

Minutes
The 33rd Meeting
Of the
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
Grand Island, NY
March 16, 2010 3:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 3:07 pm. Executive Director Rob Belue 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-Chair & Chair Citizens Advisory Committee
Ron Pilozzi, Chair Local Government Advisory Committee
Ed McDonald, Commissioner
David Hahn-Baker, Commissioner
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Russ Biss, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Christina Orsi, Empire State Development
Rob Daly, NYS Power Authority
Rob Belue, Executive Director Niagara River Greenway Commission

Absent: John Giardino, Commission Treasurer
Alice Roth, Commission Secretary
NYS-DOS
NYS-DOT

There were proxy votes for Commissioner Roth, DOS, and DOT.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 19th, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Ron Pilozzi, seconded by Commissioner Ed McDonald. The meeting minutes were then approved unanimously as submitted.

Comments from the Chairman

Chairman Robert Kresse noted that there was no one signed up for the public comment section on current agenda items for this meeting.

Public Comment- Current Agenda

There were no public comments.

Committee Reports

Financial Report/2010-2011 Budget

Executive Director Rob Belue gave the financial report on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino. As of February 28th the NHT balance was \$2,743.37. A deposit of \$300,000 was made on March 3rd thanks to Senator Thompson. The new balance is \$302,743.37. The expenses in the budget are for salaries, no part-time assistant, office supplies, postage, phone/fax, publications, media, equipment, rent, meetings, travel, web development, etc. The balance is out of \$250,000, with a \$50,000 fund balance left. Chairman Kresse commented that an increased budget allows the Niagara River Greenway Commission to increase public involvement and knowledge of the Niagara River Greenway. A motion to approve the report was made by Commissioner Paul Dyster and seconded by Commissioner Ron Pillozzi.

Paddles Up Niagara 2010 Update

Executive Director Rob Belue gave an update on Paddles Up 2010. This is the 5th Paddles Up Niagara and will be bigger and better than past years. The Boy Scouts of America in Western New York are on board to participate. There will be a poker run and sprint races added this year. At the boat show, the word was spread about the event and the Marine Division of Parks thru the National Association of Boating Law Administration will donate 50 life vests to be used in the raffle and as prizes. The event is set for July 24th.

Commission Emeritus Advisory

Chairman Kresse stated that the past Commissioners participating are Paul Leuchner and Richard Soluri.

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-Niagara Riverkeeper- Niagara Greenway Region Habitat Restoration Strategy

The project presentation was made by Jill Jedlicka. Commissioner Mark Thomas asked if the funding for full-time staff was long term or short term. Jill said it was for a two year plan. Commissioner David Hahn-Baker suggested the Jill look further down stream and for a funding source. Russ Biss asked after the two years who will house the information. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the members were unanimous in their finding this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Forest Lawn Heritage Foundation Charities & Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy- Restoration & Rehabilitation of Scajaquada Creek

The project presentation was made by Joseph Dispenza, Donald Demeo, and Dan Castle. Commissioner Thomas asked what the lineage of the project was. Dan Castle said from Main Street to Delaware Park, about 7 miles. Commissioner David Hahn-Baker stressed this was a very

important project to be done. Commissioner Paul Dyster also was glad to see this project being done. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the majority of members found this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc- Niagara River Greenway Environmental Education Program

The project presentation was made by William Hudson. Russ Biss said it is hard to connect with teachers and educators so how do they plan on doing that. William Hudson said that yes teachers are very busy but they would try a phone network and ???addresses to help get the word out. Russ Bliss also asked if the two year position of the coordinator will be extended and William Hudson said yes they want to keep it. Commissioner Mark Thomas is excited and supportive of the project. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the majority of members found this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

City of Tonawanda- Eastern Park Kayak/Canoe Launch

The project presentation was made by Mayor Ron Pilozzi and associates from Anchor Marine. Russ Biss asked if the docks are held in with pilings and how do you get them out. The presenters stated that they are held in with pilings and they are very easy to take out when needed. Commissioner David Hahn-Baker is looking forward to this project and Commissioner Mark Thomas said making the river accessible is a good thing. Chairman Kresse called for a vote and the majority of members found this project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

New Business

Chairman Kresse announced that David Hahn-Baker was appointed as the new Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Public Comment- Open Topics

Rose-Mary Warren: She wanted to know the protocol for submitting comments on a project in May.

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 Ron Pilozzi. The meeting adjourned unanimously at 4:21 pm.

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