



City of Naperville

400 S. Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540
<http://www.naperville.il.us/>

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Erickson called the July 9, 2025 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Lunchroom at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: John Cuff; Jan Erickson, Chair; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; Ian Holzhauer; Andy Hynes; and Seth Michael

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates (ERA); Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chair; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, GRWA; Geoff Roehll, former Riverwalk Commission Chair; Katie Rubush, City staff; and Marcie Schatz, City staff

Erickson introduced and welcomed newly elected Naperville Park Board President, Leslie Ruffing, to the Riverwalk Commission.

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no public comments.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Riverwalk Project Updates - Jan Erickson for Andy Hynes

Receive the update on various Riverwalk projects currently in progress

Erickson reviewed the following project updates that were included with the agenda packet:

Eagle Street Gateway: Construction continues with a portion of the low flow walk recently being poured. Completion may shift to October. The

group discussed the trench box that is being put in place while the crew works on the caissons.

Fredenhagen Park Fountain Repairs: The repair of the Fredenhagen Park Fountain has been delayed by various unexpected conditions to include leaks in the plumbing system, deficient electrical components, and maintenance issues with the chlorination system. An authorization to address these issues is under review.

Fredenhagen Park Miscellaneous Repairs: Picco provided an update regarding the request for quotes to clean and refinish the lpe wood and limestone 1) around the clock tower in the area closest to Washington Street; and 2) for the entire park. Based on costs, they will determine if anything can be included in this year's PA022 budget, and maintenance recommendations will be included.

Washington Street Bridge: The Washington Street Bridge project is nearly complete and the bridge is open. Erickson congratulated all that have worked on the project and referred to the photo of the low flow walkway that was included in the agenda packet.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2025 Naperville Board and Commission Member Training - Marcie Schatz

Conduct the 2025 Naperville Board and Commission Member training for the Riverwalk Commission

Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager, provided training for the Board and Commission members that covered the importance of boards and commissions in Naperville, board and commission member responsibilities, and meeting rules and participation procedures.

Topics discussed included participation and the 75% attendance requirement, excused absences, terms and term limits, ethics and code of conduct, conflict of interest and recusal by written disclosure, agenda content for public information, implementing annual reports, and audio recordings that will be posted on the City's website.

Schatz discussed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which ensures public access to government records and noted that any Riverwalk Commission business is subject to FOIA, regardless of personal or city email accounts, or personal or city devices being used.

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires the Riverwalk Commission, which consists of thirteen members, to have seven members present, in person, for a quorum to conduct a meeting. If a quorum is not available, the meeting will be cancelled. Public meeting notice would also be required if four (majority of a quorum) or more members discuss Riverwalk business, to include email, text, in person or commenting on social media posts. Agendas must be posted 48 hours in advance and there are penalties associated with violations. Erickson stressed the importance of notifying DeLarme immediately if the member was not going to attend an upcoming meeting.

Remote participation by Commissioners is discouraged and only permitted if there is a personal illness or disability, employment purposes or other public business, a family or other emergency, or an unexpected childcare obligation. A quorum must be physically present, and a vote conducted for a member to attend by other means.

Public participation is strongly encouraged and a sign-up sheet is available at each meeting. A speaker's time is limited to three minutes unless additional time is granted by the chairperson or a majority vote of the commission. Commissioners may also ask speakers questions at the conclusion of their comments. City staff are adding a process where written comments can be submitted no later than 24 hours in advance for all board and commission meetings.

2. Draft 2026 Riverwalk Capital Improvement Submittal - Jan Erickson for Andy Hynes

Review and provide feedback regarding the draft 2026 Riverwalk Capital Improvement submittal

Attachments: [Draft CY26 Riverwalk CIP](#)

Erickson reviewed the draft 2026 Riverwalk Capital Improvement submittal included in the agenda packet.

Picco inquired about the riverbank ecological restoration that was included on the cover page for inclusion in 2026 but removed from the spreadsheet. Erickson noted that a change was made to include this every other year to help with the flow of the budget. Cuff inquired about the area between the river and Centennial Beach that was discussed at last week's Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting. Erickson noted the inclusion of this item under Centennial Beach Levee Improvements.

Discussion followed on shoreline restoration with Picco noting recent discussions with Peggy Motta regarding tackling areas with the worst

erosion, possibly beginning in the area from the covered bridge going south on the east extension. Picco discussed the signs placed in restoration areas that direct visitors to the Park District's website for more information. Peterson reminded the group that areas are slotted in the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan for the riverbank ecological restoration and some of the areas have been completed. Erickson advised the group that suggested updates to the Master Plan will be discussed at next month's PDC Committee meeting on August 5th.

A motion to approve the draft 2026 Capital Improvement submittal was made by Sullivan and seconded by Shields. MOTION CARRIED

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Jan Erickson

Approve minutes from the June 11, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [25RWCM Minutes0611](#)

A motion to approve the June 11, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Picco and seconded by Cuff. MOTION CARRIED with Sullivan abstaining

Approve summary from the May 7, 2025 Annual Asset Management Plan Walk, West of Eagle Street

Attachments: [25RWCAMPWalk0507WestofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the May 7, 2025 Annual Asset Management Plan Walk summary was made by Shields and seconded by Cuff. Picco noted that the underlined topics in bold print in the summaries are items that will be brought up at future PDC Committee meetings for further discussion. MOTION CARRIED with Erickson and Ruffing abstaining

2. Chair - Jan Erickson

Erickson reiterated the importance of attendance and the need for a quorum to conduct future meetings.

3. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [25ParkDistrictMemo0709](#)

Picco reviewed the following highlights from the Park District report included in the agenda packet.

Staff continues to focus on routine maintenance tasks including watering, weeding, pruning and hedge-trimming.

Two of three picnic tables at the Free Speech pavilion were sanded and refinished, and over seventy benches have been pressure washed, sanded and stained. Staff is using a new lpe stain that they believe will last longer.

Earthworks planted the perennial plugs in the shoreline restoration project area, which completed the installation of the project. A lot were planted in the mud flat areas.

The Duck Race was held on June 6th. It was a huge success and very well attended.

The parking lot renovation at the Park District Administration building is scheduled for the spring of 2026.

4. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

There was no report.

5. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Jan Erickson for Grant Cowen

There was no report.

6. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

The Fall 2025 Legacy Gift order deadline is September 1st and currently consists of one 4" x 8" and four 8" x 8" commemorative bricks.

7. Planning, Design and Construction - Johnna Shields

Receive the July 1, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes0701Draft](#)

Shields noted the draft meeting minutes from last week's meeting that were included in the agenda packet.

She noted important discussions at next month's meeting that would include review of the Master Plan and encouraged all to attend. Picco would like to include discussion on the shepherd's crook lights, future use and conversion to LED bulbs.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, August 5, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, August 13, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, September 2, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, September 10, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

I. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shields and seconded by Sullivan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
/S/ Rebecca DeLarme
Program Assistant
Transportation, Engineering and Development Business Group