

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

Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 12:00 p.m.  
Union Station Visitor's Center  
102 S. Harrison Street  
Davenport, IA 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson  
Mr. Larry Burns  
Ms. Katie Enloe  
Ms. Kinyata Evans  
Mr. Tim Knanishu\*  
Ms. Molly Otting-Carlson  
Mr. Rod Simmer

*\*Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Jim Meenan  
Mr. Bryan Schmid

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of the January 23, 2018 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Burns. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion to approve the January 23, 2018 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation on Arsenal Housing Development.** Ms. Evans distributed a handout with details of the Army Family Housing Project sites for FY15 and FY16. Overall, a total of 71 new homes are being constructed as part of the two-year project, 31 of which are located on the riverfront. In FY16, 50 older homes were demolished. The homes are a mix of single family and duplex homes. The housing options are more diverse than they used to be, reflecting the changing priorities of army personnel. The highly desired single-family units will be offered to higher ranking staff first. Any service member with one or more dependents qualifies for housing. They submit an application and are put on a waiting list for availability of a home.  
  
The two projects will begin turning over houses in May, according to a phased turnover plan. All the houses for both projects should be completed by September. Currently, there are no plans for additional housing on the installation. There is, however, a plan to eventually do major renovations to existing historic homes, but there is not currently a timeline for that project.
4. **Certificates of Appreciation Discussion.** Mr. Schmid distributed a short explainer of each of the three received nominations for Certificates of Appreciation. The first nomination was

for the completion of the City of Bettendorf's U.S. 67 Riverfront Trail. The project was completed as the final link of the Riverfront Trail in Bettendorf from Riverdale to 62<sup>nd</sup> Street Court. The trail now links to the widened shoulders of U.S. 67 giving access to LeClaire, Iowa to the northeast and Buffalo, Iowa to the west.

The second nomination was for Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC) for their efforts to prepare Sylvan Island trails for public use ahead of the new Sylvan Island Bridge opening. FORC volunteers removed more than four years of growth on the island. When the new bridge opened on December 21, 2017, the trails were ready for use thanks to the club's efforts.

The final nomination for a Certificate of Appreciation was for the Rock Island Arsenal's Army Family Housing Construction Project, which is described above. The project not only improves the quality of life of military families, but also the aesthetics of the Mississippi riverfront.

In addition to the above nominations, Mr. Anderson nominated the City of Moline for their work reestablishing access to Sylvan Island and the construction of the new Sylvan Island Bridge. The nomination could be folded into FORC's nomination, as the City and FORC formed a partnership to prepare the island for the public. Ms. Otting-Carlson, likewise, nominated Joe Taylor of the QC Convention and Visitors Bureau for his 28 years of service to the Quad Cities and the Mississippi riverfront. Mr. Taylor will be retiring from his position later this year.

The Riverfront Council accepted folding the City of Moline into FORC's nomination, and the addition of Joe Taylor to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Certificates will be presented at the May 22 meeting.

5. **Officer Nominations.** Nominations for Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer were requested, as both Steve Clark and Steve Grimes will be retiring before the May meeting. Mr. Knanishu will continue to serve as President of the Quad City Riverfront Council. Mr. Simmer nominated Mr. Burns to serve as Vice President. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. After a brief discussion, Mr. Anderson nominated Ms. Otting-Carlson to serve as Secretary/Treasurer, who was approved.
6. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
  - *East Moline* – The Bend project is making progress. The roof has been poured. The last of the floors will be completed soon. The outlots have been sold. Apartment construction will begin in summer, and are expected to be occupied by December. The hotel construction is expected to be complete by September.
  - *Moline* – The I-74 Realignment Zone study is finishing up. It will look at the area to be vacated once the existing I-74 Bridge is demolished. Renew Moline has hired a new executive director, who will start in June.
  - *Princeton* – The city annexed 400 acres on the north and south sides of town. The city is continuing to work on grants to fund the Mississippi River Trail through town.

- *QC Convention & Visitors Bureau* – Every two years, the Quad Cities plays host to the Gathering of the Green. Approximately 3,000 John Deere enthusiasts take part in Deere-themed events and showcases. The event is much more than tractors. RAGBRAI will be coming back to Davenport on July 28, the same day as the Bix 7 race downtown. Discussions are taking place over the dip site, where riders dip their tires into the Mississippi River. Initial thoughts are to have it at Main Street Landing to get people into downtown and Street Fest. However, there will be a lot of construction going on that may complicate the location. Other events taking place include the Missouri Valley Conference’s Women’s Basketball tournament in March. Davenport also hosted a large coalition from its sister city, Carlow, Ireland, for ten days.
  - *Rock Island County* – \$4.5 million bond has been issued for Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. The dam must be redone. More camping sites in 2020 have been approved. More trails will be built in Loud Thunder and Illiniwek, in addition to pollinator plots and wetlands. Camping sites at Illiniwek have been booked solidly recently.
7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad City Riverfront Council will be May 22, 2018.
  8. **Other Business.** The Main Street Landing Artwork project held a kick-off meeting to solicit ideas from the public on March 20.
  9. **Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.**