



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Erickson called the August 13, 2025 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Naperville Employee University (NEU) room at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Mike Sullivan

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Jesus Cortez, NCTV17; Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates (ERA); Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chair and Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC); John Joseph, Riverwalk 2031 Fund; Jeff Martin, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, GRWA; Geoff Roehll, former Riverwalk Commission Chair and Riverwalk 2031 Fund; and Carolyn Stein, Naperville Sun

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

Chair Erickson read the following written comment submitted by Marilyn Schweitzer, resident, regarding New Business item F.1. on the meeting agenda. Additional public comments are included under item F.1.

There is no report attached nor any text from staff about the recommendation request from Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC) regarding proposed Nichols Library Parking Deck. Surely staff and the DAC have some concept as to the request. That this was not put in writing by the DAC and summarized by staff is indicative of the desire to discourage public input and advance preparation by the commission. There isn't even an easily found link on the City's website as to the most recent Nichols Library Parking Deck proposal. I could attend the meeting

to find out what's up, but I would not be able to comment as public comment is taken before the presentation and discussion.

Too bad the City of Naperville continues to limit public participation in the manner when it could so easily be remedied if they chose to do so.

Please ensure my comments are shared with the commission and included in full in the commission meeting minutes.

Chair Erickson advised that she spoke with Schweitzer after receiving her comments and explained that nothing had been submitted in writing by the DAC. Further discussion continued under New Business, item F.1.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Riverwalk Project Updates - Andy Hynes

Receive the update on various Riverwalk projects currently in progress

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

Eagle Street Gateway: Construction continues, the low flow walk is mostly complete and various retaining walls and foundations have been installed. The cofferdam in the river has been removed and completion is expected in October.

Fredenhagen Park Fountain Repairs: At the July 15th City Council meeting, a change order to authorize additional work to replace the electric cable and conduit that powers the fountain lights as well as install a drain valve on the chlorinator system was denied. The conduit for the lighting system can be installed for the lighting system within the project contingency. This will allow the potential to add fountain lighting later without disturbing the new waterproof liner. The project is expected to be completed in September.

Fredenhagen Park Miscellaneous Repairs: The Naperville Park District received three quotes to paint and clean various components within Fredenhagen Park. The lowest bidder was Allied Painting with a low bid of \$17,400. The award of this contract is in progress.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Recommendation Request from Downtown Advisory Committee - Jan Erickson

Discuss recommendation request from Downtown Advisory Committee (DAC) regarding proposed Nichols Library Parking Deck

Chair Erickson discussed the request she received from members of DAC regarding whether the Riverwalk Commission had interest in supporting the Nichols Library parking deck. As she had previously explained, the interface with the Riverwalk would have to do with additional patron parking and the opportunity, if more parking spaces became available, to reimagine the existing Riverwalk lot at Jackson Avenue near Main Street as a potential Riverwalk gateway.

Discussion followed with several of the Commissioners expressing their support for additional Riverwalk parking. Some noted comments received from visitors regarding the lack of parking and Commissioner Picco noted the congestion near the intersection when exiting the Riverwalk lot. Commissioners Cowen and Cuff questioned the need for the Riverwalk Commission's involvement, with Cuff noting that a general comment could be made recognizing the need for additional Riverwalk parking. Commissioner Hynes discussed the original plans for the Nichols Library parking deck from 2007 which would increase parking by an additional 370 spaces from the existing 130 spaces and have multiple entrances. He noted that design was programmed into the City's Capital Improvement Plan for 2027. Councilman Holzhauser expressed concern with the Riverwalk Commission's endorsement of the parking deck and requested that additional information be provided.

Hitchcock, who currently serves on DAC and is participating in their subcommittee on this subject, provided background on the request. He noted the subcommittee had been meeting for several months with the intention of trying to create a broad base of support for the idea of increasing parking in downtown Naperville and supporting additional parking at Nichols Library. He believes the addition of parking spaces would allow the opportunity for the Riverwalk Commission to consider modifying the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan to include reimaging the existing Riverwalk lot.

Chair Erickson thanked Hitchcock and the group for their input. She will ask Steve Rubin or Hitchcock to speak at an upcoming Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting. Commissioner Hynes will provide information on the original plans, including a flyover video, at that time. Commissioner Cuff questioned if a study and recommendation by the City would be needed if a vote on removing parking spaces were to be conducted by the Riverwalk Commission.

