

Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 22, 2005, Noon
Isle of Capri Convention Center
Rio de Janeiro Room
1777 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, Iowa

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Steve Grimes	Ms. Emilie Price*
Mr. Ralph Heninger*	Ms. Patsy Ramacitti
Mr. Charles Heston	Mayor Vern Spring
Mr. Tim Huey	Mr. Joe Taylor*
Mr. Larry Jones	Mr. Jim Welling
Mr. William Nelson	Ms. Kathy Wine

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille	Mr. Tom Peterson
Mr. Shay Doyle	

***Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. He asked for introductions and mentioned the SCRA and RDA lists of fall grant recipients.
2. Approval of the September 27, 2005 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes. The minutes of the September 27, 2005 Council meeting were approved as written.
3. Individual Riverfront Reports.

Bettendorf. Mr. Grimes mentioned the event center and hotel development were moving forward, as well as the Q.C. Realtors building. Mr. VanDyke would like to give a presentation to the Council at a future meeting. The City received earmarked funding for the MRT and has asked for the earmark in FFY '06.

Davenport. Mr. Heston indicated a correction was needed to the September 27, 2005 meeting minutes; Davenport's Comprehensive Plan was in the last draft and had not been adopted by the City. Work is continuing on the East River Drive retaining wall. An upcoming ceremony will be held to recognize the donation by Mel Foster Jr. of the Zenith Property between Credit Island Lane and South Concord Street. The Park and Recreation Department is working to convert a vacant Park Programming Supervisor position to fill a Naturalists position for Nahant Marsh. A downtown MARKET Study recommends converting part of the Freight House into a Market and integrating housing into the downtown. Two community gateways have gone out for bid and the Skate Park will be going out for bid shortly.

LeClaire. Mayor Spring announced the levee project is now complete with help from River Action. Work is finished on the interchange off of Interstate 80. There are three new retail establishments next to Sneaky Pete's. Christmas in LeClaire will be held on December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of this year.

National MRPC. Ms. Ramacitti stated National Scenic Byway grants in Iowa are due December 30, 2005. The state will review the applications prior to submitting to FHWA on March 10th, 2006. Illinois' deadline for National Scenic Byway grant applications to the State is January 2, 2006. Signs for the Great River Road National Scenic Byway interpretive centers are scheduled to be completed in December and then will need to be installed. Interpretive Center brochures will be coming out as well.

OCCVB. Ms. Taylor reported the Wayfinding signage study process is moving forward. Working on preparations for Bald Eagle Days. The Quad City Development Group's annual lobbying trip to Washington D.C. is March 8th, 9th and 10th of 2006. Finalizing the 2005 Birding Symposium and working to arrange RAGBRAI to end in Scott County.

RiverAction. Ms. Wine announced The Rocket Theater in Rock Island will be showing Rock Island Lines in recognition of the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River.

Rock Island. Mr. Nelson noted the Armory Park design is moving forward. Work has been completed on the 44th Street entryway. The 20th Street overlook is finished. Court proceedings have been finalized on buildings at the future site of Sylvan Island Park. Reclamation work will begin to redevelop the site in spring of 2006 with completion anticipated by September 2006. The City is awaiting word on an ITEP grant application for the West Rock River Bridge trail connection on the north side. Mr. Dan Carmody is retiring and moving to Fort Wayne, Indiana; he is being replaced by Dave Thoms.

Scott County. Mr. Huey reported the Scott County Watershed Partnership is participating in a program to sign the creeks in Scott County. The project is an attempt to raise public awareness as to the location and value of the creeks, streams and watersheds in the County and reduce pollution.

US Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Jones announced Blackhawk had withdrawn its permit request for fleeting near Interstate 280. The Davenport Gaming Boat applied for a permit to move the boat upstream to the former location of "The Dock" restaurant. He added the Corps will not get involved with overriding any local zoning codes or ordinances; the Corps looks at the merits of the levee not the use of the land, and at this point Davenport is okay with the move. An application has been submitted for docks and a marina to be placed near the new Holiday Inn Express Hotel in LeClaire. The Regulatory Department at the Corps is always willing to provide presentation to groups upon request and when available.

4. Program – RiverWay 2006 Celebration. Ms. Wine stated planning for the 2006 Celebration began after the 2004 Grand Excursion. The 2006 Celebration, entitled "Bridging the River, Connecting the Continent" Celebrating Life on the Mississippi is being planned as a more

local and Quad Cities Area region event, rather than a national affair. Marketing strategies are directed toward bringing people from about a 200-mile radius to the Quad Cities with a target audience from 22-44 years of age. Emphasis is being placed on quality of life, maximum use for economic development opportunities. There is the possibility to incorporate Silvis' Centennial into the Celebration. The City of Rock Island is leading the pursuit to bring the Friends of 261 Steam Train back for the September 14-18, 2006 event. It will be a different type of festival with a focus on various means of transportation connections and the importance of the first bridge in an eventual transcontinental link. Museum and commemorative exhibits and a hologram of the first bridge displayed on fog are among some of the ideas being discussed. Others include train and boat excursions to Muscatine and Geneseo and programs for Monday to promote Sunday night hotel stays. Mr. Nelson suggested including the Rare Mileage Riders, a group of train enthusiasts who ride trains on unique routes. Mr. Huey recommended possible theme train rides such as a Blues Cruise train excursion.

5. 18th National Trails Symposium. Mr. Taylor indicated planning for the Symposium was going very well. The next meeting is 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 9, 2006 at the River Center in Davenport. The planning team is working to ensure the conference is provocative, insightful, addresses controversial and challenging trail issues, and has value. It is anticipated the Symposium will attract about 600 attendees.
6. 2005 Certificates of Appreciation. Mr. DeLille referred the Council to the Guidelines, Nomination form and List of Past Recipients included with their agenda packets. Mr. Taylor encouraged the Council to submit nominations and indicated there have been a number of accomplishments during the year worthy of recognition. Some suggestions for project nominations were: completing the trail gap from Davenport to Leach Park in Bettendorf, the improvements to LeClaire's levee, and Great River Road Interpretive Center sign placement in both Illinois and Iowa.
7. Arrangements for Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 24, 2006. The group discussed finding a permanent location for the QCRFC meetings. Possibly meet at one site in Iowa for a period of time and then move to an Illinois location for an equal amount of meetings. Mr. Heninger made a motion for the QCRFC to conduct all their 2006 meetings at the Isle of Capri Convention Center; and unless the Council chooses or needs to select an alternate site, arrangements be made with the Isle of Capri Convention Center to accommodate the Council's 2006 meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Huey and passed by unanimous consent.
8. Other Business. Mr. Taylor asked for cooperation from the members in providing a state of the riverfront report.
9. Adjournment. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.