

HOST COMMUNITIES

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 – 2:00 p.m.

Niagara County Department of Economic Development

6311 Inducon Corporate Drive

Sanborn, New York 14132

Representatives Present:

Carmen Granto, Superintendent

Thomas O'Donnell, Esq.

Donald Rappold, Interim Superintendent

Rob Daly, Special Advisor, Relicensing

William L. Ross, Chairman, NC Legislature

Scott Hapeman, Esq., Counsel

Fred M. Newlin, Supervisor

Steven Richards, Supervisor

Niagara Falls City School District

City of Niagara Falls

Lewiston-Porter School Dist

New York Power Authority

Niagara County

Niagara Wheatfield School District

Town of Lewiston

Town of Niagara

Guests:

Renata Kraft

Aaron Besecker

Julie O'Neil

Chuck Bell

Barbara Montante

Courtney Schafer

Robert Laub

Warren Kahn, Esq.

Tom Burgasser, Esq.

Andrea McNulty, Legislator

Angelo Massaro, Esq.

Jay Ryan, Esq.

Rick Chase

Robert Fluskey, Esq.

Michael Risman, Esq.

Bergmann Associates

Buffalo News

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, NREC

City of North Tonawanda

HSBC

HSBC

Lewiston Porter School District

Lewiston Porter School District

Niagara County

Niagara County Legislature

Niagara Falls City School District

NYPA

NYPA

Town of Lewiston

Town of Niagara

Staff Present:

Charles Miller, President

John Baird, Treasurer

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

Chairman Granto called the Host Communities Standing Committee meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

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

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Granto led the pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

4.1 March 20, 2008

4.2 April 1, 2008

Mr. Rappold made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the meeting minutes of March 20 and April 1, 2008. Motion passed.

5.0 City of North Tonawanda

5.1 Gratwick Park Phase I Project

Mr. Ross, as Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature, introduced Legislator Andrea McNulty from the City of North Tonawanda, who is also Chair of the County Ad Hoc Committee dealing with Parks, Recreation and Green Space.

Ms. McNulty introduced Chuck Bell, of the Lumber City Development Corporation in the City of North Tonawanda and Ms. Kraft of Bergmann Associates, representatives for the Gratwick Park Phase I Project.

Mr. Bell stated that this project is a result of a community effort to determine how to better use Gratwick Park. This encompasses one mile of waterfront on the Niagara River that is wide open and under-utilized. He indicated that they received a lot of public input, held numerous public hearings and created a steering committee. Mr. Bell indicated that they are not requesting the \$11 million dollars that the project will entail over a number of years. This year they are focusing very specifically on Phase I (Family Services or Transitional Area). Mr. Bell identified two priorities: development of a natural play area in the Family Services Area next to the current boat launch, and construction of a handicap-accessible fishing pier built in connections with the existing revetment just northwest of the boat launch. Their request is for \$248,600 to see this phase of the project become a reality. *[Project Application is attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.]*

Mr. Bell invited questions and comments.

Q. How far out does the fishing pier go?

A. Ms. Kraft indicated that at this point they do not have any data as they have not begun detail design; they need to look at where the drop-off is, they are also looking at enhancing all the pockets, they need to determine depths and they would like to change the entire service transition areas. One of the real concerns is the area behind where they would like to increase the vegetation and create habitats to increase the fishing experience.

Mr. Ross stated that the County's ad hoc committee unanimously approved this project; the Niagara County Legislature as a whole approved the project unanimously.

5.0 City of North Tonawanda

5.1 Gratwick Park Phase I Project (Continued...)

- Q. Is the remaining of the funding for Phase I in place?
A. Mr. Bell indicated that they also submitted an application for additional funding to the Environmental Protection Fund.
- Q. If that funding is not approved, will the project still move forward.
A. Mr. Bell indicated that yes, it would.
- Q. Is the \$248,600 from Niagara County's 2007 Greenway funds?
A. Mr. Ross indicated yes, it is.

Mr. Ross made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newlin, to approve the Gratwick Riverside Park Phase I project, utilizing \$248,600 of Niagara County's 2007 portion of the Greenway Funds.

Chairman Granto asked Mr. Burgasser to review the procedure that will occur if this project is approved. Mr. Burgasser stated that if the protocol as presented today is approved, since the County has approved the project and the amount to be distributed, the County will then request a check in that amount from the Host Community bank account that is being established today. The County will be responsible for insuring that the project is done properly and audited, and payments disbursed correctly. Mr. Burgasser indicated that on May 20, 2008 the Niagara River Greenway Commission unanimously approved this project. *[A copy of the minutes of that Greenway Commission meeting will be attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.]* Chairman Granto stated that it should be stated in all applications that the project has been before the Niagara River Greenway Commission and approved as such. *[Also attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes is a resolution passed by Niagara County approving the Gratwick Riverside Park project.]*

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed 8 – 0.

6.0 Standing Committee Protocol – Discussion

Chairman Granto referred to the protocol that was included with the agenda packet. *[A copy of the protocol (version 5/22/08) will be attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.]* He asked if there were any comments, questions or concerns regarding the document.

Mr. Newlin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve the Standing Committee Protocol (version 5/22/08) as submitted.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed 8 – 0.

Comments

Mr. Newlin stated that in approving these protocols two main objectives were reached—one check will be issued to the Host Community Fund and the group will make a concerted effort to reach consensus on projects and if that cannot be achieved it will go to a majority vote.

Mr. Ross stated that there have been three milestones reached: On January 27, 2005 the 50-year Relicensing agreement was signed; on September 1, 2007, the energy began to flow, and today, May 28, 2008, it is a green day!

Chairman Granto thanked all his colleagues on the committee and stated that although it was difficult at times, it was always courteous, respectful and always in the best interests of each entity. He stated he would like to especially thank NYPA for their involvement for the past 12 or more years. Their vision and expertise in the area of power, and their commitment to the community was demonstrated even before these negotiations started. Chairman Granto thanked Rob Daly and Rick Chase, noting that Mr. Chase has always given his word and never failed to keep it and the County and all the districts are appreciative of this.

Mr. Chase stated that although this was a long process, the document represents what, in the spirit of compromise, they could all live with. He stated that he feels it also reflects some of the things that NYPA and all of the Host Communities wanted—transparency, consistency with the Greenway Plan, and some checks, balances and accountability.

7.0 Greenway Update

7.1 Greenway Commission Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2008

Mr. Ferraro stated that his staff continues to attend the Greenway Commission meetings, as evidenced by the attached minutes provided for the Committee's review and information.

8.0 Other Matters

City of Niagara Falls

Mr. O'Donnell distributed a CD of the three projects that the City of Niagara Falls will be presenting at the next meeting of the Host Community Standing Committee. He indicated that the three projects are the LaSalle Blueway Trail (canoe trail), the Jayne Park Restoration (park on Cayuga Island), and the Riverview Trail Comfort Stations.

8.0 Next HCSC Meeting:

Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m.

The NPC meeting will follow and Mr. Ross asked that Mr. Newlin be prepared to discuss the disposition of the Niagara Power Coalition at that meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

Mr. Newlin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ross to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary P. Melloni
Recording Secretary