

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

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Rock Island City Hall
1528 3rd Avenue
Rock Island, IL

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
LTC. Matt Fletcher
Mr. Ralph Heninger
Mr. Tim Kammler

Mr. Greg Ludwig
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Jenelle Wolber

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Miles Brainard
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schaapveld at 12:06 p.m.
2. **Approval of the July 22, 2025 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Kammler made a motion to approve the July 22, 2025 minutes. Mr. Ludwig seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation.** Mr. Brainard gave a presentation to the group, and began by covering the history of the city of Rock Island with a focus on its downtown. He highlighted that downtown Rock Island is the oldest downtown in the Quad Cities and at one point was home to a number of mills due to its proximity to the Rock Island Rapids. The city peaked in population in the 1960s, at about 55,000 people, but saw a significant population decline in the 1970s and 80s due to a loss of manufacturing jobs. An effort was made in the 1990s to revitalize Rock Island's downtown. The area was rebranded "The District" and became an entertainment and event hub in the area. After a period of success, the downtown area had once again begun to decline, which prompted the city to draw up a downtown revitalization plan in 2015. A downtown/streetscaping task force was established, with the goal of creating a vision for downtown Rock Island that was classic, maintainable, and sustainable long-term. The project received significant funds from both federal and state funding sources, a large amount of which came from American Rescue Plan Act funds that were dispersed in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The project, which changed the area's branding from The District to "Downtown Rock Island," was completed in Summer 2025, complete with new streetscaping, replacing the pedestrian mall on 2nd Avenue with a *woonerf* (a street designed for use by both pedestrians and slow-moving vehicles) and a new roundabout. Mr. Brainard said that the vision for Downtown Rock Island involves diversifying options in the area (having a number of shopping, food, and entertainment-focused businesses), and that is how the city plans to make the project a long-term success.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *LeClaire* –Mr. Ludwig said that the section of the Mississippi River Trail along Cody Road that is currently having a pedestrian bridge installed will be open this month.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns reported that repairs at Niabi Zoo are almost complete, after a winter storm in January 2024 caused significant damage.
- *East Moline* – Mr. Kammler said that there were no new updates to report
- *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton informed the group that the data collected from the Data Bike project over the summer had been processed and would be available to the public in the future. The data collected will provide an overview of the pavement quality/roughness for each of the paved trails in the region, as well as providing imagery of the trails that will be able to be uploaded to Google Maps.
- *REDEEM* – Ms. Wolber also said that she had no new updates to report.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – LTC Fletcher and Ms. Bishop told the members that the dredging projects in the region were wrapping up, and that mooring cell construction at Lock and Dam 15 would begin in October.
- *Rock Island* – Mr. Brainard reported that a regional port plan steering committee had been formed with a focus on terminal connections to rail.

5. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on November 18.

6. **Other Business.** None

7. **Adjournment.** Mr. Kammler moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Heninger seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.