

The Niagara Parks Commission

Minutes of the public meeting of The Niagara Parks Commission held on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

Attendance

Members: Vice-Chair Graham Coveney
Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe
Commissioner Natasha DiCienzo
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
Commissioner Wayne Redekop
Commissioner Ted Salci
Commissioner Erwin Wiens (via Zoom)

Regrets: Chair Bob Gale

Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission
Marcelo Gruosso, Chief Operating Officer
Steve Barnhart, Senior Director, Planning Environment and Culture
Paul Forcier, Chief of Police
Chris Giles, Senior Manager, Communications and Marketing
Laura Pingue, Director of Finance/Controller
Janice Spino, Chief Human Resources Officer
Katy Wassenaar, Manager, Public Affairs
Darla Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chair and CEO/Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Coveney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Approval of Agenda

The following motion was moved by Commissioner La Caprara and seconded by Commissioner Insinna:

That the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Coveney provided the following land acknowledgement:

The Niagara Parks Commission wishes to acknowledge and honour the lands along the Niagara River corridor as the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples. In both spirit and partnership, we recognize and thank the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek, the Neutral Nation, and all who provided stewardship of these lands over millennia. Recognition of the contributions of Indigenous peoples is consistent with our commitment to making the promise of Truth and Reconciliation real in our communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and play here and thank all those who have served and continue to serve as caretakers of this special place.

5. Chair's Opening Remarks

Vice-Chair Coveney requested that the recording secretary read aloud the names of Commissioners and staff around the table.

The Vice-Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided the following remarks:

"Looking back at the last few weeks since our August meeting, on Saturday and Sunday, August 10-11 we hosted another successful battle reenactment weekend at Old Fort Erie – the largest battle reenactment in Canada. Hundreds of reenactors travel across North America to participate in this annual event. On August 24, Chair Gale and CEO David Adames led a tour of the Niagara Parks Power Station for a group of 25 Consul Generals from the Consular Corps in Toronto. The tour was facilitated through the Niagara Economic Development Team and the group also attended the World Rowing Championships Nations Dinner that evening. On Sunday, August 25, Chair Gale attended the Sree Krishna Janmashtami celebration at Oakes Garden Theatre. Wednesday, August 28, we partnered with Susannah Goshko, the British High Commissioner to Canada and Consul-General Fouzia Younis to host a spectacular reception at Table Rock to celebrate the 60th diamond season of the Red Arrows. Both Chair Gale and Mayor Diodati spoke at the event and I know there were some Commissioners in attendance as well. The Red Arrows were scheduled to do a flyover of the Falls that evening; however, it was cancelled due to weather. Despite that, the event was a great success and very well attended. A big thank you to everyone involved in the planning and execution of that event at Table Rock. Labour Day weekend marked the final long weekend of the summer season and once again we saw strong visitation with Sunday being the busiest, followed closely by Saturday. In keeping with our holiday road closure schedule, the Niagara Parkway and Clifton Hill were closed to vehicular traffic both Saturday and Sunday evening beginning at 7pm. These road closures help to increase

safety for pedestrians and cut down on traffic and congestion by the Falls during higher visitation weekends. Labour Day was also the final day of operations for our Niagara's Fury 4D attraction at Table Rock Centre. This attraction opened in 2008 and has since reached the end of its lifecycle due to the aging technology. Construction is now officially beginning to prepare for the new attraction set to open in the summer of 2025. A series of communications were sent about this project, including our call for volunteers to participate in the filming for the new attraction on certain dates. Commissioners should have also received information about this as well. Effective September 3, Niagara Parks officially took over operation of the WEGO Blue Line. We now operate both the WEGO Green and Blue Lines, ensuring guests have access to an integrated public transit system in the destination. Our team worked with the Niagara Transit Commission on the roll-out of these changes to help ensure a smooth transition. Tomorrow, Niagara Parks is hosting a launch event for a new book entitled, *Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist*, which we'll hear more about in a moment during our first presentation. Continuing on, as part of our protocol, we do not permit questions from the public during the meeting proceedings. However, questions are always welcome and can be submitted through our Guest Services Centre by email to info@niagaraparks.com. These will be passed along to Darla who will ensure a response is provided. In addition to in-person meetings, public sessions are also recorded and made available on our website, along with the presentation files and relevant reports."

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

The following motion was moved by Commissioner Cotton and seconded by Commissioner Salci:

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the minutes from the August 8, 2024 Public Commission meeting.

Carried.

7. Presentations

7.1 Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist Book Launch

Tim Johnson, Senior Advisor, Heritage and Legacy, provided an overview presentation respecting the *Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist* Book. The book launch event will be held on Friday September 13, 2024, 1:00 pm at Old Fort Erie Visitor Centre.

The following motion was moved by Commissioner DeWolfe and seconded by Commissioner Cotton:

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Receive the presentation respecting Landscape of Nations: Beyond the Mist Book Launch for information.

Carried.

7.2 Business Highlights

David Adames provided a presentation respecting Niagara Parks' Business Highlights.

The following motion was moved by Commissioner Diodati and seconded by Commissioner La Caprara:

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Receive the Business Highlights presentation for information.

Carried.

8. Item from Property and Infrastructure Committee

The following motion was moved by Commissioner DiCienzo and seconded by Commissioner Salci:

That The Niagara Parks Commission approve the recommendation contained in Report 2024-98 Summary of Recommendations from the Property and Infrastructure Committee respecting the following matter:

1. Smuggler's Cove Boat Club License Agreement Renewal (Report 2024-87)

Carried.

9. Other Business

There were no items under other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday October 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

11. Closed Session

11.1 Resolution to Move to Closed Session

The following motion was moved by Commissioner DeWolfe and seconded by Commissioner La Caprara:

That The Niagara Parks Commission move into the Closed Session.

Carried.

The Commission moved into the Closed Session at 9:39 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Members: Vice-Chair Graham Coveney
Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe
Commissioner Natasha DiCienzo
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
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Graham Coveney
Vice-Chair

David Adames
Chief Executive Officer/
Secretary to the Commission

Darla Jones
Executive Assistant to the Chair and
CEO/Recording Secretary

September 12, 2024