



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

7:30 AM

NEU

PUBLIC COMMENT:

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville) - The proposed 2026 budget shows the City's cost for NCC Park to \$3.2 million in 2026. This is 50% of the projected budget for the entire South Extension/Hillside Gateway which is being deferred until 2027. The proposed NCC Park at 430 S Washington is owned by North Central College and is only .4 acres. The 2025 CIP shows the cost for the park to be \$1.45 million, roughly the same as a state grant is contributing. Now in 2026 it seems the cost has doubled, but I can find no new plans. (The state it seems is still willing to contribute \$1.1 million towards it though.) Please explain: • Why the cost has doubled on a plan that is only on .4 acres. • Whether NCC has been approached to pay for all or part of the amount above the \$1.1 million state grant. • What branding or benefit the Riverwalk will gain by paying for the development. (As near as I can tell from the plans, the branding is all for the college. Even the 2026 CIP in the City Budget calls it NCC Park now rather than 430 S Washington.) • What are the legal agreements between the City, Park District, and NCC for the development and maintenance of this property owned by NCC. Here are some links for history of the project:

•[https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6711023&GUID=819329AD-06B7-425D-B90F-BCF3CC31F44F&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=ncc+park&FullText=1)

[ID=6711023&GUID=819329AD-06B7-425D-B90F-BCF3CC31F44F&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=ncc+park&FullText=1](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6711023&GUID=819329AD-06B7-425D-B90F-BCF3CC31F44F&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=ncc+park&FullText=1)

•[https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6770573&GUID=240E0734-C9DA-407B-8515-6DF03204CDB4&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington)

[ID=6770573&GUID=240E0734-C9DA-407B-8515-6DF03204CDB4&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6770573&GUID=240E0734-C9DA-407B-8515-6DF03204CDB4&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington)

•[https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7454977&GUID=18196ED9-7DCE-4BB7-8E57-541246A30D87&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington&FullText=1)

[ID=7454977&GUID=18196ED9-7DCE-4BB7-8E57-541246A30D87&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington&FullText=1](https://naperville.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7454977&GUID=18196ED9-7DCE-4BB7-8E57-541246A30D87&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=430+s+washington&FullText=1)

•[https://naperville.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?](https://naperville.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1235117&GUID=ECA82B95-F120-474A-9580-A6416FF16E44&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=river)

[ID=1235117&GUID=ECA82B95-F120-474A-9580-A6416FF16E44&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=river](https://naperville.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1235117&GUID=ECA82B95-F120-474A-9580-A6416FF16E44&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=river)

Thank you.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Erickson was not in attendance. Commissioner and Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee Chair Shields called the October 8, 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: 12 - Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Ian Holzhauer (arrived at 7:34 a.m.); Andy Hynes; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; Carl Wohlt

Absent: 1 - Jan Erickson, Chair

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Jesus Cortez, NCTV17; Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; John Joseph, Riverwalk 2031 Fund; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; and Carl Peterson, GRWA

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no additional public comments.

Commissioner Shields and Commissioner Hynes will address the Public Comment from Marilyn Schweitzer at the November 4, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:**1. Riverwalk Project Updates - Andy Hynes**

Receive the update on various ongoing Riverwalk projects.

Attachments: [Riverwalk Project Photos](#)

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

Eagle Street Gateway: Construction continues on the Eagle Street Gateway project. Various retaining walls, staircase components, and landscaping have been installed over the past few weeks. Completion is expected in October.

Fredenhagen Park Fountain Repairs: The contractor has installed the conduit and Park District staff have restored the brick pavers. The next step will be the application of the new waterproof liner pending appropriate weather conditions. The projects is expected to be completed in October with activation of the fountain to follow.

Fredenhagen Park Miscellaneous Repairs: The cleaning and staining work on various features within Fredenhagen Park is complete.

Grand Pavilion Questionnaire: A questionnaire regarding potential future improvements to the Grand Pavilion is now available online through the City's website. The survey results will be shared with the Riverwalk Commission at a future meeting and help guide the scope of this project.

Commissioner Cuff suggested that discussion on the Fredenhagen Park building be included on an upcoming PDC Committee agenda.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2026 Riverwalk Commission and Planning, Design and Construction Committee meetings schedule - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson

Approve the 2026 Riverwalk Commission and Planning, Design and Construction Committee meetings schedule

Attachments: [2026RWC-PDCMeetingDates](#)

DeLarme noted that the November 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 10th, as Wednesday, November 11th is a City of Naperville holiday.

A motion was made by Picco, seconded by Cowen, approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 12 - Brauer, Cowen, Cuff, Holzhauer, Hynes, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Sagen, Shields, Sullivan, Wohlt

Absent: 1 - Erickson, Chair

2. ArtForum Update - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson

Receive the update on the 2025 Spring Renewal Lightscape project and approve the request for the Light Anemones at Paddleboat Quarry installation project for October 2026

Attachments: [ProjectBrief_LightAnemonesatPaddleboatQuarry](#)

Commissioner Shields provided background on the Naperville ArtForum and the change in scope to the Spring Renewal Lightscape project, which will now be a project in downtown Naperville and not on the Riverwalk. Naperville ArtForum is requesting the Riverwalk Commission's approval for the Light Anemones at Paddleboat Quarry installation which will be proposed for a two-to-three-week period in October of 2026. Commissioner Shields thanked Commissioner Wohlt for his suggestions that were shared at last week's PDC Committee meeting and advised that Shannon Greene Robb would be willing to include "Naperville Riverwalk" in the event marketing and would collaborate with the Commission on a suggested walking path. The PDC Committee recommended approval at the September 30th meeting and it was noted that the Naperville Park Board has not yet voted on this proposal.

A motion to approve the Light Anemones at Paddleboat Quarry installation utilizing the Riverwalk was made by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Sagen. The motion carried by the

following vote:

Aye: 12 - Brauer, Cowen, Cuff, Holzhauer, Hynes, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Sagen, Shields, Sullivan, Wohlt

Absent: 1 - Erickson, Chair

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson

Approve minutes from the September 10, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [25RWCM Minutes0910](#)

A motion to approve the September 10, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Wohlt and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Brauer, Cuff, Holzhauer, Hynes, Picco, Ruffing, Sagen, Shields, Wohlt

Abstain: 3 - Cowen, Michael, Sullivan

Absent: 1 - Erickson, Chair

2. Chair - Johnna Shields for Jan Erickson

There was no report.

3. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [25ParkDistrictMemo1008](#)

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

Staff has been watering due to the draught conditions with only .58" of rain being measured for the last month, as of September 25th.

New plants were planted behind the Horse Trough fountain area, which were generously funded by the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation. 1,100 native plugs were added to the shoreline near the metal bridge and were generously donated by a donor through the Conservation Foundation.

The contractor at the Fredenhagen Park fountain needed to move a large number of pavers for installation of conduit. Park District staff backfilled the areas and replaced the pavers.

Some of the summer annuals have been removed and replaced with fall mums and kale. The remainder of the summer flowers will be removed as they fade

for the season.

The Park District partnered with Max's Mission to create four murals adjacent to the Rothermel Family Skate Facility at Centennial Park. The ribbon cutting was held last week with over 150 people in attendance. Photos were included in the report which is included in the agenda packet.

Upcoming events in October were also listed in the agenda packet and include the Naperville Half Marathon and 5k and the Naperville Healing Field of Honor.

4. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

There was no report.

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 Fall 2025 Legacy Gift order was submitted to the engraver. The Spring 2026 Legacy Gift order deadline is March 15th and currently consists of one 4" x 8" commemorative brick. Installation for the Fall order should occur in November. She thanked the Park District staff for reinstalling the donor pavers after the Exchange Club Memories Fountain repairs were complete, and advised that the Spring 2025 8" x 8" bricks will now be installed on October 9th at 8:00 a.m. Discussion followed on replacement bricks with DeLarme noting that worn/faded bricks are replaced each year if there is money remaining in the budget.

7. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields

Receive the September 30, 2025 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [25PDCMinutes0930Draft](#)

Commissioner Shields noted the draft Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting minutes included with the agenda packet. The Asset Management Plan Walk results were reviewed with a few items being flagged for future discussions with Picco at an upcoming meeting.

The Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan was reviewed with four outstanding areas left to discuss: 1) Shoreline restoration - Motta's proposal has been submitted to the consultants; 2) Netzley Overlook - still defining the project scope; 3) Eagle Street South Bank Improvements - still need scope which may not be developed by December; and 4) edits to the summary and inclusion of Chair's message.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, November 4, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

*Riverwalk Commission, November 12, 2025, 7:30 a.m. - **CANCELED***
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, December 2, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, December 10, 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 Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Cuff. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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