

Minutes
The 34th Meeting
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
Grand Island, NY
May 18, 2010 3:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 3:07 pm. Secretary Alice Roth 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
Paul Dyster, Vice-Chairman
Alice Roth, Commission Secretary
Ron Pillozzi, Chair Local Government Advisory Committee
Ed McDonald, Commissioner
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Abby Snyder, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Ron Hayes, NYS Department of Transportation
Christina Orsi, Empire State Development
Rob Daly, NYS Power Authority
Rob Belue, Executive Director Niagara River Greenway Commission

Absent: John Giardino, Commission Treasurer
NYS-Department of State
David Hahn-Baker, Commissioner Chair Citizens Advisory
Committee

There was a proxy vote for Department of State

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 16th, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Alice Roth, seconded by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi/Ron Hayes. The meeting minutes were then approved unanimously as submitted.

Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Robert Kresse stated that there has been great success from the last meeting for setting up some information for the public to know what's happening on the Greenway. Executive Director Rob Belue then explained three charts that show what projects are along the Greenway. Chairman Kresse said there will be a more user friendly way to get information about the Greenway soon in a news letter.

Public Comment- Current Agenda

Michelle Vanstrom spoke as a representative for EDR. She read a letter regarding the Lewiston Plateau Dog Park and Nature Preserve project.

Margaret Wooster spoke on behalf of the Riverkeeper. She wanted Greenway to keep in mind and answer two questions when they consider finding a project consistent.

Tom Frank spoke about the War of 1812 project.

Committee Reports

Financial Report/2010-2011 Budget

On behalf of John Giardino, Executive Director Rob Belue reported that as of March 31st, the fund balance is \$275,331.13. This reflects an EPF deposit of \$300,000 in mid March. The expenses are as follows: salaries, no part-time assistant, office supplies, postage, phone/fax, publications, media, equipment, rent, meetings, travel, web development, etc. The expenses for the quarter were \$46,581, with \$101,942.11 spent this year. Overall, the Greenway is under budget. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi and seconded by Commissioner Ron Hayes.

Local Government Advisory Committee-(LGAC)

An update was given by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi. The LGAC meeting was held on May 5th. There were status reports given by 5 out of 8 different project sponsors, North Tonawanda, Niagara County, Erie County, Grand Island and NYS Parks were in attendance. The overall attendance by the public was around 10 to 15 people. He said it was a worthwhile meeting.

Citizens Advisory Committee-(CAC)

An update was given by Commissioner Paul Dyster. The CAC meeting was held on May 4th. The same municipalities were there for the LGAC and including Niagara Falls. The attendance was disappointing but overall it was a valuable exercise. It is good that there now is a template to keep the public informed. Commissioner Paul Dyster was also disappointed that he could not introduce Commissioner David Hahn-Baker who could not attend because he was under the weather.

Paddles Up Niagara 2010 Update

Executive Director Rob Belue gave an update on the upcoming Paddles Up Niagara. The 5th Paddles Up Niagara will be held on July 24th. He gave thanks to the town of Grand Island and NYS Parks for all the support in the past and this year. A poker run and sprint races will be added this year. Also, there will be added participation and support from the Boy Scouts of America organization as well as other vendors on display. There is also a new t-shirt design for the 5th anniversary. Mark Ornstein, the ACA gold medal freestyle canoeist will be demonstrating. It will be a busy day, and the biggest Paddles Up Niagara to date, with a big crowd. The coast guard permit is in place. Executive Director Rob Belue said the Marine

Division of Parks thru the National Association of Boating Law Administration will be donating 50 life vests to be given away as part of the raffle or for prizes.

Old Business

Project Consistency Review: Chairman Kresse asked the Executive Director to take over this part of the meeting. The Executive Director explained the procedures that would be followed for project review. First, he will provide a brief overview of each proposal and then invite the project sponsors to make a brief presentation. Following the presentation, Commission members will be able to ask questions. The process will conclude with a vote on consistency to the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc- Enhancement of Bird Habitat, Environmental Education & Interpretation & Ecotourism- NYS Joseph Davis State Park

The project presentation was made by Bill Hudson. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Northwest Buffalo Community Development Center- Black Rock Heritage Trail War of 1812

There was no presenter for this project. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

NYS Parks- Fort Niagara State Park Soccer Field Comfort Station

The project presentation was made by Dave Szuba. Commissioner Rob Daly asked how big the station would be. Dave Szuba said it is larger than 30 by 60 feet. Chairman Kresse stated that Greenway money is not to be used for maintenance issues, but it is a contributor to river and lake issues. Commissioner Paul Dyster added that he sees this as a capital project not a maintenance project. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

NYS Parks- Four Mile State Park 200 Loop Comfort Station

The project presentation was made by Dave Szuba. Chairman Kresse asked if there were existing facilities. Dave Szuba said there are 4 comfort stations. Commissioner Ron Pillozzi asked if they were replacing the comfort station, and if so then it is a maintenance project. Dave Szuba said it is beyond repair and needs to be new. Commissioner Paul Dyster stated that if it is a new build then it is considered a capital project. Commissioner Mark Thomas stated that the important thing is that the public needs amenities and this is a capital project not maintenance. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the majority of the members found this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Village of Lewiston- Historic Piper Law Office Welcome Center

The project presentation was made by Bernie Rotella and Bill Geibey. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Town of Lewiston- Sanborn Main Street Streetscape Improvement Project

The project presentation was made by Bernie Rotella, Ryan Smith and Supervisor Steve Reiter. Abby Snyder asked what the linkage was to the Greenway. Bernie Rotella said it is a travel through area from the upper to lower river. Commissioner Ed McDonald asked how much of this project was new construction, and the answer was 80%. Commissioner Mark Thomas and Rob Daly also had issues with connectivity. Supervisor Reiter explained in further detail the connectivity. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the majority of the members found this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Town of Lewiston- Lewiston Plateau Dog Park & Nature Preserve

The project presentation was made by Bernie Rotella, Mike Dachineau and Supervisor Reiter. Commissioner Ed McDonald asked if there was funding for the fence. The answer is yes there is. Commissioner Mark Thomas asked Supervisor Reiter if he had a response to the EDR letter read earlier in the open public comment section. Supervisor Reiter said he was surprised by the letter, he thought he had an understanding with them. After much discussion about this project, Commissioner Mark Thomas asked that the Commission table the discussion and vote for a later date. This motion to table was moved by Commissioner Mark Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Ed McDonald. No vote was taken.

Town of Lewiston- Kiwanis Park Playground Structure Replacement

The project presentation was made by Bernie Rotella, Mike Dachineau and Supervisor Reiter. Commissioner Alice Roth asked what the size of the park/area was. It is around 10 acres. Commissioner Ron Pillozzi asked if they would be adding ADA equipment, which they would. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Town of Lewiston- Sanborn Area Historical Society Improvement Project

The project presentation was made by Bernie Rotella, Gary Townsend and Supervisor Reiter. Commissioner Paul Dyster asked if it was grass land. It is about 17 acres of grass land. Chairman Kresse asked how close this area is to Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. It is about 8 miles from Ontario and 10 miles from the river. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

New Business

No new business.

Public Comment- Open Topics

Thomas Frank, Amherst, New York: Mr. Frank spoke on various subjects.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Ed McDonald seconded by Commissioner Alice Roth. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 5:08 pm.

Alice Roth, Secretary/Rob Belue, Executive Director
Niagara River Greenway Commission