

Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 21, 2006, Noon
Quad City Botanical Center
Olmsted Room
2525 Fourth Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Steve Clark	Ms. Emilie Price*
Ms. Trudy DeWilford	Ms. Patsy Ramacitti
Mr. Steve Grimes	Mr. Doug Reynolds
Mr. Nathan Gray	Mayor Vern Spring
Mr. Ralph Heninger*	Mr. Ron Summers
Mr. Charles Heston	Mr. Joe Taylor*
Mr. Tim Huey	Ms. Kathy Wine
Mr. Gary Kamp	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille	Ms. Ellen Milliron
Ms. Katie Hobes	Mr. John Oberhouse
Ms. Pam Gluck	

***Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He asked for introductions around the table.
2. Approval of the January 24, 2006 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes. Mr. DeLille noted the misspelling of Ms. DeWilford's name would be corrected; the minutes of the January 24, 2006 Council meeting were approved with this correction.
3. Program – 18th National Trails Symposium; Quad Cities – October 19-22, 2006. – Ms. Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails and the Co-Chair for the 18th National Trails Symposium, stated American Trails' mission is to create trails for all Americans. In 1970, the first Symposium was held as a way to help promote this mission. Since then American Trails has held a Symposium every two years in various communities throughout the country. The Quad Cities began its pursuit to be selected as the host community in 2000 after representatives from the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB) attended the 15th National Trails Symposium (NTS) in Redding, California. The Quad Cities applied to host the 16th NTS, which went to Orlando, Florida in 2002. The 17th NTS was awarded to Austin, Texas for 2004, but Ms. Gluck was so impressed with the Quad Cities trail network she encouraged the American Trails Board to award the Quad Cities the 18th NTS scheduled for 2006. She mentioned planning is underway for the October 19-22, 2006 Symposium in the Quad Cities and she is pleased with the results thus far. Council members were given a

postcard announcement for the Symposium, a handout identifying eight ways to benefit from the National Trails Symposium, and other promotional materials. The Symposium will offer educational sessions on a myriad of provocative and timely issues and topics related to trail planning and development. In addition, attendees will have opportunities to participate in outside workshops/field trips and construction or how-to workshops. There will also be a large hall for sponsors and exhibitors. Approximately 600-800 participants, both nation and international are anticipated for the Symposium. American Trails will go all out to promote the Quad Cities, including full color brochures and photos and of area. Following the Symposium, the Quad Cities will be known as a “trail community.” John Deere and Company was one of the first major sponsors. The Iowa and Illinois Departments of Natural Resources and the Riverboat Development Authority are also significant contributors to the Symposium. Ms. Gluck encouraged everyone to spread the word about the Symposium and invited sponsorships from \$25 and up. She mentioned there would be a need for volunteers to help with the Symposium. American Trails is also looking for lots of good photos of people using the Quad Cities’ trails. The photos would be used for the promotional items and on the website. The deadline for presentation submissions is April 1, 2006. The Mississippi River Trail (MRT) will be a big focus of the Symposium.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports.

Bettendorf. Mr. Kamp mentioned the city is the working to determine a consulting engineer for a trail from Leach Park upriver to the Duck Creek Parkway Trailhead in Riverdale. There have been discussions on naming the trail through Bettendorf. The foundation for the Isle of Capri Hotel is complete, and pouring for the second floor will start in April. The deadline for completing the project is May of 2007.

Cordova. Ms. DeWilford stated the old school is being torn down and the village is going through a bridge repair process. The village needs to purchase a new police car and has purchased a new fire truck. The Shamrock has reopened, and in a couple of weeks will begin short-order food service. The Fireside Restaurant is also supposed to be reopening.

Davenport. Mr. Heston noted a consultant agreement is being entered into for the Lock and Dam 15 lighting project. Additional CAT dollars are being lobbied for in Des Moines. The city’s gateways are under construction, and the Credit Island Bridge is having to undergo a redesign.

East Moline. Mr. Gray indicated there has been interest and discussion with prospective buyers and developers for the CASE site. The perspective hog plant is spurring interest in other developments.

LeClaire. Mayor Spring announced the city is preparing for the next Tug Fest. The Lonestar restoration project was recommended to the full board; the Discovery Channel and a German television station have expressed interest in filming the Lonestar’s relocation. Three new businesses have opened in town.

Muscatine. Mr. Oberhouse mentioned the Pearl of Muscatine string of lights project, which

entails over one mile of lights, and the City Council approved the installation of a lighted fountain and 25-foot sculpture of a clammer. For the fifth time, Muscatine will host the end of RAGBRAI; it will coincide with Great River Days.

National MRPC. Ms. Ramacitti announced the Quad Cities Botanical Center received a \$750,000 grant through the Illinois National Scenic Byways program for development of a children's garden. The MRPC is planning to submit an application during the next scenic byway grant round for a ten state coordinated byway effort. The next National MRPC meeting will be March 30th through April 1st, 2006 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

QCCVB. Ms. Taylor stated tomorrow there would be announcement for Quad City Bike Week, and information can be found at www.qcbikeweek.com. Also an updated guide is being produced for the Great River Trail and should be ready this summer.

QCDG. Mr. Summers noted this year marked the 10th Anniversary of the Washington, D.C. trip. In the beginning, the trip consisted of about 25 people with only a handful, maybe 35 to 40 issues. The latest one had 90 people and over 110 regional/community issues. The Quad Cities area secured over \$80 million for the new I-74 bridge project, over \$30 million for the Arsenal, and funding for many other projects. One of the top regional items discussed was RiverVision, and the QCDG is hoping to hear back on this item within the next couple of months.

Rapids City. Ms. Price mentioned a park and recreation meeting to discuss park upgrades. The village is looking to place new park equipment near the salt storage building. The village is moving towards radial read water meters. Rapids City is sponsoring the Village of Port Byron in the Tug Fest.

RiverAction. Ms. Wine announced RiverAction has a new informational guide for six simple things you can do to save the Mississippi River; she invited council members to stop by the RiverAction office to pick up copies. This weekend RiverAction will have a booth at the Chicago Bike Show and a rain barrel sale from 9:00 a.m. to noon at River Action. This year's Earth Day event will be at Credit Island. Forty floating fire stacks will be placed in the Credit Island Slough during the Fish and Fire dinner. RiverAction is also sponsoring Channel Cat classes and "Teach a Kid to Fish" classes in May and June. A process is underway for placing directional and destination signage on the RiverWay Trails. The plans include color coding the signs to match the four quadrant wayfinding signs from Corbin's Plan.

Rock Island Arsenal. Mr. Clark informed the council the Arsenal had sent a letter to the Secretary of the Army requesting the family housing be expanding to accommodate 400 to 500 additional military personnel.

Scott County. Mr. Huey welcomed Pam Gluck to the Quad Cities and to the council meeting. He reported Scott County is working together with Eldridge and Long Grove to construct a separated corridor trail between the two communities within the county road right-of-way. The City of Riverdale is working on an access road to Scott Community College from U.S. 67. He is also dealing with a complaint regarding illegal dumping of motor oil into the Mississippi River.

5. Nominations for 2005 Certificates of Appreciation. The council discussed consolidating project nominations. Mr. Taylor and Mr. DeLille stated they would work together on the consolidation process.
6. Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 21, 2006. – Discussion ensued regarding set meeting locations. It was recommended QCRFC staff develop criteria for meeting facilities and review possible meeting locations.
7. Other Business. Mr. DeLille mentioned he was working to place the Certificate of Appreciation nomination forms and guidelines along with other QCRFC materials on the Bi-State website. He would keep the council updated on the status of this endeavor.
8. Adjournment. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.