

Minutes

**The Sixteenth Meeting
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
Grand Island, NY
April 17, 2007 7:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chairman Robert Kresse at 7:03 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, Vice-Chairman
John Giardino, Treasurer
Paul Leuchner, Secretary
Paul Dyster, Commissioner
Louis Ciminelli, Commissioner
Daniel David, NYSDEC
Ron Hayes, NYSDOT
Tom Zyskowski, NYSDOS
Rob Daly, NYPA
Dominic Jacangelo, NYSOPRHP
Rob Belue, Executive Director Niagara River Greenway Commission

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 20, 2007 meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Richard Soluri and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Comments from the Chairman

Robert Kresse reported that at the last meeting adoption of the Niagara River Greenway Plan by the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation was recommended. The public review process leading to a final decision on approval of the plan is currently underway. While this review is underway work will begin on defining the process of consultation and review that will be used by the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The seven member agencies on the Niagara River Greenway Commission were asked to urge public support and implementation of the Niagara River Greenway Plan. The Chairman emphasized that we are one region without boundaries and that vision contained in the Niagara River Greenway Plan serves all.

Committee Reports

Financial Report

John Giardino reported that the fiscal year ended on March 31, 2007. He noted that the total spending for the year was \$70,000 below the budgeted amount. He reported that the budget is currently being audited and the results will be presented at the next meeting.

Event Committee

An update on the planning for Paddles Up 2007 was provided by event chairman Paul Leuchner. The event is scheduled for July 28, 2007 and will take place in the Niagara River within the confines of Beaver Island State Park. Information on the event is being posted to the Niagara River Greenway web page on a continuous basis. A special thanks was extended to Mathew Balling of the New York State Department of Transportation for his creativity and professional skill in developing the layout for the Paddles Up Trail brochure. Chairman Kresse asked about the Paddles Up 2007 budget and Rob Belue responded it is expected to be about \$5,000 which includes about \$1,200 for the Paddles Up Trail brochure.

There have been discussions about a possible health and fitness walk on the Riverview Trail between the old Century Club parking lot and Niagara Falls State Park. Although not yet decided, it is possible that LaSalle Pride will take the lead for the planning of this event with support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Support from the media and the health and fitness community will be needed to make this event a success.

Commissioner Richard Soluri noted that the annual Smelt Festival will take place in Lewiston on May 4, 2007.

Old Business

Dominic Jacangelo reported that on April 4, 2007 the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation issued a Notice of Completion on the Draft Niagara River Greenway Plan and generic environmental impact statement. This date marks the beginning of the thirty day "consideration period" that will end on May 3, 2007.

Commission approval will be expected within 60 days.

The procedures that will be used by the Niagara River Greenway Commission to for project consultation or review are under development and will be available for public comment in the near future. There has been no consultation or review of any project. The public was reminded that anyone can submit a project to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for review or consultation.

New Business

The Commission took up the resolution regarding the appointment and setting of the annual salary of the Executive Director of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Commission Secretary Paul Leuchner read the resolution. Richard Soluri moved to approve the

resolution increasing the annual salary of the Executive Director to \$65,000 and the appointment of Rob Belue as the Executive Director of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul Leuchner and approved unanimously by the Commission members present. Following the approval of this motion the Chairman complimented Rob Belue on his extraordinary abilities and looked forward to his support and guidance as the new Executive Director of the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Commissioner Paul Dyster announced that he is a candidate for the office of Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls. He stated for the record that he has checked the ethics regulations and found that seeking and holding elected office does not present a conflict. However, he plans to confirm this finding with the State Ethics Office.

Public Comment

- Michele Vandstrom : Noted that the Paddles Up Niagara 2007 event will conflict with the date of the Level Regatta in Youngstown, New York
- Thomas Frank- Town of Amherst: Congratulated Rob Belue on his appointment as Executive Director and commented on the upcoming Paddles Up Niagara 2007 event.
- Tom Nowak – Great Lakes Water Institute: He announced that the annual Water Sports Expo will be held on July 21st and 22nd and extended an invitation to the Niagara River Greenway Commission to set up a display at the event.

Next Meeting:

No date was set for the next meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Louis Ciminelli and seconded by Paul Leuchner. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul G. Leuchner, Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission