

HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Paul A. Dyster, Mayor. Vice Chairperson
Steve Reiter, Supervisor
Don Rappold, Asst Superintendent, Secretary
Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing
William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature
Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel
Cynthia A. Bianco, Interim Superintendent
Michael Risman, Esq.

City of Niagara Falls
Town of Lewiston
Lewiston-Porter School District
New York Power Authority
Niagara County
Niagara Wheatfield School District
Niagara Falls City School District
Town of Niagara

Guests:

Tom DeSantis
Tom O'Donnell, Esq.
Chris Roser
Tom Burgasser, Esq.
Doug Farley
Melissa Dunlap
Kevin P. O'Brien
Rob Devoe
Mike Johnson
Jackie Siegmann

City of Niagara Falls
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Lewiston-Porter School District
Niagara County
Niagara County – Chas Rand Penney
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Niagara County DPW
Niagara County DPW
Town of Lewiston
Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

John Baird, Treasurer, NPC
Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary
Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody
Samuel M. Ferraro, Executive Director/Commissioner - Niagara County Center for
Economic Development

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Rappold called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Ms. Melloni called the roll; a quorum was established.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Rappold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Nomination/Election of Chairperson

Mayor Dyster arrived to chair the meeting. Mayor Dyster asked if there were any nominations for Chairperson of the HCSC, to replace Mr. Newlin of the Town of Lewiston. Mr. Ross nominated Mr. Rappold, seconded by Ms. Bianco. There were no other nominations; nominations were closed for Chairperson.

Mr. Ross nominated Ms. Bianco for Secretary; seconded by Mr. Daly. There were no other nominations. Nominations for Secretary were closed.

Mayor Dyster asked the members to vote on the slate of officers (Rappold as Chairperson, Dyster as Vice Chairperson, and Bianco as Secretary). Mr. Ross made a motion to approve the slate of officer, seconded by Mr. Hapeman. Motion carried.

5.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

5.1 August 5, 2009

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the August 5, 2009 meeting minutes. Motion was approved.

6.0 Project Presentations

6.1 Niagara County

6.1.1 Niagara County Parks and Greenway Signage Project

Kevin O'Brien of Niagara County Department of Public Works presented the project. He explained that this was the rehabilitation of recreational facilities at two highly utilized parks (Oppenheim Park in the Town of Wheatfield and Krull Park in the Village of Olcott, Town of Newfane). They will also implement a signage system that will enhance the visitor's experience and connect existing parkland resources throughout the Buffalo-Niagara Greenway region. The signage system will allow area residents and visitors to better experience the areas assets and increase access to and connections throughout the Greenway. Total project cost is \$529,240; seeking \$362,935 in Greenway funds.

Mr. Daly asked if there were any other trails under the County's jurisdiction that would fold into this signage project. Mr. O'Brien said that eventually they would like to include the wine trails and others.

Mayor Dyster cited the importance of including the Greenway logo into the signage project.

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Hapeman, to approve the Niagara County Parks and Greenway Signage project for funding in the amount of \$362,935. Motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Project Presentations (Continued...)

6.1.2 The Charles Rand Penney Collection (Niagara County Historical Society)

Mr. Douglas Farley explained that the Niagara County Historical Society is requesting Greenway funding to make structural improvements to the Erie Canal Discovery Center (f/k/a The Hamilton House) in response to the gift of unique artifacts and archive collection of Dr. Charles Rand Penney of art and memorabilia related to the Erie Canal, Lockport, and Niagara County. The funding will provide for the construction of a first class exhibitory and environmentally controlled archival storage and research space to provide public access to the Penney Collection of nearly 5,000 items.

Mr. Farley stated that they have increased the scope of the project to include signage to tie the project into the Greenway trail. \$8,000 in matching funds from the requested \$176,025 will be used for the signage portion of the project. It was requested that the signage funds be incorporated into the proposal.

A motion was made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Ms. Bianco, to approve the request for \$176,025 In Greenway funds for the Charles Rand Penney Collection project. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 City of Niagara Falls

6.2.1 LaSalle Waterfront Park

Mr. DeSantis explained that this project involves transforming the waterfront property located at 6611 Buffalo Avenue (f/k/a the former Century Club property) into a scenic waterfront park. This project will involve two phases: shoreline development by installing a floating dock system, habitat enhancements, and a cantilevered deck along the shoreline; a playground, gazebo and an addition to the existing comfort station for concessions and storage. The second phase will be additional land improvements (security cameras, lights, parking lot, benches, picnic tables, 'green' fencing, etc.). They are requesting \$850,000 in Greenway funds (city's required match) for the project.

Mr. Burgasser asked if the head sign into the park will give credit to the Greenway Recreational and Tourism Fund and be consistent with the signage in the entire County. Mr. DeSantis stated it will and it will also recognize the assistance they receive from the State.

Mr. Widger asked if the consultation with the Greenway Commission was for both phases; Mr. DeSantis stated that it was.

Ms. Bianco made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reiter, to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$850,000 for the LaSalle Waterfront Park project. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2.2 Reallocation of Funds – City of NF Projects

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the 93rd Street Bridge project was completed at a cost of \$66,666, leaving \$72,146 in funds remaining. Gill Creek Park project has experienced some change orders for electrical service and flagpole lighting that will require an additional \$19,500 to the original cost of \$101,790. The City is requesting a reallocation of funds, taking the \$19,500 from the remaining 93rd Street project to the Gill Creek Project. The balance of the funds from 93rd Street would be allocated to the LaSalle Waterfront project (\$52,646). The \$52,646 will be returned to the fund and become a part of the \$850,000 approved for the LaSalle Waterfront project.

Mr. Reiter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daly, to approve the reallocation of the funding as outlined in the February 11, 2010 letter to the HCSC (attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes); the surplus from the project should be re-deposited into the HCSC fund for the City of Niagara Falls and then reallocated. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ross announced that the Annual Meeting of the Niagara Power Coalition will be held on March 29, 2010 at 12 noon.

Mr. Daly stated that Fluent Energy provided the County with a spread sheet on how much the power allocations have saved the County. He asked Fluent to provide the same information to the rest of the members, however, either the members said they didn't want this information or Fluent just will not talk to him about it anymore. Therefore, he suggests that the members, as customers, ask Fluent to provide that information. NYPA would love to use this information to show what they provided to the municipalities.

7.0 Greenway Update

7.1 Minutes of Niagara River Greenway Commission Meetings

Mr. Ferraro indicated that his Staff continues to monitor the Greenway meetings and to provide minutes of the meetings as they take place. Attached are the minutes for previous meetings:

- **November 17, 2009**
- **January 19, 2010**

8.0 New Business – None.

9.0 Next HCSC Meeting: To be Determined

10.0 Adjournment

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daly, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary