



## The Niagara Parks Commission

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Minutes of the public meeting of The Niagara Parks Commission held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the School of Horticulture, 2565 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6T2.

### Attendance

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

Regrets: Commissioner Wayne Redekop

Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission  
Marcelo Gruosso, Chief Operating Officer  
Paul Forcier, Police Chief  
Chris Giles, Director, Sales, Communications and Marketing  
Laura Pingue, Chief Financial Officer  
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.

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

“Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our October Public Commission Meeting. Over the past three weeks since our last meeting, we held our annual Majestic Monarchs species preservation event here on the grounds of the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens. This is a popular, free, family-friendly event that allows the public to help tag and release monarch butterflies to assist with monitoring their migration journey and understanding how these pollinators are adapting to our environment and determine the actions needed to protect their habitat. Over 300 Monarchs were released over the weekend. Also at the Botanical Gardens, earlier this week we held a sod turning event for the Children’s Garden. This is an important milestone for the project as it moves to detailed design this fall and construction beginning next year. The event was attended by board members, donors, media and Foundation supporters, along with over 40 students from the Victoria Public School in Niagara Falls. On September 30, for National Truth and Reconciliation Day, we hosted a march attended by Grade 11 students from the Niagara Catholic District School Board and members of the public. The walk started at Niagara Parks Power Station along the Parkway and ended at Oakes Garden Theatre with a program including guest speaker Dr. Josh Manitowabi who spoke about the meaning behind truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. I was pleased to attend this event along with Commissioner La Caprara. On October 4, I attended the CanAm binational cycling event at Freedom Park in Fort Erie. This event was a great opportunity to highlight our relationship with the Niagara Greenway Commission and the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Commission. We also unveiled a new binational trail icon that will be installed on both sides of the border to help identify our cross-border trail networks. With that, we’ll now continue with the rest of our public meeting.”

**6. Approval of Draft Minutes**

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission:

1. Approve the minutes dated September 18, 2025 (COMM-2025-17).

Carried.

**7. Presentations**

Business Highlights

David Adames provided a presentation respecting Business Highlights.

Staff were asked to look into a Michelin star designation for Table Rock Restaurant.

The Niagara Parks Commission received the Business Highlights presentation for information.

**8. Other Business**

There were no items for other business.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

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

**10. Closed Session**

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

That The Niagara Parks Commission moved into the Closed Session at 9:24 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Members:

- Chair Bob Gale
- Vice Chair Graham Coveney
- Commissioner April Cotton
- Commissioner Spencer DeWolfe (virtually)
- Commissioner Jim Diodati
- Commissioner Tom Insinna
- Commissioner Dan La Caprara
- Commissioner Ted Salci
- Commissioner Erwin Wiens (virtually)



Staff: David Adames, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary to the Commission  
Marcelo Gruosso, Chief Operating Officer  
Paul Forcier, Police Chief  
Chris Giles, Director, Sales, Communications and Marketing  
Laura Pingue, Chief Financial Officer  
Darla Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chair and CEO/Recording Secretary

Carried.

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Bob Gale  
Chair

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David Adames  
Chief Executive Officer/  
Secretary to the Commission

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

October 9, 2025