

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL**

Tuesday, May 25, 2010, Noon

Union Station

102 S. Harrison St.

Davenport, IA 52801

First Floor Board Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ralph H. Heninger*

Col. Shawn McGinley

Mr. Tim Huey*

Ms. Charlotte Morrison

Mr. Bill Nelson*

Ms. Becky Passman

Mr. Charlie Heston

Mr. Vern Spring

Mr. Joel Himsl

Ms. Kathy Wine

Mr. Gary Kamp

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille

Mr. Shea Doyle

*** 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 March 23, 2010 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes
Mr. Huey made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Report – Endless Summer – Ms. Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action, Inc. distributed to those in attendance a number of brochure related to the variety of events occurring along the riverfront this summer. The Channel Cat Talks and Riverine Walks programs will start June 1st and include many new and timely programs. Ride-the-River on Father's Day will include a tour of Arsenal Island, silly Olympics for the kids, a kite festival, and an MRT promotional ride between Muscatine and Buffalo. A turtle project is underway at Nahant Marsh. The project involves catching and tagging turtles; the blanding turtles are of specific interest. Floatzilla is an event in August that will attempt to break the world record for the largest floatilla of canoes/kayaks. Floatzilla has its own website and a marketing budget of \$35,000. The goal is to get 2,010 canoes/kayaks to set the new record. Hampton Crane will provide a crane to take an official photo of the attempt. Individuals or groups can register but have to count the number of vessels not people and have an official photo to substantiate breaking the record. A kayak and canoe swap will be held on June 5th and rentals will be available this year at Credit Island. The Upper Mississippi River Conference will be held August 25-27, 2010 at the iWireless Center in Moline. Pet Pointer has been confirmed and Secretary Vilsack has been invited, but not confirmed, as keynote speakers for the conference. The conference will include charettes for three communities. The communities selected from the application received are Davenport, Buffalo, and

Keithsburg. Taming of the Slough will be held again this year. The event has grown by about 25% each year since its inception. Paddling sports are up 20% according to a USFW survey. Additional information on all River Actions events is available on their website www.riveraction.org.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports –

Rock Island – Mr. Nelson announced the grand opening and ribbon cutting for Schwiebert Riverfront Park is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on July 3, 2010. Entertainment includes the Bare-handed Wolf Chokers, a Navy Band, tables for writing letters to service men and women, Q.C. Symphony will play at 9:00 p.m. along with the Red, White, and Boom fireworks show. The park will have an outdoor playground with interactive electronic components the first playground of its kind in the Midwest. The City has already been receiving requests to rent the stage area and is in the process of developing policies and fees for renting facilities at the new park. The City of Rock Island Park and Recreation Department offices will be moving to RIFAC.

QCCVB – Ms. Morrison reported that a news conference was held yesterday to announce Memorial Day events and new happenings. The Celtic Highland Games will be the same weekend as Brew Ha-Ha and Riverssance. A new brochure will promote events through the Mississippi River Group. The QCCVB is working with The Loop to coordinate event promotion on the buses. QCCVB is helping promote River Action's summer education series, Floatzilla, and Ride-the-River. The Quad Cities Tourism Guide will have a new look.

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Spring mentioned the American Pickers Festival will be held on June 5-6, 2010. The Tug Fest is the first week in August and River Rumble is also in August.

Corps of Engineers – COL. McGinley reported the Asian Carp are in the Mississippi River all the way up to Pool 3; they thrive in 3-4 feet of water. The Illinois DNR poisoned 6 miles of river in an attempt to kill the Asian Carp. The effort resulted in millions of fish being killed and removed from the river, but no Asian Carp. The Carp Act working its way through Congress is an attempt by the Great Lakes States to shut down the locks in an effort to keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. If T.J. O'Briens were to close, it would have a significant impact on the river.

Davenport – Mr. Heston stated the City is working to redesign the Credit Island Trail Bridge. Phase 3 of Centennial Park is under construction and the City has taken ownership of the Q.C. Sports Center. The City received an I-JOBS grant for flood control. The Corps of Engineers is bidding the flood control project by the water plant. Work is underway on the River Drive median project.

Bettendorf – Mr. Kamp reported the MRT connection from Leach Park to Riverdale is awaiting a signature from the Isle of Capri and Iowa DOT approval of the agreement. The City is hoping to bid the project this fall and begin construction late this year. The City has

been approached by a group interested in providing Segway tours along the trail. Streetscape work continues in the downtown. The boat docks are all in with no major flood damage this year.

Scott County – Mr. Huey informed the Council that bids for the Lost Grove Lake project came in at \$1.4 million, which is under the engineers estimate. The lake will take two years to complete and will be on 1800 acres of public land, designated as a wildlife preservation area, along Wells Ferry Road. The County is working on a cooperative project to get the MRT extended up-river through LeClaire and Princeton. The farmers market is doing well.

Davenport Riverfront Taskforce – Ms. Passman reported that The Loop circulator is up and running on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. This will be the first summer of operation for The Loop and all the drivers are hospitality trained. Looking forward to working with the summer festivals. Also, working with The Dispatch on downtown maps with blow-ups of areas where businesses can pay a small fee to be listed on the map. The Loop buses are equipped with monitors and downtown districts, areas, businesses, etc. can purchase the availability to run promotions on the monitors.

Modern Woodmen – Mr. Doyle reminded the Council of the Memorial Day races and Gumbo Ya-Ya in June.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 27, 2010 – Mr. Nelson offered to host the July meeting at Schwiebert Riverfront Park.

Other Business. There was no other business.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.