

Minutes

The Twelfth Meeting Of the Niagara River Greenway Commission Beaver Island State Park Grand Island, NY November 21, 2006 7:00 pm

Call to Order and Introduction of Commission Members and guests

Commission Chairman Robert Kresse called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The following Commissioners or their designated representatives were in attendance:

Robert Kresse, Chairman
Paul Leuchner, Commissioner
Chris Schoepflin, Commissioner
Paul Dyster, Commissioner
Abby Snyder, Commissioner
Ron Hayes, Commissioner
Ron Moline, Commissioner
Brett Sommer, Commissioner
Elise Cusack, NYPA
Dom Jacangelo, NYSOPRHP
Rob Belue, Executive Director

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 17, 2006 meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes without change was made by Paul Leuchner and seconded by Chris Schoepflin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Chair

Chairman Kresse stated that there would be no public comment period at this meeting. He noted that the purpose of this meeting was to brief commission members, provide opportunity for comment and questions and to vote on the acceptance of the draft plan and its release to the public for review. Following the vote the draft plan will be forwarded to NYS Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro for approval. The draft document is expected to be released to the general public on November 28, 2006.

NRG Preliminary Plan Presentation

An overview of the draft plan was presented by Mark Mistretta of Wendel-Duchscherer. Following that presentation Dan Castle of Ecology and Environment briefed commission members on the status of the State Environmental Quality Review Act environmental impact statement

Comments from Commission Members

Chairperson Bob Kresse reported that the Plan Management Committee had voted to recommend that the full commission accept the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan and approve its submission to NYS Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro for public release. Chairman Kresse then asked for questions and comments from commission members.

Elise Cusack asked who was monitoring the municipal approval process. Chairman Kresse responded that the NRGC will work with the municipalities to gain approval of the plan. He noted that the Niagara region is really one large municipality that enjoys the wealth of the Niagara River and that everyone must work together to make the plan a success. Elise Cusack also suggested the commissioners attend upcoming meetings with elected officials and that a presentation on the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan be included as a part of the meeting proceedings.

Dominic Jacangelo responded that the Executive Committee anticipated this need and Rob Belue will be meeting with the individual legislative bodies.

Brett Sommer suggested that the commission work closely with the legislators of each municipality. He recommended that the commission personally contact the chief legislative officer and elected officials of each municipality that is expected to approve the Niagara River Greenway Plan to expedite the process. Brett Sommer also recommended scheduling the next Local Government Advisory Committee meeting at a time that would allow most if not all elected officials to attend.

Paul Dyster thanked the Wendel Duchscherer team for their work and complimented them on their willingness to obtain and consider public input during the development of the draft greenway plan listening to and gaining input. He stated that “the greenway is the single most important thing we can do in our lifetime and that it forces us to think like a region”.

Ron Moline thanked Chairman Bob Kresse for his leadership and his efforts to keep the process moving forward. He also thanked the Wendel-Duchscherer team, representatives of New York State Parks and the local government for their assistance during the development of the draft plan.

Paul Leuchner expressed his gratitude to the Wendel Duchscherer team for their time and patience. He stated that the draft plan is a product of an extensive public participation process and that it will positively define the future of the Niagara River corridor and the surrounding region .

Dominic Jacangelo spoke on behalf of Commissioner Bernadette Castro and stated that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Commissioner were honored to be a part of the process. He thanked the commission members for their efforts. He further stated that “what we have done will set the course for the future and that the plan will serve as a roadmap for future State action”.

Ron Hayes speaking on behalf of Commissioner Maddison of the New York State Department of Transportation stated that his agency looks forward to incorporating many of the goals and initiatives of the plan into transportation projects to enhance the Niagara River Greenway. He thanked the members of the commission, the Wendel Duchscherer team and the public for their support and assistance. He also thanked Ron Moline and Paul Dyster for their efforts on the respective local government and citizen advisory committees and New York State Parks Commissioner Castro and her team.

A motion was made by Ron Moline to act on the recommendation by the Plan Management Committee to adopt the draft plan and approve its release to the general public for review and comment. The motion was made **to accept the recommendation of Plan Management and Executive Committees to adopt the Final Draft of the Niagara River Greenway Plan, submitted by consultants Wendel-Duchscherer, and to submit that plan to Commissioner Bernadette Castro of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation declaring Final Draft Niagara River Greenway Plan available for public review.** The motion was seconded by Paul Dyster. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings

Chairman Kresse reported that the public hearings on the final draft of the Niagara River Greenway Plan will be held at the following locations

:

- December 12th – 7:00pm
Niagara Falls Conference Center
101 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY
- December 13th – 7:00pm
Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society
25 Nottingham Court
Buffalo, NY

Dominic Jacangelo also reminded everyone that the comment period on the final draft plan remains open until January 17, 2007. **Scope of Work Change Order**

Paul Leuchner advised commission members that action must be taken on the scope of work change order submitted by Wendel Duchscherer for costs associated with the attendance and participation in additional meetings of the Plan Management Committee and the Executive Committee. Accordingly, Paul Leuchner made a motion to approve the change order which was seconded by Elise Cusack. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brett Sommer and seconded by Elise Cusack. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission