

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

Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Cassidy Darin
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Doug Littrel
Mr. Chris Mathias*

Ms. Brittany Wells
* *Current QCRFC Officers*
** *QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Bizarri
Mr. Ben Mills

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mathias at 12:10 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 24, 2022 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Littrel made a motion to approve the May 24, 2022 minutes. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Presentation on Loud Thunder Forest Preserve** Mr. Mills, Site Superintendent at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, discussed updates at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Loud Thunder Forest Preserve has installed fishing docks near the boat access areas, planted prairie grass in the park, and added bridges for hiking and for horses. July is the middle of camping season, and camping and boat rentals are widely utilized through Labor Day. Camping is available until October 31. In 2018, the spillway and dam were updated with new erosion control fabric and the rip-rap on the dam to make it compliant with the Class 1 Illinois DNR requirements. The camp sites have all been upgraded to 20-amp, 50-amp, and full hook-up sites. The number of campers has decreased from 2020 and 2021; however, boat rental numbers have increased. There are 141 camping sites available for reservations, and all are typically occupied during holidays. The pavilions are available for reservations, but at this time they typically only receive approximately 6 reservations per year for events such as weddings or school picnics. The shelter on the east side of the lake is sometimes used for graduation parties.
4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Scott County* – The Scott County Planning and Zoning Commission will be reviewing solar farm ordinances at their upcoming meeting. A developer applied to the Commission to request to build a 1,000-acre solar farm. Historically, Scott County has been an agricultural preservation county, so Mr. Mathias drafted an ordinance that, if approved, would only allow solar panels to be developed on ag land that is 50 CSR (Corn Suitability Rating) or less. This proposed ordinance would not regulate residential solar panel installation. It would only restrict the location of developing large-scale solar panel farms. Also, Scott County has been working with LeClaire and Riverdale on the Mississippi River Trail regarding parking lots from the I-74 connection to Northern Scott County.

- *Visit Quad Cities* – Visit Quad Cities offers free bike rentals from Monday through Friday 8:30 to 4:30.
 - *East Moline* – East Moline is working on completing the Grand Illinois Trail that will tie into the Great River Trail. This trail has been in disrepair, so they have been milling it and adding new asphalt that they are hoping to complete before Labor Day. They have not posted a specific detour at this time. A trail will eventually be connected to Colona by going up the 7th Street hill to 21st Avenue to Archer Drive to Short Hills and finally to 10th Street in Silvis. Then in the future, Silvis and Carbon Cliff will work on extending the trail to go past Walmart and to Colona.
 - *Riverdale* – Riverdale will have an Eagle Scout flag project. In the past, Eric Hupp as a Cub Scout installed a flag years ago. His daughter, Emma Hupp, is currently an Eagle Scout who is adding a new flag. Crow Creek empties north of the power plant, and in 1936 at that location there was only the railroad tracks and the power plant. After they remove the brick power plant, they will be able to see the river.
 - *Rock Island County* – Rock Island County purchased land for a new forest preserve. The new preserve will provide additional access to natural areas.
5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be September 27, 2022. Visit Quad Cities suggested the Union Station in Downtown Davenport for the September meeting location. Other possible location ideas are the East Moline public library and the Bettendorf library.
6. **Other Business.** The current officers are President, Mr. Chris Mathias of Scott County; Vice President, Mr. Jeff Reiter of Bettendorf; and Secretary/Treasurer Mr. James Peterson of New Boston/Mercer County. Members were invited to tour the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve trails and use the boats.
7. **Adjournment.** Mr. Kammler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Littrel seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.