



Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

7:30 AM

Meeting Room C

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Shields called the November 4, 2025 Naperville Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. The meeting was held in Meeting Room C at the Municipal Center, located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Jan Erickson; Andy Hynes; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields, Chair; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: Hanna Brauer; Ian Holzhauer; and Mike Sullivan

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates (ERA); Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Jeff Martin, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, GRWA; Marilyn Schweitzer, resident; and Mary Lou Wehrli, resident

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

SPEAKERS

Mary Lou Wehrli - Wehrli inquired about the Burger King property noting she had tracked down contacts if the Riverwalk Commission would like to discuss the boundaries of the property and the 430 South Washington Street project improvements. She will provide the contact information to Hynes.

Marilyn Schweitzer - Schweitzer expressed concern with the increase in project costs, specifically the 430 South Washington Street project, as noted in her written comments submitted for the October 8th Riverwalk Commission meeting. Discussion followed on reasons for the increases to include market conditions, changes in scope, new regulations, and the construction of the Washington Street Bridge, which also caused costs to escalate.

Chair Shields thanked Wehrli and Schweitzer for their comments.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Riverwalk Project Updates - Andy Hynes

Receive the update on various ongoing Riverwalk projects.

Attachments: [Riverwalk Photos](#)

Hynes provided an update on the following two projects on or adjacent to the Riverwalk.

Eagle Street Gateway: Construction on the Eagle Street Gateway project is complete and the area is open. A grand opening is scheduled for Friday, November 14th, at 3:30 p.m.

Fredenhagen Park Fountain Repairs: The contractor has completed their scope of work. The fountain was tested briefly and will now be winterized.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields

Approve minutes from the September 30, 2025 Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes0930](#)

A motion to approve the September 30, 2025 Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting minutes was made by Cowen and seconded by Hynes. MOTION CARRIED with Erickson, Picco, Sagen and Wohlt abstaining

2. Park District Report - Tiffani Picco

Picco reported that staff has been pressure-washing surface areas and resetting pavers to reduce potential trip hazards to include the area near Jackson Avenue and Webster Street.

Staff is currently focusing on the Healing Field of Honor on Rotary Hill. 1,500 flags will be going up at noon on Thursday, November 6th, and will remain up through the end of the day on Wednesday, November 12th. A Veteran's Day ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th. A Vietnam Wall of Remembrance will also be displayed and is already in place.

3. Grand Pavilion Survey Results - Andy Hynes

Receive the results of the 2025 Grand Pavilion Questionnaire

Attachments: [Riverwalk Grand Pavilion Questionnaire Respondent Summary 2025](#)
[Grand Pavilion Parking and Plaza Concept Drawing](#)

Hynes discussed the Grand Pavilion Survey which the Riverwalk Commission directed the City and Park District staff to prepare to help guide the development for the proposed Grand Pavilion improvements as part of the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan. The questionnaire was posted on the City's and Park District's

webpages between September 25th and October 9th and was advertised through social media, press release, signs posted along the Riverwalk and postcards.

The City received 653 responses and the survey results were included with the agenda packet.

SPEAKERS

Mary Lou Wehrli - Wehrli noted highlighting areas of the location map, included on the illustration in the agenda packet, and its connection to the east. She suggested including signage and unifying the area where the picnic tables are located and where the event is actually taking place. She noted the need to be mindful in management of the property and designing toward potential capacity, adding simple things that could enhance public enjoyment and potentially increase scheduling. She noted the beauty of Sindt Woods and keeping the area simple and not over-designed.

Marilyn Schweitzer - Schweitzer discussed the budget from last year and projects doubling in cost. She inquired if the plans needed to be adjusted.

Rick Hitchcock - Hitchcock discussed the design program outline he previously provided to Hynes and the consultants. He urged the consultants and the Riverwalk Commissioners to consider a written program to include cost, capacity, parking spaces, drainage and soil conditions.

Peterson discussed the budgeted costs as being the original costs anticipated, which also included permeable pavers that have since been shelved. He noted the importance of the survey results which were meant to help guide the development. Discussion followed on the use of the area and the indication from the survey results which do not imply that any major changes are needed. Discussion continued on the possibility of enhancements to help with the flow of the events, including signage, offering carts for transportation to the restrooms, and/or including port a potty rentals as part of the facility rental agreement. Motta noted that the Park District is currently working on updating signage. Picco noted the importance of flexibility as the venue is used for many different types of events.

Cuff made a motion to leave the property alone on the west half and concentrate efforts on the Pavilion and the surrounding facilities. The motion failed due to lack of a second. Discussion followed on simplifying the design scope and changing the language. Further discussion will be held at the December 2nd PDC Committee meeting. Chair Shields encouraged the group to visit the area before next month's meeting and Hynes reminded the group that design dollars for this project are not programmed until at least 2028, with construction scheduled for 2030.

4. Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan Update - Johnna Shields

Continue to review potential edits and updates to the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan

Peterson reviewed the updates to the following projects:

Page 9 - Riverwalk Ecological Restoration - The graphic has been updated to show the completed areas and include the information provided by Motta that identify the five areas of shoreline in need of restoration that can be completed in four phases. The project cost has been updated to \$50K every year from 2026 to 2030, with anticipated annual maintenance cost at \$100 - \$600 per 100' segment. Schweitzer noted that the CIP now lists \$50K every other year, with Hynes discussing the two big projects planned for next year and working within the confines of the entire City's budget and our staff resources. He noted that if there is outside funding available, we can take another look next year. Motta added that they would continue to look for available grants.

Page 10 - Netzley Overlook - Peterson provided a draft based on discussions with Picco. The original concept drawing has steps going up to the grass. They have now included flagstone steps, that are more natural and would not require railing. The costs have not been changed at this time and the existing walls may be reset. The consultants will update the project costs.

Page 12 - Eagle Street South Bank Improvements - Chair Shields noted this should reflect the project in a concept phase, noting that discussion on potential walkway improvements, etc. should be scheduled as an agenda item in 2026.

In addition to the language changes for the Grand Pavilion project, the summary page edits per Wehrli's suggestions and Erickson's Chair message need to be included with the document being updated by next month's PDC meeting for submission to the Riverwalk Commission.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

G. MEETING SCHEDULE:

It was noted that the NEU room is now referred to as Meeting Room C.

*Riverwalk Commission, November 12, 2025, 7:30 a.m. - **CANCELED**
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL*

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction, December 2, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, December 10, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction, January 6, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

H. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Erickson and seconded by Wohlt. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m. MOTION CARRIED by voice vote

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