

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITY RIVERFRONT COUNCIL (QCRFC)**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 12:00 p.m.

Union Station Visitor's Center

102 S. Harrison Street

Davenport, IA 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Steve Ahrens

Mr. Jeff Anderson

Mr. Steve Clark

Mr. Steve Grimes

Mr. Brent Herman

Mr. Tim Huey

Mr. Tim Knanishu*

Mr. Dean Moyer

Mr. John Myer

Mr. Bill Nelson*

Mr. Joe Taylor

Ms. Kathy Wine*

*Current QCRFC Officers

Others in Attendance:

Cpt. Dave Kelso

Mr. Zach Peterson

Ms. Meghan Overton

Mr. Dave Stickrod

1. Call Meeting to Order. Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the QCRFC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Grimes motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Huey seconded. The meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. Presentation. Mr. Peterson (Landscape Architect, City of Davenport) presented on the City of Davenport's new River Heritage Park. The park is a seven-acre site that was previously an industrial use site. Mr. Peterson explained each of the planned phases and the design that they are incorporating. The park just completed Phase I, and the city received a \$300,000 REAP grant to complete Phase II. Phase I included the initial site work and the gazebo, Phase II will include the riverwalk, and the next phases will be the mound area and bridge replica (funding needed). The site also has historical significance; it was the location of the first bridge to span the Mississippi River, wreck site for the Effie Afton, and the site of the Blackhawk treaty.
4. Discussion. Ms. Wine discussed the Riverfront Revival List and explained that it was last updated in 2011. She said she would like to keep the list up-to-date and asked members to the list review and make updates as necessary.

5. Individual Riverfront Reports.

Bettendorf – The city is working on trail planning for the MRT to Riverdale. Revisions to Bettendorf trail along 67 will be finalized soon. Bettendorf is also working on enhancements to Pigeon Creek Park native landscaping. Trail counts were completed for summer (with BSRC), and the city would like to have counts done in fall/winter/spring to have year round counts. The city started a committee for the Bicycle Friendly Community application (due February).

Buffalo – The city will hold a public meeting for the MRT alignment on December 9. A grant was received for stream bank stabilization Phase I (\$35K SRF/\$35K Scott County Soil) and will begin in spring. The project is a total of 3 phases.

Cordova – The village is working to develop the riverfront with the DNR. Issues were found with some of the land the village was looking to purchase concerning property ownership.

Davenport – The city is working on the next phase of Veteran's Memorial Park; JJR Smith out of Madison is leading public input process. The RiverVision Plan is being updated, and the city is currently reviewing proposals and will begin in February. The plan will currently only include the City of Davenport.

East Moline – A development agreement is almost in place for the Fountain Head project, and the city hopes to have construct begin in April.

Moline – The city is working on Phase III concept for WIU. The Riverbend Commons development agreement was approved and will include a Hilton extended stay hotel. Bidding will be at end of year with construction to begin early 2014. Moline is hosting open house workshops for Riverfront Plan (this week). Bass Street Landing ice skating is opening this weekend along with the lighting of J.D. Commons. A grant application for Sylvan Island was submitted to the IDOT, and the city is still waiting approval.

Princeton – The city has a new Mayor-elect, and is not sure who will be the QCRFC representative. A recreation trail committee was created and is raising money through private funds; grants are still needed. The city is looking into funding for lighting on River Drive.

QCCVB – The Mississippi River trail is partnering with National Geographic. The mobile visitors center is up and running and will make its debut in the Festival of Trees parade. The Village of Port Byron installed a new bicycle art piece.

River Action – River Action is working on updating the Riverway trail brochure (last updated in 2007). If there are updates to include, contact River Action. The updated brochure will be available online and in print. River Action is working on funding for the replica of the first railroad bridge. Money has been received for the donated land appraisal. The next step is the engineering and promotional video, and \$2 million is needed for the construction. The 2014 Upper Mississippi River Conference is scheduled for October 15-17 at Stoney Creek in Moline.

Rock Island – The new children's garden at the Botanical Center is almost complete. The city is finishing up the day docks for Schwiebert Park and will have a ribbon cutting in spring. A question was asked if the docks are removed in winter; the docks are designed to stay in year round. The city is working on a strategic plan with a riverfront focus (both Mississippi and Rock Rivers). The new transit center near Schwiebert Park (20th St/2nd Ave) is open. The city passed an ordinance to allow controlled deer hunting within the city on November 18, 2013. When asked if the deer hunting rules are the same as in Iowa, the response was that there are different regulations. The city has found EAB infestation and will begin inventory and mapping of locations. A comment was made that all of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois is now under quarantine for EAB and it is estimated to have been in the region for about 2 years.

Rock Island Arsenal – Due to funding issues, many projects have been put on hold. The Arsenal is working on making the Moline entrance bridge accessible. The issues with the ramp/ trail are in place.

Scott County – None to report. It was suggested that a field trip be taking to visit Port Byron.

USACE – USACE is working on the government sewer project in Davenport which is mainly manholes and clean out, which is plans to award in March. A question was asked if it will affect the bike path, but USACE is not sure if there will be an impact as the project is mainly interior work. The south slough of Mill Creek will be excavated, and log/debris and beaver dams were removed earlier in the fall.

6. Other. None.

7. Meeting Adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2014.