

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL**

Tuesday, January 27, 2009, Noon

Kone Tower

One Kone Court

Moline, IL 61265

Tower Meeting Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Emilie Price*	Mr. Ray Forsythe
Mr. Timothy Huey*	Mr. Charlie Heston
Mr. Ms. Diane Lamacki	Mr. Vern Spring
Mr. Gary Kamp	Mr. Robert Kalantari
Mr. Jeff Craver	Ms. Kathy Wine
Mr. William Nelson	Ms. Roxie Lucas
Ms. Patsy Ramacitti	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille

Mr. Shea Doyle

*** Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order Ms. Price welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of the November 25, 2008 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes Ms. Wine made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lamacki. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Program – Ben Butterworth Parkway Streetscape Enhancements – Mr. Ray Forsythe, Economic Development Director for the City of Moline, provided handouts to the Council illustrating the variety of projects proposed and underway along Moline’s riverfront. He stated the City had transportation enhancement funds to connect Ben Butterworth Parkway, the Western Illinois University Quad Cities Riverfront Campus, and Riverside Park. One of the concepts involves narrowing travel lanes on 34th Street to accommodate a separated multiuse trail and an interpretive trailhead feature on Ben Butterworth Parkway near the northern terminus of 34th Street at River Drive. He noted that \$14 million is needed for the WIU Quad Cities Riverfront Campus site. The total build-out costs are estimated at about \$75 million. The Hendricks property demolition is nearly complete, and redevelopment of the site will include elements of the E3 Initiative and the FlexTech projects. The I-74 alignment EIS coming out in February, a firm has been selected to design the new bridge. The Enterprise Lofts project is scheduled to begin construction in April. The West Gateway project is underway. The KONE Centre final design and construction will commence after the City Council approves the TIF District. A Request for Proposals is going out any day for the Transit Oriented Development project. The City has purchased the Washington Square Apartments on 17th Street, and an RFP will be issued in February to restore the structure into five single-family apartments.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports –

RiverAction – Ms. Wine announced that 2009 marks the 25th Anniversary of River Action. Staff is working on the Henry Farnham Dinner; Fish and Fire; and Ride-the River. Planning is underway for the Upper Mississippi River Conference. The conference will start on September 24, 2009, and Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina, will be in attendance. River Action is also working on the Taming of the Slough, which will include a tune-up for the taming prior to the actual event.

Mississippi River Parkway Commission – Ms. Ramacitti distributed copies of a new Mississippi River Guide, 70th Anniversary Programs, and Mississippi River Parkway Foundation donation forms. The Council was encouraged to consider contributions or bequests to support the foundation's efforts. Ms. Ramacitti stated that she would be the National MRPC Pilot until 2010, and the next meeting of the National MRPC will be mid-April in Memphis, Tennessee.

Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau – Ms. Lucas announced this would be the 20th year for the Mississippi Valley Welcome Center. Renovations are underway at the downtown Davenport Visitors Center. This year's "Be a Tourist in Your Own Backyard" was very successful and double last year's participation with over 480 occupants at local hotels. Reported record setting levels of hotel/motel tax revenues. The QCCVB is booking meetings, tournaments, and sporting events and is introducing a new marketing campaign "More than a meeting" to sell meetings. Bill Geist is returning to the Quad Cities to give a report at a February 26 breakfast and brainstorming session. Ms. Lucas pointed out progress to date on some of the items Mr. Geist had recommended from his previous assessment of the area including installation of a new wayfinding signage system; consolidation of the QCCVB offices; and the new downtown transit circulator. Registration forms for the Bill Geist event were distributed to the Council members.

Rock Island Arsenal – Mr. Kalantari announced that the new child development center is scheduled to open in June 2009. The Arsenal anticipates facility development in excess of \$20 million to accommodate the BRAC. The Silvis Foundry is re-locating to the Arsenal. In all, the Arsenal is looking at over \$300 million in projects. The Army Corps is planning to hire over 100 engineers.

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Spring mentioned there is one building under construction. Contractors are looking at the possibility of expanding the levee. The Bier Stube is scheduled to open next month.

Rock Island – Mr. Nelson reported a 60% design meeting for Armory Park. Approval of levee redesigns has delayed the process. An outdoor stage area that mimics the Armory and an outdoor shelter are in the current concept designs. The Illinois Oil Building is for sale, and the City is considering converting the building into apartments and condos, similar to the McKesson Building. Mitigation is beginning at the Children's' Garden site. Also the city is addressing federal anti-entrapment requirements for pool drains.

Scott County – Mr. Huey mentioned the two-year strategic planning session focusing on intergovernmental cooperation, economic development, and retention and the International

Planning Conference Minneapolis from source to the Delta.

Davenport – Mr. Heston announced the grand opening for Phase II of Centennial Park is scheduled for April 4, 2009. Phase III of Centennial Park is underway, and the City has possession of the property. The developer has started rehabilitation of the Blackhawk Hotel. The Credit Island slough bridge is in the design review stage.

Bettendorf – Mr. Kamp mentioned the grand opening of the new Waterfront Events Center. It's a 50,000 sq ft building with 40,000 sq ft of meeting space and costs \$20 million. The City is looking at doing a streetscape design along Grant Street and possibly a new downtown park, which may include a fountain and a clock. Designs are scheduled to be completed by March, and the project will likely be phased. Twenty property appraisals have been completed, and negotiations with the owners will begin shortly as part of the right-of-acquisition process for the MRT project going from Leach Park into Riverdale. The City applied for a grant to improve the boat ramp and parking at Eagle's Landing Park.

5. Nominating Committee for Election of Officers – Mr. Heninger, the current Vice President of the Council, had been contacted regarding the nominating committee and preparing a slate of officers for nomination to the Council. The current officers have each served two consecutive terms in their respective positions; therefore new officers need to be nominated and elected for each of the offices. The Council was informed that Mr. Heninger was willing to be nominated as the president, and Mr. Huey was willing to be nominated as the vice-president. Among the other Council members eligible to serve as officers, Mr. Nelson was recommended and willing to be nominated as the Secretary/Treasurer. The Council discussed the nominating committee process and level of interest among other eligible Council members to be involved in the process and willing to serve as officers.
6. Discussion on Certificates of Appreciation Nomination and Award Process – The Council was referred to the Guidelines for Nominations and the Nomination Forms included with their agenda packets. They were informed that to date, only one nomination had been received, and it was for the new Waterfront Events Center in Bettendorf. Discussion continued from the last meeting regarding the Certificates of Appreciation nomination and award process. The Council considered ways to attract more media attention, possibly through press releases, to promote recognition of the recipients and enhance the significance of the awards. It was also suggested that rather than awarding certificates to every project nominated the Council be more selective and limit the number of certificates by voting for only one (or two) projects to receive recognition. The deadline for submitting nominations for 2008 Certificates of Appreciation is March 6, 2009.
7. Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – No discussion.
8. Other Business. There was no other business.
9. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

