

Minutes of the Executive Committee
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
November 17th, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 2:07 p.m. and the roll was called by Secretary Alice Roth. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman
Paul Dyster, Vice Chairman and Citizen Advisory Committee Chair
Alice Roth, Secretary
Ron Pillozzi, Chairman Local Government Advisory Committee
Angela Berti, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission

Commissioner David Hahn-Baker was in attendance.

Absent: John Giardino, Treasurer

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 15th, 2009 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Alice Roth and seconded by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Report

Executive Director Rob Belue reported that as of September 30th, 2009, a fund balance with NHT was \$55,085.60. With expenses for the month of October 2009 an approximate amount of \$45,000 is available for the operation of the NRG. This report reflects the budget without including the EPF funds. Executive Director Rob Belue and Commissioner Mark Thomas spoke with Andy Beers of NYS-OPRHP about the distribution of the EPF funds he is to meet with the DOB and advise his findings as to when the funds will be released. The Executive Director will keep the commission informed of updates.

Discussion & Decision on Past Commissioner Advisory Committee

Chairman Kresse stated that in the last meeting a discussion had begun on establishing an advisory committee of past Commissioners from the Niagara River Greenway Commission as a use of their knowledge of the history, recommendations and expertise. Commissioner Pillozzi said it is a great idea and the structure and interaction with the commission can be worked out. Chairman Kresse appointed Commissioner Ron Pillozzi the chair of this committee and he accepted.

Past Commissioner Paul Leuchner commented that this could aid the commission in many areas including items i.e.; legislation because of the vast pool of talent and resources the past commissioners have. Executive Director Rob Belue said if the commission had any questions, the advisory committee would be a good outlet to use. He will send a letter to all past commissioners inviting them to become participants to the committee. Paul Leuchner also added there should be a press release to the public about the board. Chairman Kresse said this advisory committee is now in motion and would be seen shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Ron Pillozzi asked what happens to the projects that the Niagara River Greenway Commission doesn't find consistent. Rob Daly of the New York Power Authority stated that some get funded from the Re-licensing monies because contracts with the Standing Committees state that the Standing Committee determines consistency and that a requirement of written consultation from the Niagara River Greenway Commission is a requirement of their process.

New Commissioner David Hahn-Baker stated he would like to be involved in Senator Antoine Thompson's community, specifically the Scajaquada Creek area this new advisory committee will be a benefit. Chairman Kresse agreed he should get involved along with Mayor Pillozzi.

Commissioner Paul Dyster said there have been some concerns about the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial that is quickly approaching along with a number of promotional and tourist opportunities that will exist. Governor Paterson did not appoint a Commission to oversee the celebration due to potential costs to the State of New York leaving New York without a point organization. It has been suggested to use the Niagara River Greenway Commission, with the ability by legislation, to establish sub-committees which could establish a committee for the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial enabling the use of the NHT account as a mechanism for receiving and dispensing the funds for the celebration. Chairman Kresse made a motion to agree to accept funds for the bi-centennial to be placed into the Niagara River Greenway Commission's NHT account. Commissioner Dyster moved and the motion was seconded by Alice Roth. Executive Director Rob Belue will further investigate the viability of this subject with the NYS-OPRHP since NHT is part of Parks.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Alice Roth and seconded by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Niagara River Greenway Commission