

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

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Figge Museum
225 W 2nd St, Davenport, IA

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Heather Bishop
Mayor Barb Cray
Mr. Ralph Heninger

Mr. Greg Ludwig *
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Mr. Don Wrenn
* *Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Ms. Heather Aaronson Martin
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schaapveld at 12:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 26, 2026 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Ludwig made a motion to approve the May 28, 2026 minutes as written. Mr. Heninger seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *LeClaire* –Mr. Ludwig reported on a number of infrastructure projects ongoing in LeClaire. Construction on Wisconsin Street and Cody Road is ongoing, while engineering for the 35th Street pedestrian bridge has started, and the Mississippi River Trail extension project (Eagle Ridge Rd to May St) is expected to go out to bid in winter. He also reported that the splash pad at Huckleberry Park had opened in June, and that the city was currently preparing for TugFest.
 - *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray reported that the village’s street resurfacing project has gone out to bid, and that the Manganese cleanup project is expected to be completed by April. She added that Port Byron is also preparing for TugFest.
 - *Bi-State* – Mr. Heninger drew the group’s attention to Bi-State’s Revolving Loan Fund program that provides gap financing to businesses in the Quad Cities for the purpose of job creation and retention. A separate RLF program for Mercer and Muscatine counties is also managed by Bi-State. Applications can be found on the Bi-State website. Mr. Sutton highlighted a few grant opportunities, including the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP), due October 5, and the Iowa Federal Recreational Trails program, due October 1).
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* –Ms. Bishop reminded the group that the auxiliary locks at Lock and Dam 14 and Lock and Dam 15 will be unavailable for recreation this season, although the Corps hopes to have lock open for the TugFest fireworks.

- *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld said that all county campgrounds are now open, and highlighted some events that will be taking place in the coming months, including the ScoCo 50 run (8/29), Pioneer Village Fall Festival (9/6-9/7), and Wapsi Center fundraiser 5K (9/19).
 - *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Wrenn told the group that the Arsenal will be launching a trial online entry pass form system in the coming months. Other updates included the change of command ceremony on July 14 with Col. Jason Knapp taking command of U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Rock Island Arsenal; construction on the new RV park is underway and will be open to the public next summer, and new Government Bridge camera on the CoE website that allows the public to see when the bridge is closed to allow river traffic through.
 - *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns said that the Forest Preserve facilities were all up and running, and that 8/15 will be on Veteran’s Day at Niabi Zoo.
4. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on September 22, 2026, location TBD.
5. **Other Business.** None
6. **Adjournment.** Mr. Heninger moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Wrenn seconded, and the official business of the meeting concluded. Members were invited to attend the tour of the Figge Museum by Ms. Aaronson Martin following the meeting.
7. **Tour of Figge Museum.** Ms. Aaronson Martin began by first giving some background information about the museum and the collection, noting that as of August 6, the museum will have been open for 101 years. What would eventually become the Figge began as the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery when former Davenport mayor Charles Ficke donated nearly 400 works of art to the city. Two-thirds of this original collection are still in the museum’s collection today. The museum was the first municipal art gallery in the state of Iowa, and the collection has grown from 400 to approximately 7,000 works of art. The museum also houses the John Deere art collection. The Figge hosts roughly 20 exhibitions annually, and recently participated in a National Gallery of Art pilot program that enabled the Figge to loan artworks from the National Gallery. Ms. Aaronson Martin then led the group on a tour of different exhibits in the Figge, as well as the museum’s art studios and family activity center. Highlights of the tour included *The Golden Age*, a collection of Northern European artworks on loan from the National Gallery and the *Paintings from New Spain* collection.