

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

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Rock Island Arsenal – Quarters One
Gillespie Street BLDG 301
Rock Island, IL

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Rob Danielson
Mr. Ralph Heninger
Mr. Greg Ludwig
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*

Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Jenelle Wolber
Mr. Don Wrenn

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Tim Knanishu
Colonel William Parker
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schaapveld at 12:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the March 25 2025 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Heninger made a motion to approve the March 25, 2025 minutes. Mr. Burns seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation.** Colonel Parker informed the committee about the many events and projects happening at the Arsenal. He told the group about the recent Armed Forces Day celebrations saying that the event was a success, with over 200 people attending the festivities. He said that the public-attended festivities are part of the Arsenal's efforts to change its reputation in the Quad Cities from being an area that's off-limits to the general public to being a community hub in the area. To that effect, he highlighted that the Arsenal already offers numerous services to the general public, including use of an auto craft shop, where the public can rent a lift and work on their cars, and the outdoor recreation center, which offers rentals of recreational equipment. The Arsenal is the only Army facility in the country that offers rentals like this to the general public.
4. **2024 Certificates of Appreciation Presentation.** There were two recipients of a Riverfront Council Certificate of Appreciation this year. They were:
 - **Rock Island Arsenal** – For their efforts to enhance riverfront recreation, tourism, cultural resources, and transportation in the Quad Cities, specifically opening their vast assortment of recreational items for public rental, 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.”

Col. Parker accepted the certificate on behalf of the Arsenal and Mr. Knanishu accepted on behalf of himself. Both expressed their gratitude for being given the certificates, and Mr. Knanishu reiterated his appreciation for the Riverfront Council and the work that it has done over the years.

5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Bi-State Regional Commission* – Mr. Heninger shared his personal connection with the Quarters One building recounting the time he spent in the building as a teenager in the 1950s.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns and Dr. Zimmer informed the group that numerous recreational facilities, including Indian Bluff Golf Course, Niabi Zoo, and the camp grounds at the county's state forest preserves are all now open for the season.
- *REDEEM/East Moline* – Ms. Wolber said that construction on East Moline's RAISE grant project has commenced.
- *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Wrenn and Col. Parker told the group that, in addition to looking to host additional public events, including the upcoming Ride the Arsenal on Father's Day, the Arsenal is looking into adding a potential Channel Cat stop on the island. Col. Parker also added that mooring cells for barges are currently being installed
- *LeClaire* – Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Danielson said construction for the second phase of the Cody Road is currently underway. Preparations are also underway for TugFest in August and Buffalo Bill Days at the end of June, the latter of which will feature the return of the reenactors of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop informed the members that the Mississippi Visitors Center is changing its hours to Tuesday-Friday from 9-4.
- *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton told the group that applications for Iowa's State Recreational Trail Program will be due July 1, and the window to apply for Illinois Safe Routes to School grants will be opening in the fall.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld said that work on the Scott County Park pool is in progress and the new county gun range is now open from Wednesday through Sunday.

6. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on July 22, and were asked to share location ideas if they had any.

7. **Other Business.** None

8. **Adjournment.** Mr. Danielson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Zimmer seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

9. **Tour of Quarters One.** The members were given a presentation on the history of Quarters One in one of the twin parlors on the first floor of the building, where they were told about the history of the building, which was constructed in the 1860s and completed in 1871. Originally constructed to be the residence of Brigadier General Thomas Rodman, Quarters One is the second largest federally owned residence, behind only the White House. During the presentation Mr. Heninger shared some more of his memories and experiences with Quarters One.