

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

Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Moline City Hall
Committee of the Whole Conference Room – Second Floor
619 16th St., Moline, IL

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Heather Bishop
Maj. Matthew Fletcher
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Tim Knanishu
Mr. Greg Ludwig
Mr. Chris Mathias

Mr. Jeff Reiter
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Brittany Wells
Ms. Jenelle Wolber
Mr. Don Wrenn

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reiter at 12:03 p.m.
2. **Approval of the January 28, 2025 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Knanishu made a motion to approve the January 28, 2025 minutes. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Nomination of Officer – Vice President.** Mr. Sutton informed the members that the Mr. James Peterson had resigned as vice president of the Council. He presented the option to the group of either electing a new vice president or elevating current secretary Greg Schaapveld to vice president and electing a new secretary. Mr. Schaapveld was asked if he would like to be elevated to vice president, to which he indicated that he would be not be opposed. Mr. Knanishu motioned to elevate Mr. Schaapveld to vice president, Mr. Kammler seconded, and the members unanimously voted to make Mr. Schaapveld the new vice president. There was a brief discussion regarding the nomination to fill the now vacant secretary position. Mr. Ludwig expressed some interest in the position, upon which he was nominated by Mr. Schaapveld, which was seconded by Mr. Kammler. Mr. Ludwig was unanimously elected as secretary.
4. **Presentation: Moline’s River Front and Centre Project.** – Mr. Mathias presented to the group on the City of Moline’s River Front + Centre Plan, the city’s plan to develop an area of downtown between 18th and 23rd Streets and from the riverfront to 7th Avenue. He highlighted in particular the area around the old Kone elevator factory on the riverfront. The old factory is to be demolished, and its place there is planned to be a recreation area for the public to enjoy. Three different themes for the recreation area were presented to the public at an input session, and the public voted on which of three they preferred. The three themes were “Seasonal Playground,” which came first, “Nature/Naturalistic,” which came second, and “Food and Farming,” which came third. There have

been discussions on whether to keep the testing tower from the elevator factory, which has become something of a Moline landmark. A study was done that indicated that the tower could stand on its own if the surrounding building was demolished, and there has been talk about using it as a recreational observation tower. Mr. Mathias also showed the group the proposed residential developments that would be accompanying the riverfront development. He said that one of the goals of this project is to bring enough residents downtown to attract a grocery store in the area. Hopefully, he said, the plan will be approved in either May or June, with demolition beginning next year. The city is looking for a RAISE grant to help with the costs and is looking at a potential 5-10-year timeline for the project. In addition to the Riverfront project, the city is also looking at potential ways that the South Park Mall can be redeveloped, and will be updating their comprehensive plan next year.

5. **Discussion of 2024 Certificates of Appreciation Nominees.** Mr. Sutton informed the group that two nominations for a Riverfront Council Certificate of Appreciation had been received. The nominees were:

- **Rock Island Arsenal** – For their efforts to enhance riverfront recreation, tourism, cultural resources, and transportation in the Quad Cities, specifically the opening for public rental their vast assortment of recreational items, their renovation of the Arsenal Museum, and the construction of the new roundabout at the foot of Arsenal Bridge in Davenport
- **Tim Knanishu** – For his years of service as executive vice-president of Revitalize and Develop East Moline (REDEEM). “His leadership has a direct impact on quality of life and place because of improved wayfinding and greenspace, the creation of multi-modal connectivity between downtown and the Mississippi River, and a focus on pedestrian safety and accessibility.”

The members agreed that both were deserving choices for a certificate, and it was agreed that certificates should be awarded to both nominees. Mr. Knanishu expressed his gratitude for being nominated and praised the work that the Riverfront Council as does to facilitate conversations between its members and the governments and organizations that they represent. The certificates will be handed out at the May meeting.

6. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Moline* – Mr. Mathias reiterated that Moline will be updating its comprehensive plan next year.
- *East Moline* –Mr. Kammler informed the group that the state of the city address would be held on the coming Thursday. Construction will be starting at the Bend in April with the hope that the trail will be completed by the end of the year.
- *REDEEM* – Ms. Wolber introduced herself as the new executive vice president of REDEEM, and said that she will be taking Mr. Knanishu’s place as REDEEM’s representative on the Riverfront upon his retirement. Mr. Knanishu reported that the condo development on the East Moline riverfront is going well.
- *LeClaire* –Mr. Ludwig said that second phase of the Cody Road project would begin within the next few weeks, the Wisconsin Street project will be out for bid in August, engineering for the new Huckleberry Park splash pad and playground has started, and construction will begin on the new YMCA in either June or July.

- *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Wrenn informed the group that there would be a series of celebrations on the island this year for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army, and the revamped 9-hole golf course will be opening in April. Mr. Wrenn also told the members that a ceremony honoring the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War would be held on the Arsenal this Saturday.
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Major Fletcher said that construction was set to begin on the new mooring cell at Lock and Dam 15 in August, and construction on the mooring cell at Lock and Dam 14 would begin in 2026. Ms. Bishop informed the members that the River Visitor Center was now open Wednesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Additionally, members were informed that there is no major flooding expected on the Mississippi this year.
 - *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton told the group that the Iowa DOT had reopened the window for statewide TAP for a supplemental round of funding. Applications are due May 16.
 - *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld said that the Buffalo Shores would be opening next week.
 - *Rock Island County* – Dr. Simmer updated the council on the progress that was being made on the repairs at Niabi Zoo, some of which are expected to be completed in the coming months. Mr. Burns added that the county’s parks are now open.
 - *Visit QC* – Ms. Wells told the group that Visit QC’s bike rentals were now available, construction was expected to begin on the Davenport Main Street Landing project next week, and the Figge Museum façade lighting will be completed next month.
7. **Next Meeting.** The members were asked if they wished to reschedule the next meeting, scheduled for May 27, to avoid potential conflicts with Memorial Day. The group unanimously agreed that the meeting should remain on May 27, as the majority of those currently in attendance did not have conflicts.
8. **Other Business.** None
9. **Adjournment.** Mr. Knanishu moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Schaapveld seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.