

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

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Union Station Visitor's Center
102 S. Harrison Street
Davenport, IA 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson	Mr. Tim Huey
Mr. Larry Burns	Mr. Tim Knanishu*
Ms. Molly Carlson	Mr. Joe Taylor
Mr. Stephen Clark*	Mr. Scott Tunnicliff
Mr. Steve Grimes	Ms. Kathy Wine*
Mr. Ralph H. Heninger	

**Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Patty Pearson
Ms. Denise Bulat
Mr. Jeff Reiter

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Ms. Wine at 12:04 p.m.
2. **Approval of the January 24, 2017 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Huey with Mr. Grimes giving a second. The meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. **Presentation on the I-74 Corridor and land based development in Moline and Bettendorf.**

Denise Bulat, Bi-State Regional Commission Director, gave a presentation on the I-74 Bridge Corridor Project that involves the replacement of the I-74 Bridge and nearly eight miles of corridor improvements. The I-74 Bridge project has been the top priority transportation project in the Bi-State Region since 1998. Thirty-eight local and state officials have supported the project throughout the history of the project. The I-74 Bridge corridor will be the most reliable Mississippi River crossing in Iowa and Illinois once complete. The bridge will include a multi-purpose trail with an overlook for bicyclists and pedestrians on the down-river side. The trail will have access to the Mississippi River Trail in Moline and an elevator to access ground-level recreational facilities and the Iowa Riverfront Trail in Bettendorf. Construction of the new bridge will begin in the Mississippi River in summer 2017, and this work will continue throughout the project. The Bridge approaches will be constructed in 2019 and 2020. The old I-74 Bridge is slated for demolition in 2021. One pier of the old bridge will remain standing. The new I-74 Bridge will have three lanes in each direction with an auxiliary lane between the first ramp in downtown Bettendorf and the

first ramp in downtown Moline. It will also have full shoulders allowing for a pull-off area for disabled vehicles and emergency vehicle access. The new bridge will have increased protection for seismic occurrences and barge collisions and is being built to last 100 years. I-74 northbound at Avenue of the Cities will be closed to Interstate traffic in 2019. All northbound bridge traffic will be rerouted to local roads in Moline and will enter the bridge at the downtown Moline ramp. One lane northbound will be open on the bridge at this time. Both of the southbound lanes into Illinois will remain open for the whole project timeline.

Jeff Anderson, Moline City Planner, gave a presentation on the projects that will be occurring in the downtown Moline area of the I-74 Corridor. Downtown Moline has the Q Multimodal Station under development on the west side and the Western Illinois University on the east side with the I-74 corridor right in the middle. In the I-74 Bridge realignment zone, Moline has asked for first right of refusal for all right-of-way parcels. There is an opportunity for a river edge park similar to Rock Island's near the new bridge. Other new projects and developments in the area include a \$3 million Radisson Hotel facelift; resurfacing of Ben Butterworth Parkway; replacement of the Sylvan Island Bridge; an iWireless boat dock area update and dredging; a new dock and signs for the Channel Cat Water Taxi; conversion of the former right-of-way and the old Spiegel Building into market rate apartments and commercial space in 2018; and a new hotel downtown. The Moline summer concert series and other events are also expanding.

Jeff Reiter, Bettendorf Economic Development Director, reported on activities in the Bettendorf downtown. Bettendorf has completed a Downtown Master Plan that has set the following key goals: maintain the downtown as the focal point of the city; encourage pedestrian and mixed use development; support the creation of a multi-modal transportation network; and maximize connection to the Mississippi River. The downtown has been divided into five areas: West Bridge, Riverfront, Industrial, East Bridge, and Village for future planning purposes. Leach Park will expand under the new I-74 Bridge with unique concrete work and native plantings. A new two-bay elevator will take bicyclists and walkers to the Bridge deck and trail above. Additional bays for the Fire Department will be added to the City Hall complex, and a new plaza will be developed on the north side of the building. A new 100 unit multi-family building project will start this spring at 15th Street and State Street. The Isle of Capri jetty area will become a floating park area and will clean up the riverfront in that area. Grant and State Street will become the focus of a new area under study with a look at the feasibility of making State Street a slower speed street while making Grant Street higher speed. There was an open house on this project on March 28, 2017.

4. **Nomination of Officers.**

Nominations and elections of officers were held. Tim Knanishu was nominated for President and Steve Clark was nominated for Vice President. Both accepted their nominations and elections to serve in those capacities.

Sonya Paddock received a motion for nomination for Secretary/Treasurer from Tim Huey, and Jeff Anderson seconded. Sonya was not present for the meeting; therefore, Kathy Wine indicated that she would contact Sonya to see if she would agree to serve.

5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Arsenal* – Mr. Clark said groundbreaking has been held for 71 new military housing units on the Island. The units will be ready for occupancy next summer.
- *Bettendorf* – Mr. Grimes reported on the riverfront trail extension to Riverdale. Bettendorf is also acquiring additional land around the new I-74 Bridge to expand greenspace and Leach Park. There will be a new athletic complex near Forest Grove and Middle Roads with a current name of Bettplex. This will be a multipurpose indoor/outdoor facility with seating for 1,500. Some of the amenities include baseball fields, an indoor soccer field, basketball courts, a driving range and batting cages, 65-game arcade area, laser tag, 32-lane bowling alley, athletic training facility, food, and entertainment.
- *Rock Island County Forest Preserve* – Mr. Burns reported that efforts are still underway to expand trails in Port Byron and Dorrance Park. All campgrounds have opened, and Indian Bluff Golf Course is open. Niabi Zoo will open on April 15 and is using its new water system.
- *QC Center Convention & Visitors Bureau* – Mr. Taylor indicated QC Tourism week was coming up. The Mississippi Rivers & Towns 2018 Annual Meeting will be in the Quad Cities.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Huey said Scott County will be hosting the Spring Iowa Counties Zoning Conference.
- *National M.R.P.C.* – Mr. Tunnicliff indicated the new Driftless Area Education and Visitor Center in Lansing, IA will be opening this spring.

6. **Other Business.** The next meeting will be held at Union Station.

7. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:10p.m.** Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 23, 2017.