

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

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Barb Cray
Maj. Matthew Fletcher
Mr. Tim Kammler

Mr. Greg Ludwig
Mr. Jeff Reiter*
Ms. Brittany Wells

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Nicole Carkner
Mr. Bryan Schmid
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reiter at 12:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the September 26, 2023 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Kammler made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 minutes. Mr. Burns seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Presentation on QC Trails Website.** Ms. Carkner began the presentation by giving a brief overview of the Quad Cities Health Initiative, a program that encourages the construction of pro-physical activity infrastructure, such as trails. Per a recently conducted community health assessment, only ¼ of adults and less than half of all children in the Quad Cities are meeting physical activity standards. Ms. Carkner then gave an introduction to the QC Trails website, which was created to educate the public about the 500+ miles of non-motorized trails in the Bi-State region and to promote the use of these trails. Mr. Schmid went in to more detail on the website, highlighting various features of both the site and the trails map. Mr. Schmid demonstrated how the site shows substantial information for many of the trails in the area, including elevation profile, surface, difficulty, and more. The amount of information for each trail varies, however, as much of it is provided by local partners. A brief discussion followed regarding adding trails to the map, with Ms. Bishop wondering if the trails on the Rock Island Arsenal could be added. Mr. Schmid said that it was a possibility, but due to the limited access of Arsenal Island to the public, they likely would not be added in the near future. Mr. Reiter concluded the discussion by encouraging the council members to include a link to the QC Trails site on the websites of their respective communities/organizations.
4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Visit QC* – Ms. Wells informed the council that the bike rentals (which are housed and rented from the destination center) were closed for the season, and that 8 new bikes had been added to the inventory for next year.

- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns gave the council a brief update, saying that the Illiniwek and Loud Thunder campgrounds had closed for the season.
 - *LeClaire* – Mr. Ludwig said that LeClaire was completing a TASA application to fund a trail extension along U.S. 67. He also reminded the council that Christmas in LeClaire would be taking place on the coming weekend and invited everyone to come and take part in the festivities.
 - *East Moline* – Mr. Kammler informed the council that the design phase of the downtown streetscaping project is ongoing, and that the city will be getting a new channel cat for next year.
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Major Fletcher said that the Mississippi River would remain open for navigation throughout the winter. Major Fletcher and Ms. Bishop then gave updates on both NESP and the Andalusia ecosystem restoration projects, as well as passing out handouts that provided a visual guide to the work being done with NESP.
 - *Bi-State Regional Commission* – Mr. Sutton and Mr. Schmid confirmed that Bi-State had submitted an application on behalf of LeClaire for Iowa DOT’s TAP grant.
 - *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray informed the council that Port Byron was in the initial stages of pursuing a downtown streetscaping grant. There is currently disagreement regarding how parking would be handled in this project, with the businesses differing from the engineers on their preferred amount of parking spaces.
 - *Bettendorf* – Mr. Reiter said that the city was negotiating with the railroads to establish quiet zones, to offset the effects the increased train traffic following the CPKC railroad merger. Additionally, with the Helm Group vacating the riverfront following the demolition of the I-74 bridge, Bettendorf is ready to move forward with plans to revitalize Leach Park and to build a new commercial development in the area.
5. **Next Meeting.** There was a general discussion about future council meetings, including the next one on January 23, 2024. Various venues were discussed, including Modern Woodmen Park, but no venue was committed to for an upcoming meeting.
6. **Other Business.** None
7. **Adjournment.** Mr. Kammler moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Bishop seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.