

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

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

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Commission Chairman
Paul Leuchner, Secretary
Ron Pillozzi, Commissioner, Chair Local Government Advisory Committee
Paul Dyster, Commissioner, Chair Citizens Advisory Committee
Mark Thomas, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission

Absent: John Giardino, Treasurer
Richard Soluri, Commissioner

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Mark Thomas pointed out a correction to Angela Berti's name. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction of a typographical error was made by Mark Thomas and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The minutes were approved as amended.

Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Robert Kresse reported on a recent meeting of representatives of the various standing committees to discuss signage standards within the Niagara River Greenway. He noted that there was general agreement amongst the participants that a signage standard once adopted should be implemented.

Appointment to the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Commission

Chairman Robert Kresse stated that several months ago he had been asked to name a representative from the Niagara River Greenway Commission to serve on the Niagara Heritage Area Commission. The Chairman advised that Paul Dyster will serve as the primary representative and that he would serve as the secondary point of contact. A brief overview of the status of the Niagara Heritage Area Commission was provided by Commissioner Dyster.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Report

The financial report was delivered by Executive Director Rob Belue on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino who was absent. Mr. Belue stated that there that he would be giving an interim report since the quarter had not ended. He reported that the Commission treasury as of the end of February 2009 had a balance of \$129,719.29. The budget plan for the next fiscal year (09-10) will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Belue also noted that discussions are under way with State Senator Thompson and State Assemblyman Hoyt regarding proposed legislation that would establish a permanent source of funding for the Niagara River Greenway in the amount of \$175,000 annually. This legislation would establish the Niagara River Greenway Commission Fund and would authorize the expenditure of those funds. Funds allocated to the Niagara River Greenway Commission would be obtained from licensing fees deposited to the State Conservation Fund.

Paddles Up Niagara 2009

Commissioner Paul Leuchner reported that the fourth annual Paddles Up Niagara event will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2009 at Beaver Island State Park. He reported that the event has already been advertised on the activity calendars of several trade magazines as well as various paddlesports internet sites. The Niagara River Greenway Commission web page has also been updated and photos from last year have been retained so that newcomers will be able to learn more about the event. In addition, the US Coast Guard has already issued a permit for the event and the Grand Island Historic Society will be offering a luncheon for Paddles Up participants at the cost of \$11.00 per person.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Planned Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee

In response to several inquiries from members of the public who participated in the development of the Niagara River Greenway Plan, Commissioner Paul Dyster suggested scheduling a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee during September 2009 to report on the progress of funded greenway projects. The purpose of this meeting would be to keep the public informed on the progress of projects and the expenditure of greenway funds. It is likely that this meeting will become an annual event. Chairman Kresse agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial and asked that it be well advertised.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Mark Thomas. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission