

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
The Rust Belt – Commons Area
533 12th Avenue
East Moline, Illinois 61244

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson

Mr. Larry Burns*

Mr. Tim Kammler

Mr. Tim Knanishu*

Ms. Molly Otting Carlson*

Ms. Meghan Overton

* *Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Tara Cullison

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:08 p.m.
2. **Approval of the July 23, 2019 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Burns. Ms. Otting Carlson seconded the motion to approve the July 23, 2019 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Certificates of Appreciation Discussion.** Ms. Cullison passed out a list of 2018 project nominations made at the May 28, 2019 QCRFC meeting:
 - Chad Pregracke, Living Lands and Waters – River Clean-up and Invasive Species Removal
 - City of East Moline – The Bend Development
 - River Action & the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District – Illiniwek Prairie Restoration Project
 - All Mississippi River Communities and Agencies who were involved in the Flood Fight of 2018 & 2019

Ms. Cullison recommended to the Council to wait until next year's round of Certificates of Appreciation to award river communities for their efforts during the flood season. Mr. Knanishu agreed and mentioned that efforts unfolding currently to collaborate after the flooding, such as business and local government partnerships, should be captured. Ms. Otting Carlson noted that Rails to Trails, a nationwide initiative, efforts in the Bi-State Region could be considered for next year's awards. Mr. Burns motioned to award the first three projects/people the QCRFC Certificates of Appreciation and invite awardees to the November 26 meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it carried.

4. **Meeting Time and Location Discussion.** Ms. Cullison reported on the survey sent out earlier in the year, asking Councilmembers what time and locations they preferred. Ultimately, same time of day

and number of meetings throughout the year were preferred by respondents. Ms. Cullison asked the Council if they prefer meeting in the same location every meeting or moving around the QC Area depending on topic or presentation. The group agreed that moving around was preferred and allowed representatives of the Council to see different parts of the region.

5. **Review QCRFC By-Laws.** Ms. Cullison passed around a copy of the draft By-Laws that incorporated the Council’s comments since May. Mr. Knanishu mentioned that the QCRFC could give a presentation about the group at a Bi-State Regional Commission meeting to spread awareness of the benefits of the meetings. Mr. Anderson suggested that each community provide a more elaborate presentation on a rotational basis, to enhance value added. Ms. Otting Carlson agreed that presentations could be more elaborate than round table updates. Mr. Kammler noted that with 24 communities, each community would be responsible for a presentation/detailed update, once every two years. He also suggested Article II, Section 2 include language that encourages representatives to provide updates on projects and activities. Ms. Otting Carlson mentioned that the logo needed updating to reflect the I-74 bridge rendering. Ms. Cullison said she would draft a new logo to present to the Council. Mr. Kammler made a motion to adopt the QCRFC By-Laws as presented and with the edits to Article II, Section 2 proposed by Mr. Kammler. Mr. Burns seconded the motion, and it carried.

6. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Davenport* – The city is still working through the flood issues. Mayor Klipsch is leading the Flood Task Force, which has had three meetings and is considering an RFP for a flood plan. Community Rating System verification puts Davenport four points from the next level.
- *East Moline* – The Bend is becoming an active area, with a new development going in west of McGlaughlin. Hotel/motel tax is new for East Moline, and the city is working with finance to begin utilizing that money. The ramp is complete from the riverfront trail to the Hilton, providing access for non-motorized traffic.
- *Moline* – The Upper Mississippi River Conference will take place in Moline October 23-24. The IL 92 Corridor Study is ongoing, made possible through an IDOT grant and Bi-State coordination, which will address access to river and amenities from IL 92. Renew Moline is bringing the Urban Land Institute to make a recommendation on I-74 realignment zone. The Public Art Master Plan has kicked off and is possible through a grant from the Moline Foundation.
- *Rock Island County* – In January, 15.4 acres of prairie will be restored at Loud Thunder, and the Martin Conservation area will have roadside plantings. There are ongoing trail improvements south of the horse corral at Loud Thunder. The accreditation at Niabi Zoo was denied; reapplication is expected for 2022. The courthouse demolition is still in litigation.
- *Visit Quad Cities* – The Hot Air Balloon Festival is this weekend at the fairgrounds. Visit Quad Cities is moving back to Union Station in Davenport with the process to begin in October. Holiday Hop will take place November 8 at Moline Centre and will include 43 businesses. This year, “Holiday in the Heartland” will occur December 6-8 and incorporates BeckyFest and the Christkindlmarkt Quad Cities. The Visit Quad Cities survey is open and can be found at quadcitysurvey.com. Approximately 1,100 people have completed the survey and we are

looking for about 3,500 responses. The QC Ale Trail continues to be a hit, with about 156 people completing and receiving free custom pint glass.

7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad City Riverfront Council will be November 26, 2019.
8. **Other Business.** There was no other business.
9. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**