



# City of Naperville

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

## Meeting Minutes

### Riverwalk Commission

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Wednesday, June 10, 2026

8:15 AM

Meeting Room C

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Commission Chair Shields called the June 10, 2026 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. The meeting was held in Meeting Room C at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

#### B. ROLL CALL:

**Present:** 11 - Hannah Brauer; Grant Cowen; Ian Holzhauer; Andy Hynes; Jeff Martin; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields, Chair; Carl Wohlt

**Absent:** 1 - Mike Sullivan

Also Present: Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Natalie Fopma, NCTV; Erin Franczyk, ArtForum Naperville; Shannon Greene Robb, ArtForum Naperville; Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); and Idhant Ranjan, Student Representative

Chair Shields announced that she and Commissioner Cowen accepted a second term with the Riverwalk Commission, effective June 1, 2026 through May 30, 2029.

Chair Shields thanked Hitchcock for providing a history of the Riverwalk for a recent tour request from Rotary Club. She also thanked the Park District and Commissioner Ruffing for their collaboration and assistance with a tour of the Carillon that was provided by Tim Sleep.

#### C. PUBLIC FORUM:

##### **SPEAKERS**

Erin Franczyk and Shannon Greene Robb (ArtForum Naperville) - Franczyk and Greene Robb provided an update on the quarry installation project approved at the October 8, 2025 Riverwalk Commission meeting noting the pivot to a new opportunity which still needs Park District Board approval. The project is a similar light installation called Lotus by an artist from France and this would be the first exhibition in the United States. The project would last approximately one month, sometime in the fall and would be lit from morning until approximately 9:00 p.m. Each of the six flowers in the installation are 13'

in diameter by 11' in height, floating on docks and tethered to the quarry. It was noted that a contract has not been signed and they are awaiting updates.

Chair Shields noted that the installation had no sound with Franczyk stating while it does mention sound, it does not have to have it. Chair Shields thanked ArtForum Naperville for the update.

## **D. PROJECT UPDATES:**

### **1. North Central College (NCC) Riverwalk Park - Andy Hynes**

Receive the project update on the North Central College (NCC) Riverwalk Park

Attachments: [NCC Riverwalk Park Photos](#)

Commissioner Hynes reviewed the information included in the agenda packet noting that City Council awarded the construction contract at their May 19th meeting to Baumgartner Construction, Inc., and construction commenced on May 27th. To date, the following construction tasks have been initiated: perimeter fencing, tree removal, erosion control, cofferdam installation, and excavation.

Commissioner Wohlt noted past discussions about the importance of lighting in the area and inquired about the lighting plan for the park. Commissioner Hynes stated that lighting was included in the contract and would be similar to the rest of the Riverwalk with low flow pedestrian lights, shepherd's crook lights and lighting in the two plaza areas. Peterson discussed the lighting on the gateway arch for NCC. It was noted that discussions on the opportunity for enhancement to the lighting at Fredenhagen Park should occur at a future meeting. Hitchcock inquired about having plans for current projects and a section map of the entire Riverwalk accessible at all meetings.

Commissioner Picco discussed past issues with vandalism to the uplighting installed in the raised beds by the trellises and along the strip between the clock and the fountain at Fredenhagen Park, adding that Park District staff disconnected the power as they were finding broken lights at least once a month. She noted the tendency for Fredenhagen Park to be used as a "hang out" spot in the downtown area and asked the group to keep that in mind for future discussions.

## **E. OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Riverwalk Planning, Design, and Construction (PDC) Committee - Andy Hynes**

Discuss the future of the Riverwalk Planning, Design, and Construction (PDC) Committee

Commissioner Hynes discussed the Riverwalk Planning, Design and

Construction (PDC) Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Riverwalk Commission, and the opportunity for the group to discuss consolidating future PDC Committee meeting agenda topics into the monthly Riverwalk Commission meeting. With the recent changes to the Board and Commission meeting formats, the character of the PDC Committee meeting has changed and the agendas are often duplicated with the Riverwalk Commission. Additionally, there has not been a PDC Committee meeting since December 2025 and not all Riverwalk Commissioners are present at the meetings.

### **SPEAKERS**

Rick Hitchcock (Naperville) - Hitchcock discussed the inception of the PDC Committee and the intention of members taking a deeper dive when there is a project in the works. He recommended having a chair of an ad-hoc or standing committee that convenes periodically or several times during a month, if needed, who would then collaborate with Commissioner Hynes and Chair Shields.

Discussion followed on the possibility of keeping the standing meeting for when it is needed or conducting an additional Riverwalk Commission meeting when warranted. The importance of all members being present at the meetings was also discussed. The PDC Committee meetings are currently scheduled eight days prior to the Riverwalk Commission meetings.

Consensus from the group was to continue to hold the PDC Committee meetings on an as needed basis. Chair Shields will work with the consultants to determine when upcoming meetings are needed and keep the upcoming Riverwalk Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in mind when scheduling. The draft CIP submittal will be discussed at next month's Riverwalk Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sagen was recommended for the role of PDC Committee Chair but Chair Shields will continue to conduct any upcoming meetings until Commissioner Sagen is ready to assume the role.

Councilman Holzhauser reported that discussions on a gateway to the Naper Settlement campus were being held and shared his idea of having Riverwalk elements extend one extra block to Aurora Avenue and Webster Street. A meeting will be held on July 21st at Naper Settlement and more details may be discussed at next month's Riverwalk Commission meeting. Penick inquired about a stop sign at Water Street and Commissioner Hynes noted there was established criteria but that it could be looked into as other treatments may be suitable.

## **G. REPORTS:**

### **1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields**

Approve minutes from the May 13, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting

**Attachments:** [26RWCMminutes0513](#)

A motion to approve the May 13, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Cowen and seconded by Commissioner Wohlt. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye: 10 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzauer, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Shields, Wohlt**

**Abstain: 1 - Sagen**

**Absent: 1 - Sullivan**

Approve summary from the April 29, 2026 Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk

**Attachments:** [26RWCAMPWalk0429WestofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the April 29, 2026 Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk summary was made by Commissioner Picco and seconded by Commissioner Brauer. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye: 11 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzauer, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Sagen, Shields, Wohlt**

**Absent: 1 - Sullivan**

Approve summary from the May 7, 2026 Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk

**Attachments:** [26RWCAMPWalk0507EastofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the May 7, 2026 Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk summary was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Hynes. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye: 10 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzauer, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Shields, Wohlt**

**Abstain: 1 - Sagen**

**Absent: 1 - Sullivan**

## **2. Chair - Johnna Shields**

There was no report.

## **3. Park District - Tiffani Picco**

Receive the monthly Park District report

**Attachments:** [26ParkDistrictMemo0610](#)

Commissioner Picco provided the following highlights from the report included in the agenda packet.

All the summer flowers have been planted and perennials have been planted in several areas to fill in bare spaces.

Due to the drought until this past week, staff was focusing on watering and now are focusing on weeding.

Staff worked on the landscape restoration at Fredenhagen Park where the contractor had to excavate for the fountain repair work. The ground was regraded and stones removed from the surface where turf will be added. New plants will be installed in the landscape beds and the turf will be restored soon.

#### **4. Riverwalk Foundation - Jeff Martin**

Commissioner Martin reported that the Duck Race occurred on June 5th and over 1,900 ducks were sold.

#### **5. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen**

There was no update.

#### **6. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme**

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

DeLarme reported that the Fall 2026 Legacy Gift order deadline is September 1, 2026 and currently consists of four 4" x 8" commemorative bricks, and four 8" x 8" commemorative bricks. The Spring Legacy Gift brick installation occurred on June 4th with assistance from Park District staff who did an outstanding job. Park District staff also helped realign the Past Commissioner bricks on the West Extension.

Penick thanked DeLarme and noted a commemorative brick was given in her honor. Chair Shields encouraged the group to attend a future installation at Fredenhagen Park.

#### **7. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields**

There was no report.

### **H. MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Riverwalk Commission, July 8, 2026, 8:15 a.m.  
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, August 4, 2026, 8:15 a.m.  
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, August 12, 2026, 8:15 a.m.  
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

### **I. ADJOURNMENT:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Cowen and**

seconded by Commissioner Sagen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

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