

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

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 12:00 p.m.
G German American Heritage Center and Museum
712 W 2nd St, Davenport, IA
Fourth Floor

Council Members in Attendance

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

Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Brittany Wells
Ms. Hanna Whitehurst

* *Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Aaron Baker
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 November 18, 2025 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Dr. Simmer made a motion to approve the November 18, 2025 minutes. Mr. Ludwig seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation.** Mr. Baker gave a presentation to the group, beginning by first telling them about the history of the building in which the German American Heritage Center and Museum (GAH+C) is located. Originally built in the 1860s as a hotel for German American immigrants, the building was purchased by the GAH+C in 1995, and underwent a series of renovations that were ultimately completed in 2009. The building is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The GAH+C organization itself was founded in 1994 and largely focused on genealogy. The stated mission of the group is to preserve and enrich public knowledge of the German immigrant experience. The museum features a series of exhibits, including the German American Experience – which includes a reconstruction of one of the original hotel rooms in which immigrants would have stayed, “All Aboard,” a children-focused space, and two rotating exhibits. The two current exhibits are “Play On!” focusing on “German immigrants and the Quad Cities’ musical legacy,” and “Violins of Hope,” which is part of a larger national exhibition of violins and other stringed instruments that belonged to Jews before and during the Holocaust. Mr. Baker also highlighted the GAH+C’s programs, including educational outreach, workshops, walking tours, and the monthly *Kaffee und Kuchen* series in which presentations are accompanied by refreshments. He also highlighted the events put on by the GAH+C, including “Best of the Wurst,” *Oktoberfest*, and *Christkindlmarkt*.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray informed the group that Port Byron had recently received a \$2 million grant to upgrade the village’s water system in order to remove manganese from the water. Also, 2 new ice cream places are going to be opening in the village.
- *Visit QC* – Ms. Wells told the group that a relay will be held this year along the nationwide American Discovery Trail to celebrate the American Semiquincentennial. The relay will be arriving in Davenport in September.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns and Dr. Simmer reported that the county had received multiple grants, a bike grant for the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District to do work on a section of the Great River Trail, and an OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant) for a splash pad and dino dig at Niabi Zoo.
- *Davenport* – Ms. Whitehurst informed the group that construction on the Main Street Landing is on schedule, and the city is launching a Veterans Tribute Banner Program, allowing people to sponsor a banner featuring a veteran or active-duty service member that will hang on light poles along the Davenport Riverfront from Memorial Day to Veterans Day.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop told the members that mooring cell construction at Lock and Dam 14 will hopefully be completed by October 2026. The East Moline Sugar Creek pump station project is currently waiting on funds. The Big Island levee repairs are complete. There will be a NESP call on March 10, Silver Jacket projects will take place in March, and there will be flood fight training in April.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld informed the group that there will be snowshoeing events at the Wapsi Environmental Center on February 4 and February 18, as well as winter events on February 7.
- *LeClaire* – Mr. Danielson reported that the merged LeClaire Chamber of Commerce and the LeClaire Marketing Alliance group had their first meeting, and there will be a cocoa crawl on February 1. Mr. Ludwig said that a bid has been awarded for the Wise Street project, and a bid will be awarded on the sidewalk portion of the project imminently. The new splash pad will be open in the spring, and the new LeClaire YMCA is scheduled to open in November.
- *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton said that the Quad Cities MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan draft will be completed shortly and will be available for viewing on the Bi-State website, and that Bi-State had begun updating the Bi-State Transit Development Plan.

5. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on March 24, 2026.

6. **Other Business.** None

7. **Adjournment.** Dr. Simmer moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Ludwig seconded. And the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.