

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
**Of the**  
**Niagara River Greenway Commission**  
**Beaver Island State Park**  
**September 15, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 2:15 p.m. and the roll was called by Amy Kinsky. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman  
Tom DeSantis for Paul Dyster, Commissioner and CAC Chair  
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission

New Commissioner Member Ed McDonald was in attendance.

Absent: John Giardino, Treasurer  
Ron Pillozzi, LGAC Commissioner

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 28th, 2009 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Mark Thomas and seconded by Tom DeSantis. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2009-2010 Funding Up-Date**

Executive Director Rob Belue delivered the Financial Report on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino who was absent. An update was given on the \$300,000 that NYS Senator Thompson included in this years NYS Budget for the Niagara River Greenway Commission. DEC and Parks have reached an agreement. The current suggestion is to make the payment in two installments. \$150,000 now and the second installment some time around June. For now, the part time employee will be eliminated from the budget. It would have cost around \$30,000 for the part time assistant in the budget. NHT and Parks are putting together a contract to move the funds into the account. Tom DeSantis asked if this will get the Greenway through the fiscal year. Executive Director Rob Belue said it would, probably thru June in time for the second installment.

**Financial Report**

Executive Director Rob Belue reported that as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, there is a balance of \$108,781. With the \$150,000, the balance will be \$258,781. In the first quarter the Greenway has spent a total of \$15,101.11. As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, and including the \$150,000, the Greenway total balance is approximately \$210,000. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Tom DeSantis and seconded by Commissioner Mark Thomas.

### **Nominating New Commissioners**

Chairman Kresse announced the decision of the nominating committee and the slate will be presented during the full Commission meeting. The nominations are Mayor Paul Dyster for Vice Chair, John Giardino to continue as treasure, and Alice Roth for secretary. The nominations will go in front of the full commission for a vote. Commissioner Mark Thomas asked what will happen to the Citizens Advisory and the Government Advisory Committees. In response, the Chairman may appoint other Commissioners to chair these committees; however the Chair of the Government Advisory Committee must be an elected official. It will be discussed once the Commission is fully constituted.

### **Past Commissioners Advisory Committee**

Discussion began 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. Some of the past Commissioners are Paul Leuchner, Richard Soluri, Lou Ciminelli, Ron Moline, Bret Sommer and Mike Cornell. Commissioner Mark Thomas feels this is a good idea, but there needs to be a Chair appointed who will report to Chairman Kresse. The overall consensus is to call them an Advisory Board. Tom DeSantis asked what the board would do and how would they be involved. Executive Director Rob Belue stated that they will be used for their historical resources and expertise. All agreed there needs to be further discussion about this and its structure. Commissioner Mark Thomas offered to assist with the Board once it is in place.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Chairman Kresse and seconded by Commissioner Thomas. The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

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Niagara River Greenway Commission