

## Minutes

**The Fifteenth Meeting  
Of the  
Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Beaver Island State Park  
Grand Island, NY  
March 20, 2007 7:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 7:23 pm. Commission Secretary Paul Leuchner was directed to call the roll.

The following Commissioners or their designated representatives were in attendance:

Robert Kresse, Chairman  
Richard Soluri, Commissioner  
Paul Leuchner, Commissioner  
Paul Dyster, Commissioner  
Louis Ciminelli, Commissioner  
Abby Snyder, NYSDEC  
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT  
Tom Zyskowski, NYSDOS  
Elise Cusack, NYPA  
Chris Schoepflin, Empire State Development  
Bill Paton, for Brett Sommer  
Dominic Jacangelo, NYSOPRHP  
Rob Belue, Executive Director Niagara River Greenway Commission

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 27, 2007 meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Louis Ciminelli and seconded by Elise Cusack. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Comments from the Chairman

Robert Kresse reported that the Common Council of the City of Buffalo had passed a resolution earlier in the day supporting the Niagara River Greenway Plan. The action by the City of Buffalo brings to a successful end the municipal approval process. The plan provides an opportunity to restore the river and the river edge and will allow us to look back at our history. Chairman Kresse thanked the following individuals for their support and assistance during the development of the Niagara River Greenway Plan: Robert Shibley, David Crombie, Ed Rutkowski, Dominic Jacangelo, Commissioners Paul Leuchner and Paul Dyster, Ron Moline, Richard Soluri and the Wendel Duchscherer team. The Chairman

noted that the bottom up process used to develop the plan will serve as a benchmark for the future and that public participation will continue to be encouraged.

### **Joint Resolution and Final Action Niagara River Greenway Plan**

The joint resolution by Paul Leuchner, Paul Dyster and Louis Ciminelli was read to Commission members by Louis Ciminelli. The resolution recommended that the Preliminary Final Niagara River Greenway Plan and GEIS be forwarded to Acting Commissioner Carol Ash, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation review and approval. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Ciminelli and seconded by Commissioner Soluri. Commenting on the motion, Commissioner Soluri noted that cooperation and mutual respect were important factors in achieving success despite the diversity of views. Dominic Jacangelo spoke on behalf of John Giardino and thanked Paul Dyster, Paul Leuchner and Chris Schoepflin for the time and effort they provided while serving on the Plan Management Committee. He also thanked the members of the working group for their support and assistance.

Chairman Kresse called for a vote on the motion and asked the Secretary to poll the members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. All members present voted in favor of the resolution. Chairman Kresse also noted that he had received proxy votes in favor of the plan from Commissioners John Giardino and Ron Moline.

### **Treasurer's Report \**

Paul Leuchner presented the fourth quarter Finance Committee report on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino. As the fiscal year ends (3/31/07) total expenditures were reported to be \$59,968, about \$70,532 below budget. The fiscal year 2007-2008 budget was also reviewed. Total expenditures budgeted for the new fiscal year is estimated to be \$300,000. Budget income was not reported because anticipated revenue sources had not yet been fully confirmed and funding discussions were still underway. Commissioner Leuchner indicated that at this time the proposed the 2007-08 is submitted for consideration and approval by the Commission. He also noted that planned expenditures were in line with our experiences in 2006-07 and our anticipation of needs after consultation with our director and his counterparts at the Hudson River Valley Greenway Commission. A motion by was made by Richard Soluri to approve the treasurer's report and the proposed 2007-08 budget. The motion was seconded by Elise Cusack and carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Kresse stated that now we must work in a cooperative manner to implement the provisions of the Niagara River Greenway Plan. In this regard, we all know where we have to go, but the challenge is to make sure that we get there with ideas that are connected and mutually compatible. We will begin tomorrow to define the next steps for implementation of the plan. Even though the plan approval process will take at least 60 days that will not prevent us from moving forward. At the conclusion of these comments, Commissioner Paul Dyster publicly thanked Chairman Robert Kresse for his skill, leadership and wisdom.

### **New Business**

None

**Public Comment**

- Thomas Frank- Commended the Niagara River Greenway Commission for its work in developing the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

**Meeting Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Elise Cusack and seconded by Chris Schoepflin. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Leuchner, Secretary  
Niagara River Greenway Commission