



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bartlett called the April 9, 2025 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 7:31 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, Chair; Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Jan Erickson; Mary Gibson; Ian Holzhauer; Seth Michael; Bill Novack; Tiffani Picco; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: Aarav Khullar, Student Representative; and Kyle Wang, Student Representative

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Mike DiCristina, Naperville Park District; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates (ERA); Andy Hynes, City staff; John Joseph, Riverwalk 2031 Fund; Pat Kennedy, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Kevin Machak, NCTV17; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Karri Novack; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, GRWA; and Tom Stibbe, former Riverwalk Commissioner

Bartlett announced that this would be Gibson's last Riverwalk Commission meeting as Naperville Park District Board President and thanked her for her service. Gibson thanked the group for their great work and commitment to the highlight of our city. Commissioners and members thanked Gibson and congratulated her on being elected to City Council.

Bartlett thanked Novack at this time for his contributions to the city and the Riverwalk Commission as this was his last meeting as Riverwalk Commissioner. Novack is retiring from the City of Naperville on May 2, 2025.

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

Public comments were shared under item G.2.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

There were no project updates.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

G. REPORTS:**1. Approval of Minutes - Pam Bartlett**

Approve minutes from the March 12, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [25RWCMinutes0312](#)

A motion to approve the March 12, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Novack and seconded by Shields. MOTION CARRIED with Erickson abstaining

2. Chair - Pam Bartlett

Bartlett reported on the Eagle Street Gateway groundbreaking event, noting the press received from Penick and the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation, and the efforts of the Riverwalk 2031 Fund.

Bartlett shared the following public comments received from Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman regarding Bill Novack:

Because of Bill's unassuming nature, it may be really easy to overlook the significance of his contribution as the appointed city staff member/Commissioner. Since 1999, when he replaced his legendary predecessor, Bill Lewis, Bill Novack has helped shepherd the planning, design, and construction - and reconstruction of many significant Riverwalk improvements. He has been a vital liaison to city management, a trusted strategic policy advisor, an excellent construction technology resource, an even-handed gatekeeper, and a tireless advocate for the Commission and its important character.

As we all know, in addition to what Bill has accomplished, how he accomplished it is his real superpower. As long as I can recall, Bill has been available, attentive, thoughtful, forthright and honest - an exceptional example of civic integrity and leadership.

Bill, thanks for helping the Riverwalk Commission and our cherished Naperville Riverwalk!

Kennedy, Erickson, Holzhauer, Stibbe and Cuff also spoke of Novack's integrity, honesty and impact on the city. He will be greatly missed.

Bartlett reported on the Riverwalk Duck Race which is scheduled for June 6th at 11:00 a.m. with proceeds benefitting the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation. This is presented by and being held in conjunction with the Downtown Naperville Alliance's summer painted duck sculptures that will be downtown from June 2nd to September 9th. Ducks are being sold at \$10 with additional purchasing options available. She encouraged the group to volunteer or come out to watch the event. More information on the Riverwalk Duck Race can be found at <https://go.rallyup.com/riverwalkduckrace2025/Campaign/Details>.

3. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [25ParkDistrictMemo0409](#)

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

Staff removed Riverwalk assets from the Eagle Street Gateway project area, including shepherd's crook lights, benches, plaques, and a sign. These will be restored and returned to the area upon completion of the construction. They also worked with the contractor to reroute their irrigation main line through the construction zone so the irrigation system can be turned on in May.

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.

Staff installed large outcropping stones that will define the planting beds from the natural area of Harmony Park. Plants began arriving the first week of April and will be planted as soon as weather conditions allow. The wave hedge of yews have also been planted.

Beach cleaning began the week of March 17th, and the paddleboats will be placed back in the quarry by the end of April for rentals beginning May 10th.

The Park District has sent out a survey for the Centennial Park basin asking residents to respond about their use on the ice, hockey and

volleyball in the stormwater retention basin. The survey is on the Park District's website through April 25th.

Earthworks will be resuming work on the shoreline restoration project that was being done near the Grand Pavilion, which will continue west. They will work on stabilization for a couple of weeks and then come back and do the plantings. Erickson inquired about the fish lunger that was causing erosion near the river bend with Motta noting it will be removed.

Holzhauser inquired about commissioning a vendor to make new shepherd's crook lights. Picco noted that forty are currently being stored by the Park District. Novack added that the Park District has been working to have approximately twelve refurbished each year and while it may be necessary in the distant future, they continue to manage and stockpile the ones they have.

Picco added her thanks to Novack for providing a great working relationship between the Park District and the city.

4. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

Cuff complimented Picco and staff for their efforts with the Harmony Park project.

5. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

There was no report.

6. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

DeLarme reported that the Spring 2025 Legacy Gift order deadline was March 15, 2025 and consisted of forty-six 4" x 8" commemorative bricks, twelve 8" x 8" commemorative bricks and one 18" x 12" stone. The Fall 2025 Legacy Gift order deadline is September 1st and currently consists of one 8" x 8" commemorative brick.

7. Planning, Design and Construction - Pam Bartlett for Jan Erickson

Receive the April 1, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes0401Draft](#)

Bartlett reported on topics from the past week's Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting which included 1) comments from Mary Lou Wehrli on the framing of the community event sign on the South Extension and a request for placement of residents only or park closes

after 10:00 p.m. signs on the South Extension (which will be included per Novack); 2) dedication options for Edward Hospital/Endeavor Health; 3) Riverwalk Banner Poles; 4) removal of four outdated directional signs adjacent to the Moser Tower and Visitor Center; and 5) a program outline for the Grand Pavilion project. A draft of the PDC Committee meeting minutes were included with the agenda packet.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, May 6, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission Annual AMP Walk (West of Eagle Street), May 7, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Meet in Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, May 14, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission Annual AMP Walk (East of Eagle Street), May 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Meet in Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

I. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Novack and seconded by Erickson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

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