

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL**

Tuesday, November 15, 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	Ms. Becky Passman
Mr. Steve Clark	Ms. Patsy Ramacitti
Mr. Ralph H. Heninger	Mr. Vern Spring
Mr. Tim Kammler	Ms. Kathy Wine*
Mr. Olin Meador	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Doug DeLille	Mr. Gary Koeller
Ms. Ami Jenkins	

*** Current QCRFC officers**

1. Call Meeting to Order – Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order welcoming all those in attendance.
2. Approval of the September 27, 2011 Quad City Riverfront Council (QCRFC) meeting minutes – Mr. Heninger made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meador. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Program – Quad Cities Botanical Center Children’s Garden – Ms. Jenkins and Mr. Koeller presented the future design plan for the Children’s Garden to the Council. The project will be located on 2.5 acres. The plan for the design process was to determine the end product and then work backwards to conceptual design. The project will offer experienced learning for students recognizing that participation is more educationally successful. The concept design includes an events tent to the west and an Education Center for programming, rentals, and special events. The Heartland Agricultural Garden will provide opportunities to learn about the history and future of agriculture. Eagle Overlook will be perched looking over the Mississippi River simulating an eagle’s nest. Palisades offers cliffs and caves for climbing and hiding. The Sauk Village interprets Native American heritage and history. Transportation Garden showcases the way things move and flow. It will educate about the river, railroad, and the moving or transporting of goods. Energy Garden will give visitors a glimpse of the past, present, and future of energy. Storybook Landscapes consists of separate vignettes or themed story areas, such as, log cabin, mill home, Huck Finn, and Lorax by Dr. Suess. It will have theater aspects with costumes to act out mini-theatre. An Orientation Plaza and Entry Plaza are also part of the design for the Children’s Garden. The overall project is based on the theme of fours relating to seasons, directions, and the Quad Cities. The project does identify plans for expansions across the railroad tracks and the property across from Jackson Square. The first phase of development includes the Mississippi Delta

portion of the River Experience. The River Experience incorporates learning from the Mississippi River. Other areas not in the first phase will be utilized and planted for use until implementation of future phases. The Education Center will have multi-use capability with seating inside for approximately 200 people and also restrooms, hospitality, and storage. There will be a turn-around area for buses. The timeline for the first phase is to break ground in March of 2012 and be open to the public sometime in 2013. The plan is for a five year build out to complete the entire Children's Garden project.

4. Individual Riverfront Reports –

National Mississippi River Parkway Commission – Ms. Ramacitti informed the Council FHWA announced solicitation of FY12 National Scenic Byway Program grants. In Iowa grants are due to the Iowa DOT by 4:00 p.m. on December 6, 2011. Ms. Ramacitti also made the Council aware of the Rock Island Clean Line energy project.

Davenport Riverfront Taskforce – Ms. Passman indicated it appears as though the Davenport Riverfront Taskforce might dissolve.

Buffalo – Mr. Meador mentioned the City received a State Recreational Trails program grant to offset the local share of the federal funds for the Mississippi River Trail project.

Moline – Mr. Anderson reported Western Illinois University Riverfront Campus is moving from Phase I to Phase II. Enterprise Lofts is coming to a conclusion. Bass Street and KONE projects are moving forward. The Sylvan Island Trailhead project is progressing. Have heard very nice compliments from attendees of the APA conference held in Davenport.

East Moline – Mr. Kammler stated the City Council approved a TIF agreement with River Eagle LLC and the developers are preparing to proceed with the project.

LeClaire Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Spring stated that Christmas in LeClaire will be held December 3-4, 2011 and the new Hungry Hobo restaurant opened yesterday.

Rock Island Arsenal – Mr. Clark reported on the continuing resolution act with funding limited to life, health, safety or mission failure needs or a stop gap measure with no funds for new projects.

Rock Island – Mr. Nelson mentioned the telescope is in place at Phillip's Overlook in Schwiebert Riverfront Park. The City is working on options for painted bicycle lanes and also looking at sharrows. The Council is determining if on-street striped bicycle lanes are being used and if they should continue to expand them. In the survey conducted as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, bicycle trails ranked high.

Rock Island County – Mr. Craver reported the Forest Preserve District is hoping to break ground in the spring on a new shower building at Loud Thunder.

5. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 22, 2011 – The Council discussed possible locations to meet in Iowa for 2012. Among the recommendations to consider were the River Music Experience, The Figge, The Lodge, Sippi’s Restaurant, Union Station, Waterfront Convention Center, and Putnam Museum. Staff will check on availability and costs among the recommendations prior to the January meeting. The Council discussed considering the design and mission of the QCRFC at a future meeting.
6. Other Business – Mr. DeLille reminded the Council that the guidelines and nomination forms for 2011 Certificates of Appreciation will be included in the agenda packets for the January meeting. Nominations will be due prior to the March 2012 meeting for consideration by the Council.
7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.