

## Minutes

### **The Twenty Seventh Meeting Of the Niagara River Greenway Commission Beaver Island State Park Grand Island, NY March 17, 2009 3:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 3:10 pm. Secretary Paul Leuchner was directed to call the roll and a quorum of members was determined to be present.

The following Commissioners or their designated representatives were in attendance:

Robert Kresse, Chairman, Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Paul Leuchner, Secretary  
Paul Dyster, Commissioner and Chair Citizens Advisory Committee  
Ron Pilozzi, Commissioner and Chair Local Government Advisory Committee  
Mark Thomas, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Dan David, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Ron Hayes, New York State Department of Transportation  
Rob Daley, New York Power Authority  
Chris Schoeplin, Empire State Development  
Rob Belue, Executive Director Niagara River Greenway Commission

Absent: Commissioner John Giardino, Treasurer  
Commissioner Richard Soluri  
Commissioner Louis Ciminelli  
Renee Parsons, New York State Department of State

Executive Director Rob Belue noted for the record that Richard Soluri and Renee Parsons had submitted the required proxy information along with voting instructions for those projects currently before Niagara River Greenway Commission for a determination of consistency with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Kresse asked those present to review the minutes of the Twenty Fifth meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Schoeplin, and seconded by Paul Dyster. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **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.

### **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**

### **Project Consistency**

#### **Valley Community Association, Buffalo Riverfest Park**

A brief overview was provided by Executive Director Belue and a follow up presentation was made by Peggy Overdorf. The project would establish a park along the banks of the Buffalo River where no such public access presently exists. Ms. Overdorf noted that the project has strong community support and its formulation is the product of many productive partnerships. Commissioner Dyster stated that he had attended the Buffalo Riverfest last year and had toured the proposed project site. He also noted that there is strong community support for the project. The River Keeper is on board. Paul Dyster commented that there is tremendous community support. A vote was taken and the project was found consistent. Chairman Kresse called for a vote. The finding by the Niagara River Greenway Commission that the project was consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan was unanimous.

#### **Village of Youngstown, Water and Ferry Streets Waterfront Access Project**

A brief overview was provided by Executive Director Belue and a follow up presentation was jointly made by Neil Riordan, Mayor of the Village of Youngstown, Bob Beluchi, resident of Youngstown and Doug Brackett of the consulting firm EDR. The speakers noted that the proposed project focuses on five key points namely public access to the waterfront, exceptionally scenic views of the Niagara River and surrounding landscape, tourism, trail connectivity and innovative project design features.

In particular, Mayor Riordan noted that the project would serve as a gateway to Niagara River Greenway. Chairman Kresse called for a vote. The finding by the Niagara River Greenway Commission that the project was consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan was unanimous.

## **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.

### **Public Comment**

**Dorothy Westhafer:** Spoke in favor of the Village of Youngstown project that was found to be consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

**Thomas Frank:** Noted that the projects voted on by the Commission were excellent. He also commented on the 2009 Boundary Waters Celebration and various matters pertaining to the work of the International Joint Commission.

**Dave Faccini, Vice President, Niagara River Anglers Association:** Expressed concern about the displacement or loss of the fish hatchery pens that are currently within the footprint of the Village of Lewiston Water and Ferry Streets Project. Mark Thomas representing the New York State Office of Parks offered to work with the association to find an alternate site for the fish hatchery pens.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the twenty sixth meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission was made by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi and seconded by Paul Dyster. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

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Paul Leuchner, Secretary  
Niagara River Greenway Commission