

Minutes

**The Thirteenth Meeting
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
Grand Island, NY
January 16, 2007 7:00 pm**

Call to Order and Introduction of Commission Members and guests

Commission Chairman Robert Kresse called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. His first order of business was to introduce Mr. Louis Ciminelli the newest member of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The following Commissioners or their designated representatives were in attendance:

Robert Kresse, Chairman
Dick Soluri, Vice Chairman
John Giardino, Commissioner
Paul Leuchner, Commissioner
Paul Dyster, Commissioner
Louis Ciminelli, Commissioner
Rick Andres, for Brett Sommer, Commissioner
Ron Moline, Commissioner
Rene Parsons, NYS DOS
Daniel David, for Abby Snyder, NYS DEC
Matthew Balling, NYS DOT
Elise Cusack, NYPA
Dominic Jacangelo, NYSOPRHP
Rob Belue, Executive Director NRGC

Comments from the Chair

Chairman Kresse commented on the work of the Commission and the conduct of Commission meetings. He stressed the importance of municipalities working together to create the Niagara River Greenway. Chairman Kresse also stated that no public comments would be accepted during the meeting but noted that comments could still be submitted until the established deadline via the NRGC website.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 21, 2006 meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes without change was made by Paul Dyster and seconded by John Giardino. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

John Giardino presented the financial report for the 3rd quarter of the fiscal year. Chairman Robert Kresse asked for a motion to approve the report. Paul Leuchner so moved and the motion was seconded by Ron Moline. The motion to adopt the quarterly report was approved unanimously.

Niagara River Greenway Plan Status Update

Mark Mistretta provided a brief update on the status of the Draft Niagara River Greenway Plan:

- The comment period ends tomorrow (January 27, 2007)
- To date a total of 110 comments have been received
- Comments are being evaluated and generally fall into four categories:
 - No response required or complimentary
 - technical or recommended changes
 - Detailed Comments:
 - Niagara Power Coalition
 - City of Buffalo
 - Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper
 - Niagara County Environmental Management Committee
 - Procedural or Process Comments
- Meeting with the Plan Management Committee to review comments and develop responses on January 26, 2007
- Finalization of the Draft Plan by mid-February 2007
- The plan was well received

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

Chairman Ron Moline presented a brief report on the last LGAC meeting held on December 5, 2006. The LGAC is now focusing on individual municipal presentations. Rob Belue has developed a presentation schedule and all presentations are expected to be completed on or about February 14, 2007. No further LGAC meetings are planned at this time.

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Chairman Paul Dyster reported on the last CAC meeting held on December 5, 2006. He reminded all present that the comment period was coming to an end and that the upcoming schedule for presentations to the municipalities could be found on the Niagara River Greenway website. No further CAC meetings are planned at this time.

Old Business

Paul Dyster noted that comments received from the two Native American nations has not been properly attributed and asked that this error be corrected in the Draft Plan.

New Business

John Giardino reported on the contractual status of Executive Director Rob Belue:

- His salary is currently being paid by the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation
- His contract expires on February 14, 2007 and is not eligible for renewal until April 1, 2007
- To insure there is no break in service Rob Belue can be transferred to the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and that his salary and benefits be paid from Niagara River Greenway Funds on deposit with the NHT.

The Executive Committee has endorsed this proposal and recommends approval by the Niagara River Greenway Commission with regard to the above recommendation Paul Leuchner read the motion approved by the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Ron Moline to adopt the recommendation by the Executive Committee and seconded by Dick Soluri. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dominic Jacangelo reported that Governor Spitzer had nominated Carol Ash to the post of Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation subject to review by the New York State Senate. He noted that Acting Commissioner Ash extends best wishes to everyone and is looking forward to working with the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Lou Ciminelli. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission