

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

Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Mr. Ralph Heninger
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Tim Knanishu
Mr. Chris Mathias *

Mr. James Peterson *
Ms. Brittany Wells

** Current QCRFC Officers*

*** QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Bizarri

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mathias at 12:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of the January 24, 2023 QCRFC Meeting Minutes** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 minutes. Mr. Knanishu seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **Nomination of Officers** Mr. Burns made a motion to nominate the officers to continue the same offices for the next year with Mr. Chris Mathias as President, Mr. Jeff Reiter as Vice President, and Mr. James Peterson as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the officers were reappointed.
4. **Presentation** Mr. Tim Kammler, P.E., Director of Engineering at the City of East Moline, gave a presentation about the East Moline RAISE Grant and Greater Downtown Streetscaping. After submitted for three years, East Moline was fortunate to be one of only a couple of communities awarded a RAISE Grant in the State of Illinois for the year. The presentation showed the future downtown streetscape improvements. There was a large economic void left in the downtown and riverfront area when Case and part of John Deere closed. After studying these districts, they created ideas that would have lasting positive economic effects on the city. East Moline hired a consultant team to help create a master plan, and they had several virtual meetings that included comments from the public during COVID. The overwhelming conclusion was that the area needed better sidewalks, accessibility, trees, landscaping, lighting, and green infrastructure. Also, they noticed there was not good connectivity between the districts and between The Bend, The Rust Belt, and downtown. On 15th Avenue, the railroad is a significant barrier both physically and psychologically. The design focused on the following four items: connectivity, sustainability, accessibility, and equity. The goals were to create an environment that attracts businesses to the greater downtown area, to enhance the consistency and quality of the urban landscape, to improve the quality of life by enhancing connectivity and safety, and trying to reestablish East Moline's sense of place. They focused on pedestrian and cycling streetscaping, gateways into each district, connectivity between districts, 10-foot wide multiuse trails, wide pedestrian landscapes, wayfinding nodes, and improving the bike and transit network to make it more interconnected.

They want to have a Downtown, or 15th Avenue to have a reconstructed street from building to building, which includes changing the current 60-foot roadway with 10-foot pedestrian zones on both sides to a more narrow roadway and wider pedestrian zones on both sides. The current parking is angled stalls, and it will change to parallel parking with only one drive way each way to help slow the traffic. The streetscaping will be from 6th Street to 13th Street on 15th Avenue. They plan to have 2 blocks of festival streets, or streets without curbs.

Seventh street is the connector from north/south across the tracks between downtown and then to 12th Avenue to The Bend and The Rust Belt. The city will talk to the railroad about consolidating some tracks and adding some active crossings. They will add a multi-use path in front of The Rust Belt to add streetscaping and the reconstruction of 7th Avenue from 1st Street to 7th Street. The road is currently closer to the parking lots and The Rust Belt with no current places for sidewalks, and they are going to shift the road closer to the rail and then add a greenway right in front of The Rust Belt and the shops.

5. **2022 Certificate of Appreciation Nominations** Mr. Mathias discussed the five nominations for certificates of appreciation. Mr. Heninger read his submissions for four of the nominations. Ms. Wells said to add American Queen Line passenger cruises to the original two cruise lines that were nominated. Mr. Heninger made a motion to award certificates of appreciation to the following list of recipients. Mr. Peterson seconded, and the list was approved.

- **American Cruise Line, Viking Cruise Line, and American Queen Line**
- **Cities of Bettendorf and Moline for I-74 Bridge and Bike Path**
- **City of Davenport River Drive Improvements**
- **River Actions QC Flood Resiliency Alliance**

6. **Individual Riverfront Reports**

- *REDEEM* – Mr. Knanishu said construction is going on the land between Harvest Works and the river. The development agreement started 15 months ago in December 2021. At this point in time, there are 10 buildings built, and two are already sold and being occupied. There are ten more that are under sales contract. They will acquire more property and build where there is already infrastructure. In five years, there will be 63 more residences by the river that will add about 5 million dollars to the Rock Island County tax base.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Mathias said the big project in Scott County is the carbon dioxide pipeline. They are considering an ordinance, and there is a state-wide ordinance to require extra setback distance from the pipeline, since CO² is odorless.
- *Visit Quad Cities* – Ms. Wells said they are preparing for a flood as well as RAGBRAI.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop noted that Colonel Curry is with Deputy Kim Thomas in Washington, D.C. They have NESP (Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program) projects ongoing and in development. They also will be dewatering some locks and dams on the Illinois River from June 1 to September 30.
- *Mercer County* – Mr. Peterson said Highway 17 will be resurfaced. The campgrounds in New Boston will open April 1, and Keithsburg will open May 1. New Boston is building a new community center. The port terminals are opened and remodeled. New Boston remodeled the interior. Keithsburg has a Port Louisa habitat restoration project going on, and this year it should start the 3rd and final phase.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns said at the Rock Island County Forest Preserve, Loud Thunder began taking reservations on March 1. The park is looking good, and the trails were closed for the majority of the month. The bike path and road project at Illiniwek is scheduled to start in early April. The week of March 20, Centennial Construction will start at the west parking lot.
- *Representative for Bi-State* – Mr. Henninger said there was a great presentation covered by the hydrologist concerning the snow line north of Dubuque where the concern intensifies. He said the outlook was less severe, but it could happen.

7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be Tuesday, May 23, 2023.
8. **Other Business.** None.
9. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.