



The Niagara Parks Commission

Minutes of the public meeting of The Niagara Parks Commission held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Attendance

Members: Chair Bob Gale
Vice Chair Graham Coveney
Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
Commissioner Wayne Redekop
Commissioner Ted Salci
Commissioner Erwin Wiens

Regrets: Commissioner Natasha DiCienzo

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, Director, 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

Chair Gale 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 Salci and seconded by Commissioner La Caprara:

That the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Gale 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

Chair Gale requested that the recording secretary read aloud the names of Commissioners in attendance at the virtual meeting.

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

"Good morning, everyone and welcome to our February public Commission Meeting. Since our last meeting on January 16, it's been a few weeks of traditional winter weather – icy cold temperatures and plenty of snow. This has resulted in the "Frozen Falls" phenomenon where ice formations collect around the Falls, which always draws both guests and media attention to capture photos. On Saturday, January 18, we hosted another successful Cool as Ice Icewine Gala in partnership with the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival – this has been the third year we have hosted the event at the Niagara Parks Power Station. On January 23, we hosted a retirement reception at Oak Hall for Inspector Chris Gallagher. Many colleagues, family and friends gathered to congratulate Chris and wish him well in his retirement. On January 25 and 26th, the Niagara Falls Illumination Board united Buffalo Bills fans on both sides of the border with a special illumination of the Falls in blue, red and white to support the Bills in the AFC Championship game. Though they didn't pull off the win, the illumination was a great example the special binational relationship that exists with the Niagara Falls Illumination Board. Later this month, on February 24, the Illumination Board will mark its 100th anniversary. This weekend begins a series of family-friendly programming across Niagara Parks to celebrate Family Day weekend and the upcoming March Break. We'll hear more about these and other events in David's Business Highlights presentation in a moment."

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the minutes dated January 16, 2025 (COMM-2025-02).

Carried.

7. Presentations

Business Highlights

David Adames provided a presentation respecting Niagara Parks Business Highlights.

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Receive the Business Highlights presentation for information.

Carried.

Environmental Stewardship Update

Steve Barnhart provided a presentation respecting Environmental Stewardship Update.

The following motion was moved by Vice Chair Coveney and seconded by Commissioner Salci:

That The Niagara Parks Commission;

1. Receive the Environmental Stewardship Update for information.

Carried.

8. Item from Golf Committee

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the recommendations as contained in Report 2025-17 Summary of Recommendations from the Golf Committee respecting the following matter:
 - a) Battlefield Golf Course Path Replacement – Progress Update (Report 2025-06)

Carried.

9. Items from Governance, Ethics and Human Resources Committee

The following motion was moved by Vice Chair Coveney and seconded by Commissioner Diodati:

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the recommendations as contained in Report 2025-18 Summary of Recommendations from the Governance, Ethics and Human Resources Committee respecting the following matters:
 - a) Public Art Policy (Report 2025-09)
 - b) Working for Workers Five and Six Act, 2024 – Update (Report 2025-11)

Carried.

10. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Thursday March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

12. Closed Session

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission move into Closed Session.

Carried.

The Commission moved into the Closed Session at 9:46 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Members: Chair Bob Gale
Vice Chair Graham Coveney



Commissioner April Cotton
Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe
Commissioner Jim Diodati
Commissioner Tom Insinna
Commissioner Dan La Caprara
Commissioner Wayne Redekop
Commissioner Ted Salci
Commissioner Erwin Wiens

Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission
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Bob Gale
Chair

David Adames
Chief Executive Officer/
Secretary to the Commission

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