

Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 24, 2006, Noon
Isle of Capri Convention Center
Rio de Janeiro Room
1777 Isle Parkway, Bettendorf, Iowa

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Steve Clark	Mr. Chris Mathias
Ms. Trudy DeWilford	Ms. Patti McElroy
Mr. Steve Grimes	Ms. Emilie Price*
Mr. John Gripp	Ms. Patsy Ramacitti
Mr. Ralph Heninger*	Mayor Vern Spring
Mr. Charles Heston	Mr. Joe Taylor*
Mr. Tim Huey	Ms. Kathy Wine

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Larry Dhoogy	Ms. Patty Pearson
Mr. Jon Nolan	Mr. Tom Peterson
Mr. John Oberhouse	Mr. Jim Slavens

***Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. He asked for introductions around the table.
2. Approval of the November 22, 2005 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes. The minutes of the November 22, 2005 Council meeting were approved as written.
3. Program by Mr. Ed Choate – LeClaire’s Downtown Redevelopment Plans – Mr. Choate gave a brief history of the City of LeClaire Downtown Development Plan. Planning started about 1986 when the riverfront consisted of a lot of fill dirt and debris and a sewer plant. The Levee Commission was founded at about the same time. It took about five years with the help of River Action and the Lakota Group to develop a plan. In 2005 Phase One of the Plan was completed. From the Civic Club to the north, 6,500 ft of permeable paving was installed to give better access to the riverfront. In 2006 plans are to try to reverse the vehicular corridor and make it a more pedestrian friendly corridor. However, the DOT will not allow angled parking along U.S. 67. Create two access points to the riverfront. Continue to develop bike trail plans. Develop architectural preservation/historic preservation ordinances. Options have been looked at to create a pedestrian overpass over the railroad and it is not feasible at this time. Funding has come from the TIF District capturing the increment on the new residential development, local option sales tax and general obligation debt.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports.

Bettendorf. Mr. Grimes mentioned construction has started on the event center and hotel development, as well as the Q.C. Realtors building. Mr. VanDyke would still like to give a presentation to the Council at a future meeting. He also mentioned the bike trail from Leach Park to Duck Creek Park.

Cordova. The Village Board is creating a two four-year strategic plan. The new Village Hall is in the planning stage. The Shamrock has new owners with the bar area opening in January and the restaurant opening later this year. There is some new residential growth to the north of town.

Davenport. Mr. Heston indicated Davenport's Comprehensive Plan is complete and has been adopted by the City. Work will resume in the spring on the East River Drive retaining wall. Mel Foster Corp. has donated the 27-acre Zenith Property between Credit Island Lane and South Concord Street and \$100,000 for a boat dock pier. Two community gateways (2nd & Gaines and 53rd & Welcome Way) have gone out for bid. The Skate Park bids were all rejected. Levee Commission is undergoing a two year reorganization and has received \$250,000 from the City from gambling proceeds.

DavenportOne. Mr. Henninger reported on progress on the Market District and Freight House conversion.

LeClaire. Mayor Spring reported that the whole City will have wireless internet access if they get grant funds.

Moline. Ms. McElroy said the Sylvan Island Group is applying for the Scenic ByWay State Grant. An RFP for a developer for the area of 5th Avenue and 12th Street is in process. The City is looking at mixed use in that area. River Drive – Condos are in Phase II. Working on a river-to-river corridor design along 19th and 27th Streets. Looking at these areas as bike/pedestrian corridors.

Muscatine. Mr. Oberhouse reported there is a new skate park and Discovery Center in Musser Park. Switch yards have been removed. There is a new River Center and Freight house. There will be a future laser lighting demo on the bridge by Musco. The new jail has been built and Second Street has been renovated. The City has purchased an old Hon building.

National MRPC. Ms. Ramacitti stated nine National Scenic Byway grants have been submitted. Five were funded in 2005 with money spread over five years. Eleven Signs for the Great River Road National Scenic Byway interpretive centers have been installed. Muscatine will be done soon. Interpretive Center brochures are at the printers. She also reported on Mississippi River Country that has a new marketing plan and website with links.

QCCVB. Ms. Taylor reported the 2006 Iowa Travel Guide has been released with the Figge on the front and a printing of 200,000. The Bureau is participating in the Iowa Tourism Showcase. The Tourism budget has been cut to \$3 million from \$5 million. Meetings will be starting for QC Bicycle Week of June 10th. The Great river Trail guide will be out in June. March 22-23 is a Trails Symposium meeting. February 3rd is the Bicycle Summit with Joe presenting. JOD and the Swing will be starting their season soon. 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 Henry Farnham Dinner is February 22nd. 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. She mentioned plans for a ghost bridge on a water screen, storytellers and exhibits. September 14-18, 2006 there are plans for the return of the 261 Steam Train, and riverboats to showcase what is happening on the River. They would like to coordinate a job fair with these events in the future. She mentioned the Iowa Recreation Trails Grant for the Bettendorf to Princeton project.

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. A sign is in place at I-74 by the Duck Creek. Scott County broke ground on the Courthouse expansion project.

5. Election of Officers. The Council voted to re-nominate the slate of Joe Taylor, President; Emilie Price, Vice President; and Ralph Henniger, Secretary/Treasurer and re-elect them for one more year.
6. 2005 Certificates of Appreciation. Mr. Taylor indicated a number of nominees had been received and review of these will take place in March.
7. Arrangements for Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 21, 2006.
8. Other Business. None
9. Adjournment. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.