

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

Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Steve Ahrens  
Ms. Heather Bishop  
Ms. Nicki Brus  
Mr. Larry Burns\*  
Ms. Barb Cray  
Mr. Jack Cullen  
Mr. Sean Foley  
Mr. Ralph Heninger

Mr. Tim Kammler  
Mr. Doug Littrel  
Mr. Geoff Manis  
Mayor Mike Thoms  
Ms. Brittany Wells

*\* Current QCRFC Officers*

*\*\* QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Ahmad Afifeh  
Mr. Masood Ahmad  
Ms. Jennifer Bizarri

Mr. Ryan Hippen  
Mr. Bryan Schmid

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Burns at 12:10 p.m. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.
2. **Approval of the March 22, 2022 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Heninger made a motion to approve the March 22, 2022 minutes. Mr. Littrel seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **2021 Certificates of Appreciation Presentation** A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Downtown Rock Island for their work in the preparation of plans to revitalize the District. Jack Cullen and Mayor Thoms accepted the award and mentioned the YWCA, the planned work with DOT on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in the future, the infrastructure and sustainability initiatives, working with the chamber to manage downtown and the Arts Alley. Mr. Afifeh accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for the Iowa Department of Transportation for its collective work with the Illinois Department of Transportation to complete the new iconic I-74 Bridge. Mr. Ahmad accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for the Illinois Department of Transportation for its collective work with the Iowa Department of Transportation to complete the new iconic I-74 Bridge.
4. **Presentation on Riverboat Tourism in the Quad Cities** Ms. Brus and Mr. Ahrens presented on riverboat tourism in the Quad Cities. The Freight House is a city-owned business. The rent assists with programmatic and capital investments on the river. River Heritage Park has been through an extensive planning effort, and most of the master plan has been completed. It has walking paths and enough space for three 250-foot-long ships. It was not built for cruise ships; however, cruise ships naturally fit into the park. Phase III is nearly complete, and they have worked through a sea wall issue with the Corps. Ms. Brus discussed tentative cruise schedules. The Celebration River Cruises, Riverboat Twilight, American Queen Voyages, American Cruise Lines, and Viking Cruises are all

cruise ships in the Quad Cities. American Cruise Lines will start excursions June 26. American Queen Voyages will start on July 15, and Viking Cruise Lines will start on July 19.

5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *East Moline* – Will be getting a hotel next to the Expo center and a \$1.85 million ferry boat grant.
- *US Army Corps of Engineers* – Celebrated its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary last week. The Arsenal may begin to allow visitors. They mentioned the Lock 23 passage project.
- *Rock Island* – Talked about Red White and Boom, which will be on July 3. They signed a three-year agreement and longer-term marketing and sustainability.
- *Davenport* – The Farmers Market will be at the Freight House. Movies on the Mississippi will have 5 movies this year.
- *Riverdale* – The Ice Cream Social will be on June 4 on the hill. There will also be a fire hose water fight on June 11.
- *Rock Island County* – There were 2 foxes born, and they mentioned the Colobus Monkey exhibit at the Niabi Zoo.
- *Iowa DOT* – Discussed a demo project on I-74.
- *Illinois DOT* – Mentioned 2 projects on bridges and interstate 280 and Centennial bridge work.

6. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be July 26, 2022.

7. **Other Business.** There was no other business.

8. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.