

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
April 17, 2007 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 6:03 pm.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman
Richard Soluri, Commission Member
John Giardino, Commission Member
Paul Leuchner, Commission Member
Paul Dyster, Commission Member
Dominic Jacangelo, representing NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission
Ed Rutkowski, NYSOPRHP
Ray Goll, NYSOPRHP
Rob Daly, NY Power Authority

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of March 20, 2007 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Dick Soluri. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Event Committee

An update on the planning for Paddles Up 2007 was provided by event chairman Paul Leuchner. The event is scheduled for July 28, 2007 and will take place in the Niagara River within the confines of Beaver Island State Park. Information on the event is being posted to the Niagara River Greenway web page on a continuous basis. A special thanks was extended to Mathew Balling of the New York State Department of Transportation for his creativity and professional skill in developing the layout for the Paddles Up Trail brochure.

There have been discussions about a possible health and fitness walk on the Riverview Trail between the old Century Club parking lot and Niagara Falls State Park. Although not yet decided, it is possible that LaSalle Pride will take the lead for the planning of this event with support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Support from the media and the health and fitness community will be needed to make this event a success.

Finance Committee

Treasurer John Giardino reported on the year end 4th quarter for 2006-2007. Expenditures were reported to be \$70,000 less than the planned spending for the 2006-07 fiscal year. The budget results are currently being audited and a report will be provided the next meeting.

Funding Up-Date

John Giardino reported that future funding arrangements for the Niagara River Greenway Commission are being discussed at the Albany level. The Governor recognizes the importance of the Commission and its work and concurs that our planned spending is reasonable. A meeting with parks personnel has been scheduled to further discuss budget needs.

Old Business

Resolution Executive Director

A resolution increasing the annual salary of the Executive Director to \$65,000 retroactive to March 20, 2007 and appointment of Rob Belue to that position was presented for consideration. The new job description detailing the duties and increased responsibilities of this position was reviewed. Commissioner Paul Dyster commented that the Commission needs a pro-active director and Rob has continuously proved his capability in this regard. He also stated that Executive Director is the public face of the Commission and Rob Belue has consistently demonstrated his capability in this area as well. Dominic Jacangelo commented that he was pleased that Rob Belue took on the responsibility as Commission administrator and that he has done a wonderful job especially during the final coordination and approval process for the Niagara River Greenway Plan. Commissioner Paul Leuchner noted that Rob Belue has always demonstrated that he is a forward thinker and that he can effectively anticipate the needs of the Commission sometimes before the needs are well defined. Richard Soluri added that Rob Belue is dedicated, motivated and dependable. John Giardino added that Rob Belue has earned this position and has done a wonderful job.

A motion to recommend to the Niagara River Greenway Commission the approval of the resolution to increase the annual salary of the Executive Director and the appointment of Rob Belue as Executive Director of the Niagara River Greenway Commission was made by Richard Soluri and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Rob Belue, Bob Kresse, Paul Leuchner and Paul Dyster have been involved in the development of the documentation that will be used by project proponents requesting consultation or review by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. A draft of the procedures is being developed. Commissioner Paul Dyster noted that the methods used by the Commission to review or consult on projects will be an open and public process.

Commissioner Paul Dyster announced that he is a candidate for the office of Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls. He stated for the record that he has checked the ethics regulations and found that seeking and holding elected office does not present a conflict. However, he plans to confirm this finding with the State Ethics Office.

A motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary