



Friday, March 13, 2026

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, 726 Exchange St., Suite 525, Buffalo, NY

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Daniel Castle (Erie County), Kevin Kelly (Olmsted), Thomas Baines, Esq. (City of Buffalo) and Carol Jasen Sampson (NYPA)

Also in attendance were:

Mike Vogel- Buffalo Lighthouse Association
Jeanne Beiter- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Catie Stephenson- Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Darren Kempner- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
Erin Griffis- Niagara River Greenway Commission
Ba Zan Lin- Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Jean McKeown - Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

1. Call to Order

Chair Castle called the meeting to order 8:31 am.

2. Roll Call and Remarks

Secretary Sampson took roll call.

3. Approval of the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Castle asked if there were any amendments to the minutes.

Motion made by member Kevin Kelly and seconded by member Thomas Baines, the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes were adopted unanimously (4-0).

4. Public Comment (reserved for agenda items only)

NONE

5. Project Funding Determination(s)

Chair Castle remarked that the Committee annually receives \$2 million. Due to unallocated funds from last year and investments led by Vice-Chair Kevin Kelly, additional funds were made available, affording the Committee to award an additional project.

After the February 19th project presentations, the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Fund Standing Committee evaluated the eight (8) project applications and selected the following projects to receive 2026 Greenway grant awards:

- 1) **Buffalo Lighthouse Association**: South Buffalo Lighthouse Roof Replacement: **\$175,000**
- 2) **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper**: Blueway Beyond Connections- Phase 3 : **\$324,094**
- 3) **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy**: South Park Clubhouse Enhancement Project-Phase 2: **\$985,000**
- 4) **County of Erie**: Isle View Enhancement Project- Phase 3: **\$450,000**
- 5) **County of Erie**: Two Mile Creek and Sherwood Trail Renovation Project: **\$350,000**
- 6) **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority**: Bicycle & Pedestrian Access to DL&W Station via Shoreline Trail: **\$323,034**

Chair Castle stated that two projects from Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy were not funded since construction would not start until next year. He added it is anticipated that Olmsted will submit these projects for consideration of 2027 Greenway funds.

Seeking a motion to award 2026 Greenway grant awards to the stated six applicants and projects.

A motion was made by member Thomas Baines and seconded by member Kevin Kelly, the six (6) 2026 Greenway project funds were unanimously awarded (4-0).

6. Other Business

Chair Castle asked Jean McKeown the process for the grantees to receive the awarded funds. She stated that award letters from Chair Castle will be sent within the next couple of weeks. After that, meetings with each grantee will be scheduled to develop a Project Plan which will allow the funds to get allocated.

7. Next Meeting

Chair Castle stated that the next meeting date has yet to be determined and anticipates that it will be held late summer.

8. Adjournment

Chair Castle requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion made by member Thomas Baines and seconded by member Kevin Kelly to adjourn today's meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 am.