



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

8:15 AM

Meeting Room C

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Commission Chair Shields called the August 4, 2026 Naperville Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting to order at 8:15 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 (arrived 8:18 a.m.); Andy Hynes; Jeff Martin; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields, Riverwalk Commission Chair; Mike Sullivan; Carl Wohlt

Absent: 1 - Ian Holzhauer

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Carl Peterson, GRWA; and Kelsey Pupo, resident

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no speakers.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields

Approve minutes from the December 2, 2025 Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes1202](#)

A motion to approve the December 2, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Hynes, Martin, Picco, Ruffing, Shields, Sullivan, Wohlt

Abstain: 3 - Brauer, Michael, Sagen

Absent: 2 - Cowen, Holzhauer

2. Riverwalk Bench discussion - Andy Hynes and Tiffani Picco

Provide input on an alternate bench design for the Riverwalk

Attachments: [Alternative Riverwalk Bench Model](#)

Commissioner Hynes discussed the current Victor Stanley standard Riverwalk bench and the state funding requirements for the North Central College (NCC) Riverwalk Park that all materials used in the project follow the Buy America Act. While Victor Stanley is an American company, some components of the bench do not meet the requirements.

An initial alternate bench was presented at the July 8, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting and the Riverwalk consultants were asked to review other options. Two other alternatives (DuMor Model 490 and Signature Streetscapes Model ASM-TB4HA) that are a closer match to the current Riverwalk standard bench were identified and photos and details of the proposed alternatives were included in the agenda packet. Five benches are planned for the area and it was noted that the South Gateway project would also have the same funding requirements as the NCC Riverwalk Park.

Chair Shields noted that this information has been shared with the NCC Occupational Therapy students and that we should have their recommendations prior to next week's Riverwalk Commission meeting. Consensus from the group was for the DuMor Bench 490 Model and this recommendation will be shared at the August 12, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting.

3. Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk items for discussion - Tiffani Picco and Johnna Shields

Discuss selected follow-up items from the Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk summaries

Attachments: [PDC Meeting Summary Aug4](#)

Commissioner Picco provided background on the Asset Management Plan (AMP) and the process of inspecting Riverwalk assets and providing a rating of their condition as good, fair and poor. The Annual AMP Walk occurs with the Riverwalk Commissioners to review the items that are deemed to be in fair or poor condition. Discussion items from the 2026 AMP Walk summary will be included in future agendas. The items marked for discussion at this meeting were listed in the agenda packet and are as follows:

Physicians & Dentists Shelter Overlook: The original railing is rusting and erosion under the concrete curbing may require more than rail replacement. Commissioner Picco shared photos of the area. Discussion followed if this should be rail replacement only or a scope reimagining study. This will continue to be monitored and included with Aurora Avenue discussions.

Chain Link Fencing - Paddleboat Quarry: The fencing is aging, exposed at the bottom and settling around the quarry. Area reimagining has been suggested and the Naper Settlement connection was raised. Currently not deemed a safety issue. This will continue to be monitored and included with Aurora Avenue discussions.

Lighting - Landforms Sculpture & Other Areas (This item was not part of the AMP but included as part of the discussion during the AMP Walk per Commissioner Wohlt's recommendation): Lighting at the sculpture is needed and prior vandalism to Fredenhagen Park uplighting was discussed. The group discussed light pollution, possible uplighting or downlighting and including with new project planning. Locations need to be prioritized and the Park District will provide cost estimates.

Lower Walk Railing at Stairways: The railings are rusting through and short-term plate repair was done in the areas that are flooded from Main Street to Washington Street. Full replacement is needed if there is no redevelopment soon. Commissioner Picco will reach out to a railing specialist for ideas. Timing could be tied to redevelopment in area.

Exchange Club Memories Fountain - Nozzle Leak: The inner nozzle ring is leaking but other two rings are working. When the fountain is turned off this fall for winterizing, a camera will be used to get more information. Hitchcock suggested that Chair Shields contact Geoff Roehll.

Commissioner Sullivan inquired about a section on the south bank of the Riverwalk between Eagle Street and Webster Street near the Municipal Center that contained a large rock. Commissioner Hynes believes this was part of a planting bed that may have been eroded due to flooding. Commissioner Picco noted that this area is not maintained by the Park District but by the City and that there should be collaboration with Commissioner Hynes on identifying assets in the area that need to be addressed.

4. Eagle Street South Bank Improvements discussion - Johnna Shields

Review preliminary concepts for the Eagle Street South Bank Improvements

Attachments: [Eagle Street South Bank Summary 2031 Master Riverwalk Plan](#)
[Eagle Street South Bank Improvements - Concept Study](#)

WRITTEN COMMENT

Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville) Thank you for your thoughtful comparison. After reviewing both concepts, I believe Option A is the stronger alternative for the following reasons:

- While the comparison notes state otherwise, I believe the "enhanced environmental/habitat" in Option A would significantly improve the experience along this section of the river. Native vegetation would create a more attractive, natural setting with greater opportunities to observe wildlife than the large impervious surface proposed in Option B.

- Option A preserves an existing tree, whereas Option B requires its removal. Preserving existing trees should be a priority whenever possible, and Option A also appears to provide space for one or more additional trees.
- I do not consider low-flow walks on both sides of the river to be an aesthetic advantage. In my view, limiting the low-flow walk to the Eagle St. Gateway side, as proposed in Option A, creates a more attractive riverscape when viewed from the Eagle St. Gateway.
- Besides being less expensive to construct, I suspect Option A will be less expensive to maintain than Option B. If so, it offers both environmental and economic advantages. Please provide the estimated construction and long-term maintenance costs for each option. Overall, Option A offers the best balance of public access, visual quality, natural assets, and long-term value. Please recommend Option A.

Dusak provided a summary of the preliminary concepts that were included in the agenda packet for the Eagle Street South Bank Improvements project from the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan.

Ball and Peterson reviewed the initial concepts which included A) removing the existing concrete walk, installing a new ADA ramp at the east end, and installing rock toe and vegetation to stabilize the shoreline; and B) removing and replacing the existing 2 ½ - 3 ft concrete walk with an 8 ft walk and adding new ADA ramps at each end.

Discussion followed on the costs, the history and difference in stone block, and the opportunity for a more naturalized shoreline as opposed to adding more concrete in the area. It was noted that this project is currently budgeted for design in 2029 and construction in 2031.

Based on the discussions, updated concepts will be provided by the consultants for a future PDC Committee meeting in early 2027.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

F. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Commission, August 12, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

***Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, September 1, 2026 - TBD
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL*

Riverwalk Commission, September 9, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, October 6, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

G. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Cowen and seconded by Commissioner Sagen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

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