

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

Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 12:00 p.m.
Union Station Visitor's Center
102 S. Harrison Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson
Mr. Larry Burns*
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Tim Knanishu*

Ms. Molly Otting Carlson*
Mr. Jeff Reiter
Mr. Rod Simmer

**Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Tara Cullison
Mr. Brian Ritter

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:03 p.m.
2. **Approval of the July 24, 2018 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Future Meeting Presentations/Topics.** Mr. Knanishu extended an invitation for input from the Council regarding topics or events within the Bi-State region that could be presented at future meetings. Ms. Otting Carlson explained that the Council's informational updates are beneficial and that the organization has the ability to exist somewhere between strictly updating members on area happenings and decision making. Mr. Knanishu agreed, explaining that the Council is an entity that supports and advocates for region-minded development in the riverfront communities. Mr. Anderson suggested reaching out to some of the larger projects for an update, such as Davenport's Main Street Landing, Bettendorf's residential development, The Bend in East Moline, and possible reactivation of Q2030.

Ms. Cullison mentioned two suggestions that were discussed in a previous conversation between her and Mr. Knanishu, one being a representative of Government Affairs from the QC Chamber of Commerce, and the other another update on I-74 traffic flow.

Mr. Simmer discussed his observations of low attendance, especially from Council Members up river and down river of the immediate metro area, and that a push for future attendance may be necessary considering potential benefits of the Council meetings. He also suggested bringing in someone from Illiniwek and Loud Thunder to present on recent park improvements and conservation efforts.

Mr Reiter suggested inviting an active member of Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI), which held their annual meeting in the Quad Cities in mid-September. It was agreed

among the Council that Mr. Reiter would reach out to a local mayor who serves on the MRCTI board to attend November's QCRFC meeting to present on what initiatives are moving forward and what was discussed at the annual meeting.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Bettendorf* – Mayor Gallagher endorsed a BUILD grant (formerly TIGER), for which Bettendorf intends to apply in 2019. Davenport is currently applying for a \$20 million grant with IDOT for the Landing area. Bettendorf plans to see how the grant goes with Davenport to prepare for their 2019 application process. Mr. Reiter also added that the renovations to City Hall will be complete this December, and the residential units down by the riverfront are ahead of schedule.
- *East Moline* – Hyatt Place Hotel at The Bend is scheduled for a soft opening in November and is hoping to have customers as soon as possible. Current supplemental development at the site includes a gas station. Work is in motion to bring the bike path down from the levee to the hotel, and IMEG has secured the permit necessary for construction from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Kammler also reported that phase one engineering, to connect the Great River Trail to the Hennepin Trail in Colona, is almost complete, and a Beacon Trail plan is underway to increase access to the river from downtown.
- *Moline* – The Captain's Table site is in the redesign phase as a development agreement with the City. Andrew Dasso's firm is completing the design, which will include additional parking and modifications to the bike path to improve safety at the location. The IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union Headquarters development is also moving along, despite labor shortages in the area. Further, Heritage Church of Rock Island has acquired the former Kone building for future administrative/corporate offices and office leasing space. They are working to allow public access to the tower. Moline is moving forward on the bike path addition at Bass Street Landing, using TAP funds, that will allow trail access to the new I-74 bridge. Metrolink has secured a \$2 million grant to reconfigure the docks at the TaxSlayer Center that will improve access from downtown.
- *QC Convention & Visitors Bureau* – Ms. Otting Carlson reminded the Council of the importance of retaining signage along the I-74 and I-80 corridors during bridge construction to avoid visitors bypassing the metro area. The 11th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference, hosted by River Action, is to take place October 24-25 at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Moline. Also, the QC Convention & Visitors Bureau will be partnering with the Rock Island Arsenal Museum to sell retail at the museum and help with a campaign to better communicate protocol regarding Arsenal Island entry for visitors. Lastly, there will be a Kris Kringle Market December 8-9 taking place on the sidewalks outside of the Union Station Visitor's Center building in Davenport, featuring local craft and food vendors.
- *Rock Island County* – Improvements have been made at Dorrance Park in Port Byron and Illiniwek in Hampton. The docks at Illiniwek are out for the season, and the trail improvements have been completed, including rerouting the overlook into the trail system, thanks to volunteers from Friends of Off-Road Cycling. The park has also completed rehabilitation of the two baseball diamonds into a wetland habitat. At Loud Thunder, work on the dam is taking longer than expected, due to some road issues. The whole improvement project includes the

dam, 52 camping sites, 4 cabins, the horse corral, adding a wash station for horses, and a few camper hookups. The County Courthouse is set to be demolished around the first of the new year and the county is looking for any memorial ideas for the building/site debris to include in the demolition bid. The recorder's office is in the process of moving to the Rock Island County Administrative Building.

5. **Announcements.** Mr. Ritter announced that Nahant Marsh is seeking nominations for past, present, and future champions of conservation from the Quad Cities Region for the First Annual Oberholtzer Awards. Ernest Oberholtzer was a famous conservationist from Davenport, Iowa, who was instrumental in preserving the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness during the early and mid-1900s. The award ceremony for the Oberholtzer Awards will take place February 23, 2019 at Modern Woodmen Park from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The ceremony will serve as a fundraiser for Nahant Marsh and will award a scholarship to a local college or high school student in the field of conservation or a related field.
6. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad City Riverfront Council will be November 27, 2018.
7. **Other Business.** There was no other business.
8. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**