

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL**

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, Noon
Quad City Botanical Center
2525 4th Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201
Olmsted Room

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Jeff Anderson	Mr. Bill Nelson*
Mr. Jeff Craver	Mr. Doug Reynolds
Mr. Steve Grimes	Mr. Vern Spring
Mr. Ralph H. Heninger	Mr. Joe Taylor
Mr. Tim Huey*	Mayor Donald Welvaert
Col. Shawn McGinley	Ms. Kathy Wine*
Mr. Olin Meador	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille	Ms. Margo McInnis
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*** Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order. – Mr. Huey called the meeting to order welcoming all those in attendance.
2. Approval of the July 26, 2011 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heninger. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Presentation – APA Upper Midwest Regional Conference. Mr. Huey informed the Council the American Planning Association (APA) Upper Midwest Planning Conference will be at the Davenport River Center in three weeks. APA is comprised of public and private sector planners, landscape architects, and architects. The upper Midwest includes Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The conference theme is MOTATE emphasizing transportation and mobility in the green era. The three core topics will focus on transportation, environment, and economy. The conference will offer numerous educational tracks and three mobile workshops. On Wednesday of the conference there are orientation tours in the morning and another in the afternoon. Thursday will have conference sessions, a luncheon keynote address from Chris Leinberger, mobile workshops, and an evening reception at the Figge. The three mobile workshops are the John Deere World Headquarters and John Deere Commons; Riverfront Parks and Trails; and the Rock Island Arsenal, past, present, and future role in our economy. Friday offers conference sessions and a closing keynote address from Chad Pregracke. Hoping to have 200-250 register and attend the conference.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports –

Bettendorf – Mr. Grimes reported the MRT from Leach Park to Riverdale is about 60 percent complete. The section in Bettendorf is hard-surfaced except the ramps by the Isle of Capri. Riverdale is addressing some issue but still anticipating a November completion. There will be an opening celebration this fall or next spring. The National Scenic Byways Program interpretive site at 35th and Elm will have an overlook, restroom, shelter, and parking lot. It is scheduled to begin construction in the next week or two.

Buffalo – Mr. Meador noted the City received from the Corps 7,000 cubic yards of sand from for the beach.

Moline – Mr. Anderson mentioned new fitness equipment has been installed along the trail at the east end of Ben Butterworth Parkway. Recently had a topping out ceremony for the new KONE building. The National Scenic Byway project at Sylvan Island Trailhead Park is underway and should be wrapped-up this fall. TIGER II funding is programmed for the multi-modal station with Metro as the lead entity for the grant funds.

QCCVB – Mr. Taylor introduced Ms. McInnis who will be attending the QCRFC meetings on behalf of the QCCVB. RAGBRAI and Bix 7 were both successful events. Looking at the year 2022, the 50th anniversary of RAGBRAI, for it once again ending in Davenport. A small group is working to promote Iowa as the trails capitol of the world. Illinois is rebranding its tourism areas and Western Illinois will become Mississippi River Country. Planning an East-West RiverFest.

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Spring announced LeClaire has a new coffee shop and a Hungry Hobo by the Bier Stube. The railroad has police out and fines are being issued for illegally crossing the tracks. The Apple Fest is downtown this year. Options are being considered for the Welcome Center.

Rock Island – Mr. Nelson mentioned the City received grant funding and the design phase is underway for transient docks at Schwiebert Riverfront Park. Last night was the annual volunteer appreciation dinner. A telescope is being installed along with a lookout at Schwiebert Riverfront Park in recognition of former City Manager John Phillips. Redesign and build starting next year on the Children's Garden. The survey of the Botanical Center and Children's Garden was enlightening. Provided insight on the experience visitors are looking for at attractions and facilities.

Rock Island County – Mr. Craver noted the boat docks and ramps at Illiniwek are finally completed and hope to get started on a new restroom at Loud Thunder. Wines in the Wild is this weekend at Niabi Zoo. There is also a contest to name the new baby giraffe.

River Action, Inc. – Ms. Wine stated the updated Riverfront Revival project map was in the Dispatch/Argus over the weekend. It will also be published in the QC Times.

Scott County – Mr. Huey had nothing additional to report or add to his presentation to the Council under item 3.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Colonel McGinley reported the floodwall around Iowa American is scheduled to start this fall and the Corps still has money to dredge Sunset Marina. The FY12 and FY13 Corps budget slightly to significantly reduced. The Corps budget is from Energy and Water. There are 900 Corps employees with approximately 400 in the Quad Cities or LeClaire. Staff reduction through attrition will be the first step to address the budget constraints. Reduction in force may be needed if attrition isn't enough. In FY12 the Corps may need to shorten seasons at recreation areas since funds for recreation areas come from the same source as funds to operate the Locks and Dams. The least popular areas would be impacted first. If funding continues to drop Locks and Dams would go to 16 hours instead of 24 hours per day operation and would result in the loss of about 60 employees. Closing the Locks would significantly impact the economy of navigation. The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program or Nav. Study has not been funded.

5. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 22, 2011 – Mr. Huey suggested moving the November meeting ahead one week to November 15, 2011 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
6. Other Business – There was no other business.
7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.