

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
September 18, 2007 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 12:45pm and the roll was called by the Executive Director Rob Belue. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Commission Chairman
Richard Soluri, Commission Vice Chairman
Paul Leuchner, Commission Secretary (by conference call)
John Giardino, Commission Treasurer
Ron Moline, Commission Member
Paul Dyster, (Proxy to Chairman Kresse)
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission
Angela Berti, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
(NYSOPRHP)
Dan David, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Gregory Szewczyk, NYS Department of Transportation

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 17, 2007, July 31, 2007 and August 24, 2007 meetings were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Richard Soluri and seconded by Ron Moline. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Comments of the Chairman

Commission Chairman Robert Kresse reported that the nominating committee consisting of Ron Moline, Paul Dyster and Paul Leuchner had met. Prospective candidates had been contacted. The following candidates agreed to serve another term and were recommended by the committee: Richard Soluri, Vice Chairman; Paul Leuchner, Secretary; and John Giardino, Treasurer. No other nominations were received. A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Moline to approve the list of candidates for the next term of office and to refer the same to the full commission. The motion was seconded by John Giardino and approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

John Giardino provided an update on the 2007-2008 budget. . Two grants were secured in the amount of, \$80,000 each from the New York Power Authority and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Available funding was less than anticipated so adjustments were necessary. The amendments result in a balanced budget for the rest of the fiscal year.

Executive Session: Personnel Matter

A motion was made by John Giardino to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Ron Moline and approved unanimously. The discussions were concluded and a motion was made to come out of executive session by John Giardino which was seconded by Ron Moline.

Adjustment to the Salary of the Executive Director

A motion was made to increase the annual compensation of the Executive Director Rob Belue to the previously agreed upon amount of \$80,000 by Richard Soluri. The motion was seconded by Ron Moline and approved unanimously. The effective date of this adjustment is October 1, 2007.

Event Committee Report: Paddles Up Niagara 2007

Rob Belue presented the report on behalf of the event Chairman Paul Leuchner. He noted that a total of 236 paddle powered watercraft crewed by 250 people had participated in the river event. During the morning a number of vendors were on hand to provide park visitors with the opportunity to try out the latest in kayaks and canoes. Camp food was available for sampling thus establishing the first "Taste of Beaver Island". A number of other displays were available promoting boating safety and energy and wildlife conservation. About 500 people circulated through this paddlesports show. Following the river paddling event participants were invited to partake in a luncheon fund raiser sponsored by the Grand Island Historic Society. Funds and in kind services received from vendors and sponsors were sufficient to offset event expenses.

Executive Directors Report

Rob Belue distributed and discussed the content of his report on the recent activities of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (see attached). The Executive Director called attention to the following:

The next meeting to discuss Standing Committee Protocols for the use of the Niagara Power Project Relicensing Settlement Greenway Funds will take place on September 26, 2007 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. Further details can be obtained by consulting the New York Power Authority web page.

Previously the Niagara River Greenway Plan was the recipient of the Outstanding Planning Award by the Western New York Chapter of the American Planning Association. Once again, the plan has received recognition receiving the State Chapter award and the Excellence in Planning and Analysis award from the American Planning Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects respectively.

Old Business

A motion was made by John Giardino to recommend adoption of the Project Consultation & Project Review instruction form to the full commission. The motion was seconded by Paul Leuchner. Richard Soluri commented that a great deal of effort went into the development of this document to insure that it is user friendly and simple to use while insuring full consideration of the elements comprising the Niagara River Greenway Plan. John Giardino amended his motion to include a timetable for the receipt and review of projects and Paul Leuchner provided a second. The amended motion was approved unanimously. Once approved by the full commission the form and instructions will be posted to the Niagara River Greenway Commission web page.

Ron Moline expressed concern about the standing committee protocols for project funding and wanted to know if these committees would wait to act on projects as a group or if they would be dealt with individually. Rob Belue stated that each standing committee is responsible for defining the procedures for project funding.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Giardino and seconded by Richard Soluri. The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission