



Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Commission Chairman Kennedy called the July 10, 2024 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Naperville Employee University (NEU) at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Pam Bartlett; Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Jan Erickson; Jeff Friant; Mary Gibson; Ian Holzhauser; Pat Kennedy, Chairman; Bill Novack; Tiffani Picco; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: None

Also Present: Tim Ball, GRWA; Jesus Cortez, NCTV; Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, ERA; John Joseph, Riverwalk 2031 Fund; Sharon Martina, resident; and Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

Sharon Martina, Naperville resident and former educator with Naperville District 203, presented her request for a Haiku Path at the Naperville Riverwalk and distributed information to the Commission which is included with these minutes. She discussed haiku's connection to nature and the Riverwalk, how she was introduced to haiku in high school, and how reading and writing haiku was very cathartic after dealing with loss. She suggested a contest to include local, national and international poets, as well as involvement with local school districts to promote and support the project.

Kennedy thanked Martina for her detailed and thoughtful proposal and explained that a broader discussion would be appropriate at an upcoming Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting.

Erickson inquired about funding and discussed the Commission's procedures for submitting proposed Riverwalk assets, noting the funding and maintenance costs involved with adding amenities to the Riverwalk. Penick passed a copy of the procedures to the group.

Discussion followed on possible funding ideas. Shields noted various volunteer groups at local high schools that could possibly help with signs; Gibson expressed interest to include in Naperville parks; and Holzhauer inquired about considering a broader poetry concept, noting the Artists' Overlook project from the Master Plan.

Novack encouraged the group to think of the area(s) where this could be placed and also the means of transmitting the haiku (e.g., pavers, signs, etc.). This will be included on the August 6th PDC Committee meeting agenda for further review and discussion.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

There were no project updates.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2025 Capital Improvement Projects - Bill Novack

Review and provide feedback regarding the Riverwalk's 2025 Capital Improvement submittal

Attachments: [2025 Riverwalk CIP](#)

Novack discussed the proposed 2025 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) submittal and reviewed the spreadsheet included in the agenda packet. He noted that the submittal would show the proposed projects for 2025 through 2029 for City Council's review of the next five years. He included the Riverwalk projects through 2031 on the spreadsheet for the Riverwalk Commission to line up with the projects from the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan. He advised that Commission recommendations are taken into consideration when City staff prepares and enters the capital improvement requests for the Naperville Riverwalk and that all budget information for 2025 needed to be entered by August 2nd.

Novack reviewed some of the items that would be included in the submittal: 1) Annual Riverwalk Rehabilitation; 2) 430 S. Washington Street Park; 3) West Parking Lot BMP Improvements; 4) South Extension: Hillside to Martin; 5) Hillside Road Gateway; 6) Eagle Street Gateway; 7) Riverbank Ecological Restoration; and 8) Grand Pavilion Improvements. Kennedy pointed out that the Asset Management Plan and the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan feed into the CIP planning.

Sullivan noted the funding that may be available for permeable pavers from DuPage County for the West Parking Lot BMP improvements. This was previously discussed at last week's PDC Committee meeting and the criteria and funding levels are being taken into consideration. Novack explained that soil borings are currently being conducted and reminded the group that consideration would also need to be given to the timeline of the Grand Pavilion improvements.

Novack discussed the Aurora Avenue Retaining Wall that was also included in the CIP per discussions at last week's PDC Committee meeting and explained that a permanent solution needs to be addressed as the wall continues to move. Discussion followed on this being a Riverwalk expense with Novack advising that the wall did not exist before the Riverwalk but that outside funding opportunities could be looked at in the future to determine if this may be placed as a roadway project.

Cuff inquired if repairs to Fredenhagen Park were included with Novack advising that money was budgeted. Discussion followed on the Fredenhagen building that is not being utilized due to not meeting ADA standards. It was suggested that this should be analyzed more in depth next year.

2. Riverwalk Standard Paving Bricks - Bill Novack

Report regarding the Naperville Riverwalk standard paving brick

Novack discussed the report included in the agenda packet regarding the Naperville Riverwalk standard pavers. Discussion at last week's PDC Committee meeting focused on the possibility of selecting a new standard paver as the mold for the Stockholm red brick made by Unilock was no longer available. Our consultant with GRWA inquired about the mold and was later informed that the mold is still capable of producing pavers and that Unilock would be happy to continue to produce the Stockholm paver for us as part of special orders with a minimum of 3,000 square feet.

The consensus and recommendation from the PDC Committee was to maintain the existing Stockholm style paver in the Riverwalk pathways with an alternate for another exact sized 4" x 8" paver consistent with the Il Campo style located at other areas of the Riverwalk.

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Pat Kennedy

Approve minutes from the June 12, 2024 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [24RWCMinutes0612](#)

A motion to approve the June 12, 2024 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Erickson and seconded by Sullivan. MOTION CARRIED with Kennedy abstaining

2. Chairman - Pat Kennedy

Kennedy reported that his and Friant's terms as Riverwalk Commissioners would be expiring in November. He requested that the group encourage potential candidates to apply through the City's website at <https://www.naperville.il.us/government/board-and-commissions/riverwalk-commission/>. The Mayor reviews the applications and discusses potential appointments with the department directors/staff liaisons. City Council has final approval of all Board and Commission appointments.

3. Finance - Bill Novack

There was no Finance report.

4. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [24ParkDistrictMemo0710](#)

Picco reported on the following highlights from the monthly Park District report that was included in the agenda packet. She encouraged the group to visit the Prairie Nature Garden and reported that staff continues to focus on weed control and watering.

The Rothermel Family Skate Facility renovations are complete and a ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 16th.

The Naperville Salute event happened this past weekend on Rotary Hill.

5. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

Cuff reminded the group of the three year time commitment for establishing the Prairie Nature Garden and that Picco will be sharing the maintenance plan information annually. Kennedy noted that completion of construction should be acknowledged once the sign is received.

6. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

Cowen stated they continue to work toward funding and receipt of the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan.

7. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

DeLarme reviewed the Riverwalk Commission Donor Recognition report included in the agenda packet. The Fall 2024 Legacy Gift Order deadline is September 1st and consists of nineteen 4" x 8" and one 8" x 8" commemorative bricks.

8. Planning, Design, and Construction - Pat Kennedy for Jeff Friant

Receive the July 2, 2024 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [24PDCMinutes0702Draft](#)

Kennedy noted that most pertinent business from the meeting was already discussed. Novack reported on the request to restore the Riverwalk Millennium Labyrinth. He advised that the consensus from the PDC Committee was to restore the labyrinth and that funds from PA022 could be used. Novack is obtaining information on the stain materials and application method and noted that Park District staff could perform power washing and sealing.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, August 6, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, August 14, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, September 3, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, September 11, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

I. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Holzhauer and seconded by Shields. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
Rebecca DeLarme, City Staff

TO: The Naperville Riverwalk Commission

FROM: Sharon Martina, Retired Educator, Published Poet, Member of the Haiku Society of America

RE: Haiku Path at the Naperville Riverwalk

Date: July 2, 2024

As a former educator with Naperville District 203 for close to thirty years, I'd be the first to admit I am very passionate when it comes to fostering opportunities that inspire and support personal growth for students both young and old alike. To that end, I'd like to propose establishing a Haiku Path(s) at the Naperville Riverwalk. Those paths would utilize existing Riverwalk infrastructure. A suggested completion date of April 2025 would be a great way to celebrate National Poetry Month, although I could see that celebration continuing year after year at the Riverwalk into the next generation.

While my English teacher during my junior year of high school gets credit for introducing me to haiku, it was years later, while dealing with the death of my father, that I found reading and writing haiku to be very cathartic. To capture the essence of a moment keenly perceived in seventeen syllables or less is indeed pure poetry: typically, unrhymed poetry.

ghost leaf
my memories of you
fading

Haiku is all about highlighting the connection between nature and human nature. What better vehicle for supporting that connection than Naperville's Crown Jewel, the Riverwalk.

dandelion fountain	sled hill	timber and trusses
where wishes	kids careening	covered bridges
glisten in the sun	into winter	fording a river of time

Alas, my proposal is not about showcasing *my* haiku. It's about showcasing the best haiku from local, national, and international poets of all ages; about encouraging an appreciation for Contemporary English-language haiku. My proposal is about encouraging Riverwalk visitors to pause and reflect, to benefit from those connections that will sustain us and this planet we call home.

I hope you will allow me the opportunity to sit down with the Riverwalk Commission and answer any questions you might have as well as discuss the particulars of my proposal, be it creating lesson plans with local language arts teachers, developing a workable time line, or discussing signage options for displaying the contest winners' haiku.

Feel free to email me with concerns or questions at [REDACTED] can also be reached via my cell phone at [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,

Sharon Martina

A Haiku Path at the Naperville Riverwalk

In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.

John Muir

Imagine if that walk through nature, through Naperville's Riverwalk, did indeed offer more. I'm proposing that more could be haiku. This unrhymed poetic form involving seventeen or fewer syllables is renowned for capturing the essence of a moment keenly perceived, a unique moment connecting nature and human nature. That was the intent during the 17th century when the great Japanese master Basho sparked a national obsession for this "new style" of poetry. Four centuries later, that is still the intent for haiku enthusiasts around the world, from Naperville, Illinois to Tokyo, Japan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Create a Haiku Path(s) that encourages Riverwalk visitors to pause and reflect in the moment.
2. Provide a Riverwalk connection between nature and human nature and between cultures.
3. Increase:
 - a. an appreciation and reverence for haiku, nature, science, and literature
 - b. interest in our local, national, and global communities
 - c. visitors to the Riverwalk
4. Encourage learning via a novel approach.
5. Support the Riverwalk Commission's overall vision and goals.
6. Develop and implement:
 - a. a haiku path publicity campaign
 - b. a haiku instructional program to support grades 3-12 for District 203 and 204 students
 - c. a haiku workshop for the public at large
 - d. a haiku contest accepting local, national and international submissions
7. Secure, install and maintain signage for the haiku path.

PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE

DATE	OBJECTIVES	ACTION
SUMMER 2024	#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6ab	Coordinate with district 203 & 204 superintendents and teachers to secure interest and promote educational programs to support project
FALL 2024	#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6abc	Develop and implement a project timeline and publicity campaign according to Riverwalk Commission vision and goals. Identify and finalize haiku contest specifics. Explore signage options for project, including area(s) for displaying haiku. Approve a budget for the project. Explore public interest and city-wide venues for hosting haiku workshops. Provide instructional support for Districts 203 & 204 teachers.
WINTER 2024	#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6abcd	Conduct haiku workshops. Finalize signage options for project. Publicize haiku contest locally, nationally, and internationally; begin accepting contest submissions per contest guidelines. Continue providing instructional support for Districts 203 & 204 teachers.
SPRING 2024	#1-7	Announce and publicize results of haiku contest. Install signs of winning haiku in designated area(s) of the Riverwalk. Celebrate!

EXISTING HAIKU PATHS IN THE USA

Haiku Pathway at Santa Fe Community College

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/haiku-pathway>

Words in Bloom, Chicago Botanical Gardens, 2016

<https://breathhaiku.wordpress.com/tag/garden-haiku/>

Info on this year-long exhibit is via an blog

Located at Gualala Arts Center in Gualala, California

<https://www.ahapoetry.com/jrART/HSP%20Whos%20Who.html>

Haiku Trail at the Randall Davey Audubon Society in Santa Fe

<https://www.newmexicomagazine.org/blog/post/haiku-trail-randall-davey-audubon-center/>

Haiku Trail at Hueston State Park in Ohio

<https://www.journal-news.com/what-to-do/haiku-trail-at-hueston-woods-is-first-at-a-state-park/Y2WE6X27R5CWVISROQ6SMLM3Y4/>

<http://www.haikunorthamerica.com/hueston-woods-haiku-trail.html>

Haiku Walk at Honey Inn, Millersburg, Ohio

<https://www.innathoneyrun.com/open-air-art-museum/haiku-walk/>

Golden Haiku Poetry Contest, Washington DC

<https://midcitydcnews.com/2024/01/22/transforming-paths-golden-haiku-returns-for-2024/>

<https://goldentriangledc.com/event/golden-haiku/>

on Facebook and Instagram **@goldentriangledc**,



Washington DC Golden Triangle Haiku Competition, established 2013



Santa Fe Community College Haiku Path, established 2017



Words in Bloom, Chicago Botanical Gardens, culminated 2021