



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

8:15 AM

Meeting Room C

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Erickson was not in attendance. Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee Chair Shields called the April 8, 2026 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 8:19 a.m. The meeting was held in Meeting Room C at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: 11 - Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; Ian Holzhauer; Andy Hynes; Jeff Martin; Seth Michael; Leslie Ruffing; Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; Carl Wohlt

Absent: 2 - Jan Erickson, Chair; and Tiffani Picco

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Mike DiCristina, Naperville Park District; Natalie Fopma, NCTV; Mary Hamill, Accessible Community Task Force (ACTF); Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; John Mayer, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Dawn Portner, City Clerk; Dr. Maud Makoni, North Central College Occupational Therapy (NCC OT) Dept.; Natasha Araneta, NCC OT Student; and Enya Wilkins, NCC OT Student

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no public comments.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

Commissioner Hynes provided the following project update:

430 S. Washington Street Project/North Central College Riverwalk Park: The project is out to bid after final review with a bid opening deadline of April 29th and the goal of having the award ready for City Council approval on their May 19th agenda. The deadline for the \$1.1M state grant is August 31st.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:**1. Naperville Riverwalk Accessibility presentation by North Central College Occupational Therapy Students - Andy Hynes**

Receive the Naperville Riverwalk Accessibility presentation by North Central College Occupational Therapy Students

Attachments: [NCCOTRiverwalk2026Spring](#)

Commissioner Shields welcomed Dr. Maud Makoni, Natasha Araneta and Enya Wilkins with the North Central College Occupational Therapy Department. Dr. Makoni made a brief introduction noting it was the department's third time presenting to the Riverwalk Commission and thanked the group for the opportunity. Students Araneta and Wilkins reviewed the presentation that was included in the agenda packet. Items discussed included the distance between Riverwalk entrances, the possibility of adding visual distance markers, adding higher benches with more armrests, slope measurements on some of the ADA accessible ramps, and the width of the pathways on parts of the lower level.

Commissioner Hynes addressed concerns noting the sections of the Riverwalk that were built in the 1980's without ADA requirements and which are addressed to meet today's standards as we move forward with new projects. He also noted the restrictions when working in the floodways. In terms of slopes, the City spends an incredible amount of time making sure to meet requirements, and Commissioner Hynes noted the importance of using a survey grade level. Maintenance areas will be looked into and addressed and Commissioner Shields discussed the signs that are to be put in place to keep users from entering the lower levels during snow and flooding events. The students were invited to join the upcoming Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walks. Dr. Makoni will follow up with the Riverwalk Commission in the spring and fall to see if there are particular assignments for class collaboration.

G. REPORTS:**1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson**

Approve minutes from the March 11, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [26RWCMinutes0311](#)

A motion to approve the March 11, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Councilman Holzhauser. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzhauser, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Ruffing, Shields, Sullivan, Wohlt

Abstain: 1 - Sagen

Absent: 2 - Erickson, Picco

2. Chair - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson

There was no report.

3. Finance - Andy Hynes

Receive the December 2025 year-end Riverwalk financial report

Attachments: [26RWCFinancials12-Final](#)

Commissioner Hynes reviewed the Financial report for year-end 2025 that was included in the agenda packet.

4. Park District - Mike DiCristina for Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [26ParkDistrictMemo0408](#)

DiCristina shared the following highlights from the Park District report included in the agenda packet.

A portion of Sindt Woods was burned as part of our natural area maintenance plan.

The sled hill fence has been removed from Rotary Hill. The turf will be aerated, and seed and blanket will be added to any bare spots.

Several stone walls and wood bollard posts were pressure washed.

Staff put a fresh coat of paint on the planters and the hanging baskets for the covered bridges.

Staff began edging and mulching landscape beds and tree rings, starting with the Grand Pavilion area and working east.

Trees, shrubs, and perennials have been ordered and will be planted in April.

Receive the Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk Outline for April 29th and May 7th

Attachments: [AMP Walk Outline 2026](#)

The Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk outline for the upcoming walks on April 29th and May 7th was included in the agenda packet.

5. Riverwalk Foundation - Jeff Martin

The 2026 Riverwalk Duck Race is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5th. Raffle tickets go on sale April 20th. More information can be found at <https://go.rallyup.com/riverwalk-duck-race/Campaign/Details>.

6. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

There was no update.

7. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

DeLarme reported that the Spring 2026 Legacy Gift order deadline was March 15, 2026 and consisted of thirty-four 4" x 8" commemorative bricks, twenty-five 8" x 8" commemorative bricks and one 18" x 12" commemorative stone. The Fall 2026 Legacy Gift order deadline is September 1, 2026 and currently consists of one 8" x 8" commemorative brick.

8. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields

There was no report as the March 31, 2026 PDC Committee meeting was canceled.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Commission AMP Walk - West of Eagle St., April 29, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Meet in Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission AMP Walk - East of Eagle St., May 7, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Meet in Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, May 13, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

I. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Cowen and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

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