



Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Erickson called the December 3, 2024 Naperville Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Naperville Employee University (NEU) at the Municipal Center, located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Pam Bartlett; Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Jan Erickson, Chair; Bill Novack; Tiffani Picco; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: Mary Gibson; and Ian Holzhauer

Also Present: Ken Anderson, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber and Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Mike DiCristina, Naperville Park District; Brian Dusak, ERA; and Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no public comments.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Jan Erickson

Approve minutes from the November 5, 2024 Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting

Attachments: [24PDCMinutes1105](#)

A motion to approve the November 5, 2024 Planning, Design and Construction Committee meeting minutes was made by Shields and seconded by Picco. MOTION CARRIED with Brauer abstaining

2. Park District Report - Tiffani Picco

Picco provided an update on the Riverwalk Shoreline Restoration Project

that is starting near the Jaycees Playground and moving west toward Sindt Woods. The contractor will be finishing up with the tree removal today and Earthworks has begun staging their equipment and planks that will protect the Riverwalk while they are working.

Staff was busy with business as usual in November setting up holiday decorations, the sled hill and ice hockey rink.

The Healing Fields of Honor will be returning to Rotary Hill In November 2025.

3. South Extension Project Update - Bill Novack

Review and provide input on the revised layout and landscape design for the South Extension of the Riverwalk

Attachments: [Revised Layout and Landscape Plan for the South Extension of the Naperville Riverwalk](#)

Novack discussed the updated plan for the South Extension that was included in the agenda packet. Ball reviewed the updates with the group, noting that previous suggestions from the group as well as Rick Hitchcock's suggestions at the last PDC meeting were included. The three plans in the packet represent 1) the previous design reviewed by the group; 2) an overlay showing the additional items the consultants were encouraged to add including micro forests and shade trees along the shoreline; and 3) the revised preliminary design. He noted the 40' offset for electrical lines and overhead utilities to make sure trees are not being pruned and destroyed in the future. He discussed improvements made to the ground plain and using spoils from excavations to create landforms that will meander through the area. The addition of the stone wall between the substation and Hillside Road was discussed. Railings are included in a number of places. A low profile prairie is also included, similar to the Prairie Nature Garden west of Centennial Beach. Lastly, ideas were incorporated to create seat walls. Ball advised that the veneer seat walls would be consistent with other areas of the Riverwalk. Dusak noted that in terms of permitting, all of the changes were relatively minor.

It was noted that the existing sidewalk along Washington Street would be removed. Sullivan inquired about the community event sign with Ball noting it still needs to be addressed. Discussion followed on the seat wall near the bridge and the need to discourage visitors from "hanging out" in that area. Dusak noted that benches previously proposed have been removed from the plan and discussed the curbing that would transition up to the staircase. Shields noted the puddle that forms on the roadway at the bridge after rain events. Cowen inquired if the curb near the stairs would encourage skateboarders. Picco advised that cleats could be added on

the top. Cuff stressed the importance of public safety and suggested low level lighting on the stairs.

Discussion followed on the placement of the ornamental trees and evergreens. Wohlt reminded the group of previous discussions regarding placement of security cameras north/south of the bridge. Novack advised that the City is doing a citywide update to all cameras and they will be looking at these locations. Dusak noted that details will need to be worked out with regard to stubbing locations for the cameras.

Shields inquired if there were concerns with people creating desire paths along Washington Street with Dusak noting that the undulating earth forms would discourage this and make it uncomfortable to walk through. Erickson commented on the great design and thanked the consultants for their work.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Grand Pavilion Parking Lot Improvements - Bill Novack

Receive the soils and preliminary design reports and provide comments regarding the proposed permeable paver parking lot near the grand pavilion

Attachments: [Permeable Parking Lot Feasibility Report](#)

Novack discussed the purpose of the soils and preliminary design reports for the proposed permeable paver parking lot near the Grand Pavilion. The long, linear parking lot has been there for decades and is in need of repair. The parking lot drains by simple sheet flow from north to south conveying not only the runoff from the parking lot but also the runoff from the properties on the south side of Jackson Avenue. Novack discussed the opportunity to improve water quality by converting this parking lot to a permeable paver parking lot when it needs to be reconstructed.

Dusak introduced Ken Anderson to the group and provided a brief overview of the report. He advised that a permeable paver parking lot could be constructed in this area based on the findings. Anderson reviewed the report in detail, noting the location of the soil borings, the permeability and the ground water levels. He discussed the recommendations from Midland Standard Engineering & Testing, Inc. (MSET) which included putting in an underdrain system which is a typical measure so that standing water doesn't sit and cause potential problems.

Discussion followed about plant material growing between the pavers with Anderson noting that you would not want this as it would restrict the ability for the water to move downward. It was noted that the permeable pavers should be inspected after flooding events and debris and sediment should

be removed. Use of a street sweeper to remove debris was recommended after a rain event, while the area was still wet. Dusak noted that maintenance recommendations were included in the report and encouraged the group to read through and reach out with any questions. Novack discussed part of the lot being in the floodway, part in the 100 year floodplain and part in the 500 year floodplain. He inquired about the Park District's permeable concrete parking lot that was put in approximately fifteen years ago. Picco noted it was still in place but there may be talk of replacing it with a standard parking lot. She will research and report back to the PDC Committee.

Novack noted that although this would be great to implement and grant funds may be available, monthly to bi-monthly maintenance would be a concern as well as maintenance after flood events. He added that the City's Public Works department has a street sweeper but they are busy with many other things and this would be considered a low priority. Discussion followed on the possibility of having Public Works include the parking lot when they perform their sweeps of downtown. Anderson noted that if there weren't a lot of rain events, a visual inspection may be all that is needed. Discussion followed on considering a phased approach and the possibility of including a trench drain in front of the VFW parking lot.

DiCristina discussed issues with how the salt works in winter months with the Park District's existing permeable paver lots, notably the parking spots at Fort Hill. The Grand Pavilion lot is located next to the Park District's maintenance facility and dirt and mulch often get spilled. He suggested that a street sweeper be run on a regular basis throughout the year.

Dusak commented that the feasibility study and the report focused solely on the parking lot and that this is part of the overall improvements for the Grand Pavilion Master Plan project. Novack noted that discussions would continue at the February 4th PDC Committee meeting and Picco will report back on her findings about the Park District's existing permeable paver parking lots.

F. MEETING SCHEDULE:

The December 31, 2024 Riverwalk PDC Committee meeting date may be canceled as there is currently no new material to discuss. This will be discussed at next week's Riverwalk Commission meeting and sufficient notice will be provided if the meeting is canceled.

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

**Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, December 31, 2024, 7:30 a.m.

Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL *(This meeting may be canceled)*

Riverwalk Commission, January 8, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

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

G. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bartlett and seconded by Sullivan. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
Rebecca DeLarme, City Staff