

## HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 5, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

### Representatives Present:

Don Rappold, Asst. Supervisor – Chairman, HCSC

Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Tom O'Donnell, Esq.

Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing

William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature

Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel

Michael Risman, Esq.

Steve Reiter, Supervisor

Lewiston-Porter School District

Niagara Falls City School District

City of Niagara Falls

New York Power Authority

Niagara County

Niagara Wheatfield School District

Town of Niagara

Town of Lewiston

### Guests:

Chris Roser, Superintendent

Thomas Burgasser, Esq.

Mike Johnson

Bernie Rotella

Denise Gee

Lewiston-Porter School District

Niagara County

Town of Lewiston

Town of Lewiston

Buffalo News

### Staff Present:

Mary Melloni, Recording Secretary

John M. Baird, Treasurer

Stan Widger, Esq., NPC Counsel, Nixon Peabody (via teleconference)

Samuel M. Ferraro, Executive Director/Commissioner - Niagara County Center for Economic Development

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#### 1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Rappold called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 HCSC Meeting Minutes

##### 4.1 June 2, 2010

*Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Massaro, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2010 meeting. Motion passed.*

##### 4.2 June 18, 2010

*Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Massaro, to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2010 meeting. Motion passed.*

## **5.0 Project Presentations**

### **5.1 Town of Lewiston**

#### **5.1.1 Artpark's Summer Programs Support Project (\$160,000)**

Mr. Bernie Rotella explained that the Town of Lewiston would like to sponsor a celebration and programming project for Artpark. The project support would be for their children's programs, family-oriented programs they hold during the week and on weekends, as well as the concerts and music workshops that Artpark holds all summer. He explained that Artpark is located directly on the Niagara River with connections to five existing trails and a direct connection to the Lewiston Pathway that will be in place very soon. It is in the center of a cultural area as a part of the Niagara Parks along the river, with majestic views of both the upper and lower river, Lake Ontario and is also located by an Indian burial ground. Mr. Rotella stated that Artpark is located within the Village of Lewiston which is also known as the most historical square mile in the county. The programs provided by Artpark are very culturally educating and support the Village of Lewiston. It has a positive impact on the area businesses all summer long, as well as supporting the many jobs in the area and brings in tax revenue for the area.

Mr. Daly asked what is meant by the term "celebration." Mr. Rotella stated it is a general term to describe everything that is going on in Artpark between the workshop and children's programs. It is not an actual event – just a description of these programs.

Mr. Daly asked if the programs are new programs and to what extent are they new? Mr. George Osborne, the President of Artpark, stated that they are not new programs – they are programs that have been threatened by withdrawal of NYS support starting two years ago. They have expanded the programs so the newness is the level and frequency of the programs in spite of the fact that they have lost a quarter of a million dollars in State funding last year. Mr. Daly asked if the programs have been enhanced significantly in the past year and will continue to be and that is what will bring the multiplier effect for economic development. Mr. Osborne stated yes that is the case. He explained that Artpark has a local economic impact of \$4.4 million and they employ 467 part-time seasonal and 137 full time workers; 380 volunteers who contribute 8300 hours of service. Artpark has been dependent on the State budget, however, they are trying to position Artpark so it will not have to be so dependent on the State funding. Some of the things they are doing now are reflective of what Artpark use to do in the 1980's: a weekend with jazz all day one day; reggae rock bands; 15 painters in the park doing visual painting; family weekend with children's activities, etc.

## 5.0 Project Presentations

### 5.1 Town of Lewiston

#### 5.1.1 Artpark's Summer Programs Support Project (\$160,000) Continued...

Mr. Massaro asked if this is recurring (\$160,000 each year) or is it just because of a budget shortfall. Mr. Rotella stated it is just the one time. Mr. Massaro asked if they are getting into a position where Greenway funds could support all of Artpark programming. Mr. Daly stated that the Greenway has already set a precedent allowing those types of things to be endorsed – supporting events of these types. He stated he feels that Artpark has shown enhancement and expansion of their programming since August of 2007 that makes this project eligible.

Chairman Rappold asked Counsel Widger if this project appears to comply with the protocols of the Host Communities Standing Committee. Mr. Widger stated that based upon the timing and the Greenway Commission's determination, the project looks good to go before the Committee for a vote.

***A motion was made by Mr. Massaro, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the Artpark Summer Program Support project for funding in the amount of \$160,000.***

***A roll call vote was taken.***

Town of Lewiston	<u>Yes</u>
Town of Niagara	<u>Yes</u>
Lewiston Porter	<u>Yes</u>
City of Niagara Falls	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara-Wheatfield	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara County	<u>Yes</u>
New York Power Authority	<u>Yes</u>
Niagara Falls Schools	<u>Yes</u>

***The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.***

Supervisor Reiter gave an update on the progress of some of the projects that the Town of Lewiston has funded.

