

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

Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 12:00 p.m.
Rock Island YWCA
513 17th Street
Rock Island, IL

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Mayor Barb Cray
Mr. Rob Danielson
Mr. Greg Ludwig

Mr. James Peterson*
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Brittany Wells

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Julie Larson
Mr. Charlie Rice
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schaapveld at 12:01 p.m.
2. **Presentation.** Ms. Larson welcomed the members to the new Rock Island YWCA. She told members that the facility was expected to fully open to the public in the coming days, and that the full opening had been delayed due to issues with the pool floor. She then gave an overview of the services offered by the YWCA, including childcare (the facility is licensed for 190 children); employment training programs; financial assistance; the empowerment center, which provides clothing, food, and hygiene products; and a learning center, among other services, free of charge for those in need. When asked what the plan was for the old YWCA building, Ms. Larson said that it is in the process of being turned into a shelter for homeless youth, and is expected to open in either October or November.
3. **Approval of the May 28, 2024 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Ludwig made a motion to approve the May 28, 2024 minutes. Mr. Schaapveld seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Rock Island County* – Dr. Simmer reported that all parks are open in the county and that the restrooms at Illiniwek Forest Preserve, currently being renovated for ADA accessibility, will be reopening soon. He also said that Niabi Zoo is looking for additional funding sources to repair the damage done during the major storm last winter, as the insurance is insufficient to cover the full cost of the repairs. Mr. Burns said that work continues on the historic courthouse square in downtown Rock Island, with the existing monuments undergoing refurbishment. The square will also be getting benches as well as a new Civil War monument to replace the existing, deteriorating one.

- *Mercer County/New Boston* – Mr. Peterson gave a series of updates regarding activities in Mercer County. Lock and Dam 17 has been reopened after flooding on the Mississippi forced its closure for multiple weeks. The flooding has also delayed the work on the new boat ramps, but the Keithsburg landing is now complete. Across the river, work on the Port Louisa and Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuges continues.
 - *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray reported that Port Byron’s Main Street resurfacing project was still ongoing. Preparations are underway for Tugfest, which will take place on August 8-10. Port Byron is also preparing for its 200th anniversary celebrations, which will be in 2028. Port Byron has also been added as a location for River Action’s riverine walking tours.
 - *Visit Quad Cities* – Ms. Wells said that the Destination Center in Davenport has reopened now that the flooding is subsiding, that the Bix 7 is this coming weekend. Also, Davenport’s Union Station will have its centennial celebration on September 26.
 - *LeClaire* – Mr. Ludwig reported that the trail to Huckleberry Park will be completed by the end of August. LeClaire has also finished master plans for two of its parks. Mr. Danielson said that 190th Birthday event went extremely well. It was well attended, and the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show that came for the event has already expressed interest in coming back and holding an annual show in LeClaire. Grants are being sought for developing the second phase of sidewalk improvements. Mr. Danielson added that LeClaire will host both the British Auto Fest and Vettes on the River this month.
 - *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton reported that the cycles for both Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) and Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD) grant cycles were now underway. He added that the processes of updating both the Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area and Iowa Regional Planning Area 9 long range transportation plans were also underway.
 - *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld informed the group that the Buffalo Shores Park in Buffalo, IA was closed due to flooding, a new gun range opened near Princeton, IA, and the bridge over the Wapsipinicon will be closed for the next few months.
5. **Next Meeting.** Mr. Sutton told the members that the traditional Riverfront Council field trip meeting would be held for the September meeting. The field trip is usually in July, but was postponed due to the flooding closing off a number of potential locations. Mr. Sutton asked for suggestions on a potential meeting location. Locations suggested included Niabi Zoo, Nahant Marsh, Amôwa Forest Preserve, and Illiniwek Forest Preserve.
6. **Other Business.** None.
7. **Adjournment.** Dr. Simmer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Burnes seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m. before the tour, so that anyone who needed to leave could do so.
8. **Tour of Rock Island YWCA.** Following the conclusion of Riverfront Council business, Ms. Larson led the members on a tour of the new facility. Members were shown the fitness rooms, cardio room, multiple classrooms, the second floor playground, pool, and the Empowerment Center. Ms. Larson shared details about each of the areas the group visited, and elaborated on the mission of the Empowerment Center. She was also asked about where the YWCA’s funding comes from, to which she answered that the organization is mostly grant-funded. After the conclusion of the tour, the meeting officially ended.