

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

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns*

Ms. Barb Cray

Mr. Sean Foley

Mr. Doug Littrel

Mr. Geoff Manis

Mr. Chris Mathias*

Mr. Jeff Reiter*

Ms. Brittany Wells

* *Current QCRFC Officers*

** *QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Bizarri

Mr. Jeff Craver

Mr. Bryan Schmid

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Burns at 12:05 p.m. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.
2. **Approval of the January 25, 2022 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Manis made a motion to approve the January 25, 2022 minutes. Mr. Littrel seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Officer Nominations.** Mr. Mathias made a motion to nominate himself as President of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council, Mr. Reiter as the Vice-President, and Mr. James Peterson as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Reiter seconded, and the slate of officers was approved unanimously.
4. **2020 Certificates of Appreciation Awards Presentation.** Mr. Schmid noted that Jeff Anderson was not able to attend the meeting to accept his award. Mr. Schmid would mail the certificate to Mr. Anderson and invite him to a later meeting.
5. **2021 Certificates of Appreciation Nomination.** The Council held a discussion of potential 2021 recipients of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council's Certificates of Appreciation. Mr. Littrel made a motion to award Certificates of Appreciation to the Illinois and Iowa Departments of Transportation for their collective work to complete the I-74 bridge and Downtown Rock Island for their renewed plans for the revitalization of the District. Mr. Mathias seconded the motion, which carried. Mr. Schmid will contact the parties and invite them to receive their certificates at the May meeting.
6. **Presentation on Rock Island County Forest Preserve Initiatives.** Mr. Craver gave a presentation about the Forest Preserve District and its recent initiatives in its seven preserves. Notable and significant upgrades to Loud Thunder Forest Preserve have been implemented in recent years. Upgrades to the camp site include 50 Watt electrical service and sewer upgrades. Sixteen back-in sites have been added for equestrian users. Boat rentals are available on Lake George from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The 16,000 acre preserve added 50 acres of prairie in recent years. In the forested areas, there are desirable hardwoods, and the District is working to remove undesirable

species such as Southern Pine. Numerous areas in the preserve were harvested about 15 years ago, and invasive honeysuckle moved in and has become a pervasive problem. Areas in other preserves have been transitioned to prairie habitat from turf grass and underutilized ball diamonds. The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee, an endangered species, was identified in the district’s preserves.

Recently, the district closed on two parcels in East Moline near IL Route 5 to establish a new preserve to expand high quality timber habitat. The two parcels are currently noncontiguous, though the district would like to connect them in the future. During the acquisition process, no negative feedback was received from neighbors. A “Friends” group may be established to help address maintenance throughout the preserve. It is not envisioned that any campgrounds or playgrounds will be present, and only primitive trails will be maintained in the preserve. Short-term improvements include building a parking lot and “comfort stations” that will include restrooms and water. As part of the long-term maintenance of the preserve, it will have a forest management plan to address reducing mowing and, thereby, operating costs.

7. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Bettendorf* – The glass oculus was installed on the I-74 bridge bike and pedestrian path. The trail will open in the next few months. There will likely be a soft opening within a month. This summer, the city will update its downtown master plan first completed in 2016. In response to the CP Rail merger and increased rail traffic, the city will also conduct a traffic analysis downtown.
- *Port Byron* – The IL Route 84 project is still underway. The original contract has expired.
- *Moline* – The city has hired a consultant to draft a form-based code as part of its zoning update.
- *Riverdale* – The new residential development across from Arconic, the Woods Edition, is continuing to progress. The lower part of the development is zoned commercial, and will see new construction along U.S. 67.
- *Rock Island County* – East Moline will allow the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District to acquire land for a new forest preserve. A tentative closing date has been set around February 1. The new preserve will provide additional access to natural areas.
- *Visit Quad Cities* – Visit Quad Cities is working to get Union Station open by May

8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be May 24, 2022.

9. **Other Business.** There was no other business.

10. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by consensus.