## 5.0 Discussion: "How the Greenway Commission can work Better with the Standing Committees"

Mr. Rappold referred to an attachment that was provided to the members *[which will be attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes]*. He stated that he was invited to a meeting called by Mark Thomas, a Greenway Commissioner. Mr. Ferraro accompanied Mr. Rappold to the meeting; also attending the meeting was Margaret Worster from the Niagara Riverkeepers, Kathy Konst of Erie County, Rob Belue, Executive Director of the Greenway Commission, Rob Daly of the NYPA. At the meeting a discussion was held about how the Greenway Commission could work better with the Standing Committees. Mr. Rappold thanked Rob Daly who was very helpful during the meeting, was very positive and provided a lot of good suggestions.

## **6.0 Discussion: "How the Greenway Commission can work Better with the Standing Committees"**

Mr. Ferraro stated that at the conclusion of this meeting, Mark Thomas asked the representatives who attended the meeting to come back with a one-page response as to how the Greenway Commission can work better with the Standing Committees. After consultation with Chairman Rappold, the attached document that Chairman Rappold just referred to is what they came up with. All of the items are not new issues; these are issues that have come up throughout the Greenway process that should be mentioned again since the HCSC is being solicited for a response. Mr. Ferraro reviewed the four points with the group, asking for comments before it is finalized and forwarded to Mark Thomas.

Mr. Massaro asked, in regards to Item 3, if an individual who is seeking funds must first go to the Standing Committee entity for sponsorship before they go to the Greenway Commission. Mr. Ferraro stated that the HCSC is encouraging that. Mr. Massaro stated that this is a good clarification. He also asked that once the sponsoring entity feels it would be consistent, what would be the next step. Mr. Ferraro stated that they should go to the municipality/school district first so that the Greenway understands that they do have a project sponsor.

A discussion followed regarding an entity going before the Standing Committee before it goes to the Greenway Commission and then returning to the Standing Committee for a final determination. This would involve holding another meeting prior to the Greenway meeting.

Mr. Reiter expressed concern about the number of Niagara County representatives on the Greenway Commission. Many of the members of the commission are unfamiliar with the County and were not familiar with the locations of the projects, which Mr. Reiter stated he felt very uncomfortable with.

It was suggested that a flow chart of the process be put together to show how the Host Communities are going to handle third party requests.

Rob Daly stated that adopting a process where a project consults with the Host Communities first is fine; however, the Host Communities cannot prevent them from going to the Commission without a sponsor. Mr. Daly suggested that his advice is that the Commission needs to stop thinking about funding altogether, because that is not what they are being consulted on. They are being consulted on how a project fits within the plan only. Mr. Massaro stated that he is only suggesting that before the project asks the Greenway for a consistency opinion, the Greenway should require they have a sponsor for the project. This would avoid the problem of the Greenway saying yes and the project not being able to get a sponsor.

Mr. Widger stated that the Greenway should not be at all concerned with funding; however, he feels the Greenway Commission would appreciate knowing that there is a process, especially if the projects never received any funding at all. They should welcome suggestions that those presenting projects to them be queried at the outset whether they are planning to get funding from the HCSC and if that is the case they should be reminded to go to the Standing Committee and get some idea whether there is any funding available, etc.

**6.0 Discussion: “How the Greenway Commission can work Better with the Standing Committees”  
(Continued...)**

Chairman Rappold stated that this will set the stage for the next meeting and many of the issues brought up with this group can be discussed at the second meeting with the Greenway and anyone who would like to join him and Mr. Ferraro are welcome. Mr. Rappold asked that Mr. Ferraro’s staff put together a final draft, provide it to Mary to email it to all members for a straw vote. Once everyone’s approval is received a hard copy with a cover letter will be sent to Mark Thomas.

***Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reiter, to approve Chairman Rappold’s suggestion to poll members and forward the statement on with a cover letter to Mr. Thomas. Motion passed.***

**7.0 Niagara River Greenway Commission Meeting Minutes**

**7.1 July 20, 2010**

Mr. Ferraro explained that these are informational only and his staff continues to attend the Greenway meetings and provide minutes of the meetings.

**8.0 Next HCSC Meeting: TBD**

**9.0 Adjournment**

Mr. Hapeman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reiter, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary P. Melloni  
Recording Secretary