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

Approve minutes from the July 9, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [25RWCMinutes0709](#)

A motion to approve the July 9, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Cuff. MOTION CARRIED with Brauer, Cowen, Holzhauser, Michael and Sagen abstaining

Approve summary from the May 15, 2025 Annual Asset Management Plan Walk, East of Eagle Street

Attachments: [25RWCAMPWalk0515EastofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the May 15, 2025 Annual Asset Management Plan Walk summary was made by Commissioner Picco and seconded by Commissioner Shields. MOTION CARRIED Ruffing and Sagen abstaining

2. Chair - Jan Erickson

There was no report.

3. Finance - Andy Hynes

Receive the June Riverwalk financial report

Attachments: [25RWCFinancials06](#)

Commissioner Hynes reviewed the Riverwalk financial report through June 30, 2025 that was included in the agenda packet.

4. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [25ParkDistrictMemo0813](#)

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

Minor damage from several rounds of storms mid-July resulted in half of one of the cottonwood trees in Sindt woods being lost. Staff cleaned up broken branches and debris.

Staff repaired the landscape areas that were inside of the construction fence at Fredenhagen Park. Additional work may be needed this fall

Nearly all Riverwalk benches have been stained. A few at a time in each section are completed to ensure that some seating remains available during the process. She also advised that staff have been working on ideas for fall projects and tree planting.

The upcoming events were also included with the report, with Commissioner Picco noting that set up for Last Fling, scheduled from August 29th through September 1st, would begin on August 27th.

Review current inventory and approve recommendation of conversion to LED bulbs for the shepherd's crook lights on the Riverwalk

Attachments: [ShepherdCrookLightsMemo20250805](#)

Commissioner Picco reviewed the information included in the agenda packet that was discussed at last week's PDC Committee meeting. As of July, the Park District has ninety-five extra shepherd's crook light fixtures in storage, with twenty expected for use in the South Extension, nine for use in the 430 South Washington Street project, leaving sixty-six units to be used as replacements as needed. The stored fixtures are painted/powder-coated to look new prior to being installed and are not replaced frequently. She does not think there is a need to purchase additional lights in the foreseeable future.

High-pressure sodium bulbs are currently being used along the Riverwalk, and each bulb lasts approximately three years. The exception is the lower walk by Water Street and half of Fredenhagen Park, which were installed with metal halide bulbs. The Park District proposes switching to the warm white LED bulbs. Commissioner Picco reviewed the illustrations that were included in the agenda packet, noting this would reduce overall energy costs and that the LED bulbs have a longer life span. Her recommendation is to begin converting the shepherd's crook lights to the warm white LED bulbs in a phased approach, beginning in the east extension from Fredenhagen Park to Hillside Road, with the goal of matching the new lights that will be used in the South Extension and the 430 South Washington Street project.

A motion to support the Naperville Park District's efforts of changing the Riverwalk lighting from high-pressure sodium and metal halide bulbs to LED bulbs, to include cost sharing and starting on the east extension, was made by Councilman Holzhauer and seconded by Commissioner Wohlt. Commissioner Sagen suggested looking at 3000 Kelvin LED bulbs when replacing the metal halide bulbs. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councilman Holzhauer discussed the different light fixtures near the Riverwalk, on Eagle Street and over the bridge, and along the Washington

Street bridge, and suggested they be changed to the standard Riverwalk (shepherd's crook) light fixtures. Commissioner Hynes noted that bridges were considered streets and not the Riverwalk, with Peterson advising that the lighting over the Washington Street bridge was intentionally selected as it is seen as a gateway to downtown. Chair Erickson asked the group to review the areas for more discussion at a future PDC Committee meeting. Hynes will develop a map that shows the existing lighting fixtures.

5. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

Commissioner Cuff discussed the Foundation's continued interest in Fredenhagen Park noting they will continue to look at that area as the 430 South Washington Street project gets developed and approved.

6. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

Commissioner Cowen noted the Riverwalk 2031 Fund is currently looking for guidance on the South Extension.

7. 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" commemorative brick, six 8" x 8" commemorative bricks, and one 18" x 12" commemorative stone.

8. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields

Receive the August 5, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes0805Draft](#)

Commissioner Shields discussed the kickoff of the review and refresh of the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan. The draft meeting minutes from last week's meeting are included in the agenda packet.

For the September 2nd PDC Committee meeting, the consultants will provide the most recent edits to the Master Plan, and Commissioner Shields noted it would be a great time to consider possible additions to the plan. The Asset Management Plan Walk summaries will also be reviewed to include the follow-up items noted by Commissioner Picco.

Chair Erickson encouraged the Commissioners to attend the PDC Committee meetings which occur eight days prior to the Riverwalk Commission meetings.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

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

Riverwalk Commission, October 8, 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 Commissioner Cowen and seconded by Commissioner Shields. The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 a.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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