

**Niagara River Greenway – Local Government Advisory
Committee Meeting
December 5' 2006 2:00pm
Beaver Island Clubhouse, Grand Island, NY**

Minutes

The Niagara Greenway Commission Local Government Advisory Committee held its 5th meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. The following, Commission members, local officials and State Legislators were in attendance:

Ron Moline, NRG Commissioner
Robert Kresse, NRG Commission Chairman
Dick Soluri, NRG Commissioner
Paul Leuchner, NRG Commissioner
Jim Ward, Senator Maziarz Office
Monica Pellegrino, Assembly member Sam Hoyt's office
Rob Daly, NYPA
Matthew Balling, NYSDOT
Larry Helwig, Wheatfield
Harvey Albond, Town of Wheatfield
Don Rappold, Lewiston-Porter School District
Warren Kahn, Lewiston-Porter School District
Ron Pilozzi, Mayor City of Tonawanda
Christine Pilozzi, City of Tonawanda
Neil Riordan, Mayor Village of Youngstown
Steven Richards, Town of Niagara
Lawrence Soos, Mayor North Tonawanda
Mary Cooke, Town Board Member of Grand Island
Jeffrey Mis, City of North Tonawanda
Thomas O'Donnell, City of Niagara Falls
Sandra Nasca, City of Buffalo
Sam Ferraro, Niagara County Economic Development

Chairman Ron Moline brought the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Chairman Moline explained the objective of today's meeting is to give the government officials a chance to ask questions regarding the draft plan.

Chairman Moline thanked Mark Mistretta of Wendel Duchscherer for all the hard work his team has provided in preparing the draft plan and introduced him to the group for his presentation.

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A recording of this meeting was made and is available for review at the NRG office at Beaver Island State Park.

Mark Mistretta began by stating that the following presentation is the same as the one made to the full commission at their last meeting on November 21, 2006. An electronic copy of the draft was distributed on November 27th and was made available to the public on November 28th. Following Mark's presentation, Dan Castle made a brief presentation on the SEQR process.

A question and answer period followed:

- Warren Kahn-Lew-Port Attorney
 - Stated the Niagara Power Coalition has been meeting regularly with the greenway committees and presenting information. He introduced Sam Ferraro who wanted to make a statement.
- Sam Ferraro-Commissioner for Niagara County Department of Economic Development and member of the Niagara Power Coalition
 - Read statement on behalf of the NPC-concerned about certain aspects of the plan, see attached. Concerned with narrow boundary. They do not accept or support the Greenway Plan as written.
- Larry Soos-Mayor of North Tonawanda
 - Asked for clarification on the Eastern boundary, primary and secondary
 - Funding-full or matching? Mark Mistretta responded most likely will need matching funds.
 - Not happy with standing committees making funding decisions.
 - Likes the plan.
- Sandy Nasca-City of Buffalo
 - Asked if Mark could go over the process for projects to be accepted. Mark responded that the process has not yet been developed. It is for the standing committees to decide on the process. The commission does not have authorization but the standing committees need to go to them for consultation.

Ron Moline asked Mark to go the municipal approval portion of the presentation. He stated that all municipalities along the waterfront will have to approve the plan before it's accepted. He asked how the approval will be documented. He thought a resolution will be needed from each municipality. He added Rob Belue has offered to go to each individual municipality to meet with the legislators to clarify the process. Harvey Albond commented that it's not a town to town individual approach. It is a regional approach and there should be an intergovernmental meeting to work out the issues.

- Monica Pellegrino-on behalf of Assembly member Sam Hoyt
 - Asked if something could be put into the plan to have the standing committees be required to follow to keep the plan vision in place. Rob Daly responded that all settlements with NYPA require that all projects are consistent with the plan.
- Larry Helwing-Town of Wheatfield

- Asked if projects submitted were priority #1. Dick Soluri responded that this plan should be seen as a “master plan”, and funding will need to be found.
- Harvey Albond-Town of Wheatfield
 - Asked the consultant to consider transportation issues, specifically the Robert Moses Parkway and LaSalle Expressway. Concerned the OZ projects will be impacted with changes to transportation.
- Ron Pillozzi-Mayor of City of Tonawanda
 - Congratulated Mark on a well drafted plan. Concerned with standing committees and who will be make decisions.
 - Stakeholders vs. decision makers concerns
- Gail Walder-Niagara County Environmental Enhancement Council
 - Asked what happens if plan is not approved. Robert Kresse responded that they are planning on it being passed, they are preparing and working toward resolving all the issues so that it will be passed, he couldn't answer for the alternative.
 - Concerned the GEIS did not mention Goat Island as far as any remedial work, asked if it was overlooked.
 - She disagrees with Harvey Albond regarding keeping the Robert Moses Parkway. Felt the complete removal of the RMP should be listed as an option.
- Warren Kahn-Lewiston Porter School District
 - Stated there is an agreement between the Niagara Power Coalition and NYPA, so that if the plan does not get approved with the Greenway Commission, the Niagara Power Coalition will negotiate with NYPA for that money. The bottom line is they feel they will get their money whether the Greenway Plan goes through or not. That is why they feel it is very important for the Greenway Commission to study what they have recommended in the documents they brought today.

Chairman Moline reported that the public hearings were scheduled for December 12, 2006 in Niagara Falls and on December 13, 2006 in Buffalo. The municipal review process is to begin in January. The municipalities should call Rob Belue to set-up individual meetings. The CAC will hold their meeting tonight at 7:00p at the Beaver Island Clubhouse.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.