

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL**

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, Noon

Union Station

102 S. Harrison St.

Davenport, IA 52801

First Floor Board Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ralph H. Heninger*	Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Tim Huey*	Ms. Patsy Ramacitti
Mr. Bill Nelson*	Mr. Vern Spring
Mr. Jeff Anderson	Mr. Joe Taylor
Mr. Steve Grimes	Mr. Robert VanHooreweghe
Ms. A.J. Grunder	Mr. Jared Ware
Mr. Charlie Heston	Ms. Kathy Wine
Mr. Joel Himsl	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille	Mr. Seve Ghose
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*** Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order. Mr. Heninger called the meeting to order welcoming all those in attendance and asked for introductions.
2. Approval of the January 26, 2010 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes. Ms. Ramacitti made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Report – Davenport Riverfront Parks and Recreation. Mr. Seve Ghose, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Davenport informed the Council that the City is purchasing the Sports Center in March. The name of Sports Center will be changed to Rivers Edge and it will be run as an enterprise fund. One of the sheets of ice will be retrofitted for conversion between ice and a turf field. Current traffic at the sports center is around 400,000 patrons. The goal is to increase that to 800,000 or 1 million within 12 months. The City is considering sponsorships to increase revenue including naming rights. The parks department offices will be added on to the building and staff will relocate to the new offices at Rivers Edge. The parks department has to vacate their current offices by July 31, 2010.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports –

East Moline – Mr. Kammler noted that \$1.5 million was spent last year on improvements to the levee. The city is working hard to develop the CNH property.

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Spring announced a developer is interested in building a distillery, and the Chamber is working on getting people to LeClaire when I-80

closes in two weeks.

Cordova – Mr. VanHooreweghe reported the Village is working on a 23-acre park project. The project involves tree clearing, nature trails, and ice skating. Genesis is providing fitness equipment for the park, which will be adjacent to the Great River Trail.

Moline – Mr. Anderson announced the groundbreaking for the first building of the Western Illinois University Riverfront Campus will be on March 31, 2010; design work is underway for the next two phases. No federal money was awarded for an AMTRAK station in Moline. The State of Illinois has promised \$45 million for track improvements to accommodate passenger rail service to the Quad Cities. Efforts will continue to secure funding for the station and development of passenger rail service.

Rock Island Arsenal – Mr. Himsl mentioned work continues on the bridge between Moline and Arsenal Island. The project began in January and is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2010. The Arsenal is also addressing security concerns due to recent incidents at other military installations.

QCCVB – Mr. Taylor invited the Council to the Figge on April 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. for the announcement of a regional collaboration to market the river in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. The Quad City Symphony; City of Rock Island; Blues Fest; and Red, White, and Boom are collaborating on marketing the events. The Celtic Games are on September 18, 2010.

Scott County – Mr. Huey informed the Council that he would be attending the A.P.A. National Planning Conference in New Orleans. The Regional Planning Conference will be held in Davenport in the fall of 2011. He is one of the co-chairs of the committee planning the Regional Conference, and the first committee meeting will be in April of this year.

Davenport – Mr. Heston reported the bid was awarded to complete the next phase of Centennial Park. The Corps of Engineers is out for bid on the flood control project by the water plant.

River Action – Ms. Wine distributed “Save the Date” cards for August 25-27, 2010 Upper Mississippi River Conference. The Council was provided with information and the application for communities to submit for the planning charettes. Quad Cities Water Trails maps have been printed and are available for distribution. The maps are part of the effort to bring an outfitter to the Quad Cities and also will help promote Floatzilla. In addition, River Action is preparing for Ride-the-River, Taming of the Slough, and other events coming up this summer.

Rock Island – Mr. Nelson announced the ribbon cutting for Schwiebert Riverfront Park is scheduled for July 3, 2010. There will be a recycled raft race on Saturday, July 2, 2010. The new park will host other events and will have an interactive outdoor playground. Construction of the trail connection on the north side the West Rock River Bridge will be underway this summer. The City of Rock Island Park Department offices will be moving to

RIFAC this September and/or October.

Bettendorf – Mr. Grimes noted that the Waterfront Events Center is doing well after six months in operation. The downtown streetscaping project is being completed in phases. The MRT connection from Leach Park to Riverdale is down to one residential condemnation. A verbal agreement has been reached with Isle of Capri and a written agreement is being prepared, and some language issues related to the routing are being worked out with Riverdale. The city is hoping to break ground on the project this summer with completion possible this summer or fall.

Corps of Engineers – Mr. Ware reported the Corps is preparing for traffic this season at Lock and Dam 14 and looking for venues to conduct water safety courses. Corps Day is June 17, 2010.

MRPC – Ms. Ramacitti announced the Iowa Parkway Commission has eight National Scenic Byways grants to prioritize this Friday; not a single grant is from Scott County. There is \$5.7 million in grant requests and approximately \$2.5 million in available funding. The Great River Road is the oldest and longest designated National Scenic Byway. Dubuque submits a grant every single time and every time they receive money. The Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission is submitting a grant to revise the Iowa Great River Road Corridor Management Plan.

Princeton – Ms. Grunder stated the city is preparing for Princeton Days and flooding. Repairs to the jetty are almost complete. Also noted was interest in new businesses downtown and the Riverway project.

5. Nominations/Voting 2009 Certificates of Appreciation – Mr. DeLille reported to the Council that no nominations were received for 2009 Certificates of Appreciation.
6. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 25, 2010 – Mr. Nelson offered to host the July meeting at Schwiebert Riverfront Park.
7. Other Business. The Council was informed of a request from Ms. Ramacitti for a letter from the Council in support of the Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission's National Scenic Byways application. A letter was drafted on QCRFC letterhead and read to the Council. With no objections from the Council, the letter was signed by Mr. Heninger and given to Ms. Ramacitti for submission with the grant.
8. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.