

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
331 West Third Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson
Mr. Larry Burns
Mr. Ralph Heninger**
Mr. Tim Knanishu*

Ms. Jan Occhi
Ms. Meghan Overton
Mr. Jeff Reiter
Mr. Rod Simmer

* *Current QCRFC Officers*

** *QCRFC representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Tara Cullison

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:03 p.m.
2. **Approval of the March 26, 2019 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Burns. Mr. Reiter seconded the motion to approve the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Certificates of Appreciation Discussion.** Annual certificates of appreciation will be accepted up to the July meeting. Council members were asked to nominate organizations, businesses, and individuals for their significant contributions to riverfront development in 2018. Ms. Cullison noted the awardees for 2017:
 - Jeff Reiter, City of Bettendorf, Completion of Riverfront Trail along U.S. 67
 - Raymond Nees, Friends of Off-Road Cycling, Preparations of Trails on Sylvan Island
 - Jeff Anderson, City of Moline, Sylvan Island Bridge and Trail System
 - Colonel Kenneth Tauke, Rock Island Arsenal, New Housing Units on Arsenal Island
 - Joe Taylor, QC Convention and Visitors Bureau, 28 years of service

After discussion, the following individuals, organizations, and businesses were nominated for 2018 Certificates of Appreciation and will be selected from after further discussion at July's meeting:

- Chad Pregracke, Living Lands and Waters, River Clean-up and Invasive Species Removal
- City of East Moline, The Bend Development
- River Action & Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, Illiniwek Prairie Restoration Project

- All Mississippi River Communities and Agencies who helped with the Flood Fighting of the 2018-2019 flood season

4. **Officer Nomination Committee**. Mr. Knanishu explained to the Council that officer nominations are to be accepted up until the July meeting. The Office of the President, according to the existing By-Laws, can only serve two consecutive one-year terms, and the Vice President is to succeed to the Office of President. After discussion, the Council came to the conclusion that the officers currently serving would rather be reaffirmed than to elect new officers. With Council attendance low and persistent flooding in the area, changing the By-Laws to reflect the existing Officers of the Council was brought to the table. The Council found that carrying-on this year, while re-working the Council's overall By-Laws, and meeting arrangements in an effort to bolster attendance and community representation, was the best option. Mr. Simmer motioned to amend the existing Quad City Riverfront By-Laws so that term-limits are removed from the Offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer, and that an annual officer review be added to ensure performance of duties. Mr. Heninger seconded, and the motion carried.
5. **Review OCRFC By-Laws**. Ms. Cullison informed the Council that the last time the By-Laws were amended was 1999. It may be beneficial to revisit the By-Laws, not only to help foster future participation but also to make sure they are relevant to today's riverfront developmental climate. Ms. Cullison asked the group to consider the existing By-Laws and potential changes to (1) the name of the Council and, (2) the day of the month, time of day, and location of the meetings.

Ms. Bulat, Executive Director of Bi-State Regional Commission, suggested the Council may consider amending the name of the group to expand the reach to all Quad Cities area riverfront communities (i.e. "Bi-State Riverfront Council). The goal of this name change consideration is to encourage jurisdictions, up and down the Mississippi River, outside of the immediate urbanized area to participate. Mr. Simmer suggested the "Greater Quad Cities Riverfront Council." Mr. Anderson mentioned that a name change may help, but the larger issue related to jurisdictional participation may be the ability of the Council to convey the value added from participation. In the past, the Council helped to foster the development of the *Mississippi River Corridor Design Principles* plan, published in 1996 by Bi-State Regional Commission. The Council also contributed to the development of the Q2030 Regional Action Plan. The group agreed with Mr. Anderson. Mr. Reiter also agreed, but suggested we keep the name of the Council the same to align more closely with regional efforts of both the QC Chamber of Commerce and Visit Quad Cities. The group found this to be something to keep in mind as well.

Revisiting the meeting day, time and location of the meetings is an effort to attract representatives/Council members that are unable to attend during the day and to remove the conflict the meetings have with the Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Policy Committee. Both groups meet on the same day of the month and at the same time. The MPO is made up of elected officials from communities within the urbanized area.

The Council usually meets at the Union Station Visitor's Center in Davenport, but this location is susceptible to flooding and does not have internet or phone service. Some of the smaller riverfront communities are represented by a city or village clerk, who cannot leave the office unattended to attend the Council meetings. Ms. Cullison suggested offering a telecommunication option to these communities, which would involve finding a new "home" location that would allow this type of equipment. Keeping in mind a centralized location, some options the group discussed were Bi-

State’s conference room in Rock Island, the Scott County Administrative Building, and the QC Chamber of Commerce’s Davenport office.

Mr. Simmer brought up the idea of submitting reports in lieu of attendance, so that each jurisdiction is providing some sort of update to the group. Mr. Simmer also suggested an electronic poll be sent out to the Council members, asking preferences in times, days, and locations, to help the Council narrow down their decision. Ms. Cullison agreed to generate a poll and send it out with the next meeting’s agenda packet.

6. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Bettendorf* – The flood barrier at 8th Street will be erected tomorrow, and majority of the city’s staff and officials are bracing for the flood. Leach Park is to close soon as well.
- *Bi-State Regional Commission* – Mr. Heninger expressed concern that the Canadian Pacific Railway line that was raised has changed the development planning at LeClaire Park in Davenport. Mr. Heninger informed the group that he is planning to attend the next Levee Commission meeting to discuss the matter, and would report back at the July Council meeting. He mentioned that the lack of communication from the railroad company has left the community with many questions, and that the Supreme Court has not had a relevant ruling for the last 75 years.
- *Davenport* – Ms. Overton let the Council know that she would be attending the meetings as needed, and that majority of projects and riverfront development are on hold due to the flood.
- *Mercer County* – The flood is the major concern of communities in the county. Highway 17, that leads into Keithsburg, IL, is closing soon for the first time this year. The Keithsburg Riverside Campground has been underwater since spring.
- *Moline* – With the second round of rising flood waters, River Drive will be going back under water. In addition, 6th Avenue will be under a closure for reconstruction related to the I-74 project. Related to the I-74 project, Renew Moline and the City of Moline are working on a policy guide and alignment study for the 13 acres that the old bridge will free up.
- *QC Chamber of Commerce* – The Bend development in East Moline continues and has been successful, along with neighboring development, the Rust Belt. The levees within East Moline were recently surveyed, and many were found to be deficient.
- *Rock Island County* – Illiniwek and Loud Thunder Forest Preserves are both flooded. The improvements at Dorrance Park are finishing up with the lights, the last part of the project. With the OSLAD award, camp sites are starting to be poured at Loud Thunder. The slough gate was recently closed on Lake George at Loud Thunder to fill in the lake again. The new boat ramps and docks at Lake George are ADA accessible. Lastly, the county was working on plans for the greenspace after the Courthouse demolition, but with the lawsuit, those plans are pending.

7. **Announcements.** There were no new announcements.

8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad City Riverfront Council will be July 23, 2019. The Council had previously discussed holding the July Field Trip meeting at Nahant Marsh, but the flooding has caused major damage to marsh. The Council decided to discuss other options for July's field trip to give Nahant a chance a recover. There were two recommendations: the National Weather Service office in Davenport and Lock & Dam 15. Mr. Simmer recommended the Council visit Loud Thunder for September's meeting to observe the rehabilitation project of Lake George.
9. **Other Business.** There was no other business.
10. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:09 p.m.**