roll was called by the Commission Secretary. A quorum of members was 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
Richard Soluri, Commission Vice Chairman
Dan David, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Matt Balling, NYS Department of Transportation

NRGC Process: Distribution of Project Consultation and Project Review Document

Chairman Robert Kresse opened the discussions on the draft Instructions for Project Consultation and Project Review and thanked Rob Belue, members of the Commission and Rob Daley (NYPA) for their assistance in developing the current draft. After some discussion there was consensus that the condensed and long versions of this document should be merged together. There were concerns about incomplete project documentation, the wording of some sections, compatibility with the procedures that will be used by the standing committees and the need to make grammatical corrections. With most of the issues resolved Chairman Kresse asked for a motion to approve the document. A motion was made by Richard Soluri and seconded by Paul Leuchner to approve the Project Consultation and Project Review document provided wording and grammatical changes are incorporated as discussed previously. There was some discussion on the motion related to the need for budget information, economic viability and the methods that will be used to route projects to the standing committees following the review by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The motion as proposed was approved unanimously.

Development of Process Steps, Time Lines and Voting Procedures

Rob Belue noted that additional work was still needed to define the process steps, time lines and voting procedures that will be used by the Commission. Chairman Kresse agreed and appointed a committee to work out the specific details.

2007-2008 Budget Report

Rob Belue presented the budget report on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino. Although a full operating budget was approved in May, 2007 no line item was provided by the State of New York for the current fiscal year. Accordingly, the Commission will have to operate with a reduced budget utilizing two grants of \$80,000 each from the New York Power Authority and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Commission will continue to seek line item funding for the 2008-2009 budget cycle. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ron Moline and seconded by Paul Dyster. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business

Executive Director Rob Belue advised that he was interested in attending the third annual conference of the Parks and Trails New York Conference scheduled for September 28th and 29th in Rochester, New York. In addition, Commission member Paul Leuchner also expressed interested in attending. Rob Belue noted that the current budget contains funding for travel. Chairman Bob Kresse agreed that the Commission should be represented at this conference and asked for a motion to approve reimbursement of travel and lodging expenses for Rob Belue and Paul Leuchner. A motion was made by Richard Soluri and seconded by Paul Dyster. The motion was approved unanimously.

Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission is tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2007. The Executive Committee will meet at 12:30pm, and the full Commission meeting will take place at 2:00pm.

The next meeting to work out the protocol for the standing committees sponsored by the New York Power Authority is scheduled for September 26, 2007 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. The location of this meeting will be announced in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission