



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

8:15 AM

Meeting Room C

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Commission Chair Shields called the July 8, 2026 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 8:15 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 (arrived 8:19 a.m.); Grant Cowen; Ian Holzhauer (arrived 8:18 a.m.); Andy Hynes; Jeff Martin; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing (until 9:10 a.m.); Greg Sagen; Johnna Shields, Chair; and Mike Sullivan

Absent: 1 - Carl Wohlt

Also Present: Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Sven Davies, Distinguished Gentleman's Ride; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Natalie Fopma, NCTV17; Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Carl Peterson, GRWA; Elizabeth Spencer, resident; and Barbara Sullivan, resident

Chair Shields noted that DeLarme can pull up the Riverwalk map and Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan during meetings at a speaker's request. She reminded the group of the need to be recognized and announce their name before speaking for the audio recordings. She also noted that all public speakers should use the speaker sign-up sheet for public forum or specific agenda items and would have three minutes to speak.

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There were no speakers.

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 Progress Photos](#)

Commissioner Hynes reviewed the information included in the agenda packet noting that the contractors continue to move forward with excavation and pouring of piers for the low flow walkway. He noted that two unknown storage tanks and gas mains were located and removed. Commissioner Sagen inquired if the recent rainfall damaged the coffer dam. Commissioner Hynes reported that it was flooded, which may cause a slight delay but that it would be repaired by the contractor. Discussion followed on the soil testing that occurred prior to construction.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Annual Asset Management Plan (AMP) review - Tiffani Picco

Review follow-up items from the 2026 AMP Walk summaries

Attachments: [RW AMP Walk 2026 v4](#)

SPEAKERS

Rick Hitchcock (Naperville) stated that he would like to discuss the Aurora Avenue retaining wall at an upcoming Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee meeting. Chair Shields confirmed that it was on the list for future discussion.

Commissioner Picco thanked Chair Shields for her assistance with organizing the AMP Walk summary notes into the spreadsheet that was included in the agenda packet. Each item identified in the 2026 AMP Walk summaries is included and categorized by location, and status (future discussion, monitor, in progress, budgeted, completed, or to be addressed/completed by Park District staff) with additional notes. Items marked for discussion will be included on upcoming agendas for further review.

Chair Shields noted that the August 4th PDC Committee meeting would include discussion on the Eagle Street South Bank Improvements and other AMP discussion items. Peterson noted that with regard to the Eagle Street South Bank Improvements, consideration should be given to whether or not the lower walkway will be maintained. The consultants will provide concept sketches to be included with the August 4th PDC agenda packet.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Naperville Distinguished Gentleman's Ride request for use of Naperville Jaycees Park - Andy Hynes

Approve the request from Naperville Distinguished Gentleman's Ride to use Naperville Jaycees Park for an event to be held in May of 2027

Attachments: [2027 Naperville DGR Presentation](#)

PETITIONER

Sven Davies (Naperville), co-organizer for the Naperville Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, reviewed the presentation on the event which was included in the agenda packet. The concept for the 2027 event involves extending the

area to include the Naperville Jaycees Park which is located within the geographic limits of the Riverwalk. The event is scheduled to take place on May 16, 2027. He noted that no motorcycles would be parked in the Jaycees Park or Riverwalk as illustrated in the AI generated concept photo included in the presentation.

A motion to approve the request for use of the Naperville Jaycees Park for the Naperville Distinguished Gentleman's Ride event was made by Commissioner Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Sagen. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzhauer, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Picco, Ruffing, Sagen, Shields, Sullivan

Absent: 1 - Wohlt

2. Draft 2027 Riverwalk Capital Improvement Plan submittal - Andy Hynes

Review and provide feedback regarding the draft 2027 Riverwalk Capital Improvement Plan submittal

Attachments: [Draft CY27_CY31 Riverwalk Capital Improvement Program Budget](#)

Commissioner Hynes discussed the process for the Riverwalk Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) initial submittal and reviewed each project listed in the draft plan that was included with the agenda packet. Riverwalk projects are part of the Transportation, Engineering and Development (TED) department which also includes several other projects. Preliminary budget numbers are still in development and are due to the City's Finance Department by July 31, 2026. Commissioner Hynes reiterated that projects, schedules and funding may be adjusted throughout the process as further coordination with TED and other City priorities occurs. Additional budget workshops are scheduled and final approval by City Council will occur in December. Commissioner Hynes previously met with Chair Shields, Commissioner Picco and the consultants to review the plan based on project status and the recent Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan updates.

SPEAKER

Rick Hitchcock (Naperville) suggested that Commissioner Hynes explain the budgeting process as it relates to City Council's approval of next year's budget, noting that the future projection is not a promise. Commissioner Hynes reported that the CIP is a five-year fiscal plan with the majority of focus on the next year's budget. Hitchcock requested that the West Parking Lot Improvements and the Grand Pavilion Improvements be discussed further at future PDC Committee meetings and noted that he believes the budgeted amount for the Grand Pavilion project is light.

3. Riverwalk Bench for NCC Riverwalk Park - Andy Hynes and Tiffani Picco

Approve an alternate bench design for the Riverwalk

Attachments: [Riverwalk Bench Options](#)

Commissioner Hynes discussed the current Riverwalk standard bench in the Victorian style with powder-coated steel frames and Ipe wood slats. The state funding associated with the North Central College (NCC) Riverwalk Park requires that materials used in the project follow the Buy America Act. Some components from the existing benches cannot be confirmed to meet the Buy America Act standard.

An accessible bench was previously brought to the Riverwalk Commission as a suggestion from the Accessibility Community Task Force. It was noted that the frame can be powder-coated black and ordered with wood slats. A photo of the bench was included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Sagen suggested looking into a DuMor bench, model 142, to see if it meets criteria, as it is much more consistent with the current Victor Stanley benches. Commissioner Brauer requested to receive input from the NCC Occupational Therapy students.

More options will be forthcoming at the August 4th PDC Committee meeting for review and recommendation for the Riverwalk Commission's approval at their August 12th meeting.

Councilman Holzhauer discussed the bicycle system in Naperville noting the issue with getting through the downtown area. He is planning a walk with senior City leadership to discuss ideas and will communicate the date and time with DeLarme or Chair Shields if anyone from the group would like to be included.

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Johnna Shields

Approve minutes from the June 10, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [26RWCMminutes0610](#)

A motion to approve the June 10, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Cowen and seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzhauer, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Picco, Sagen, Shields

Abstain: 1 - Sullivan

Absent: 1 - Ruffing, Wohlt

2. Chair - Johnna Shields

Chair Shields is finalizing a document to share with the Commission which incorporates the AMP Walk summaries, the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan and the CIP budget to assist with planning.

3. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [26ParkDistrictMemo0708](#)

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

Over one foot of rain was received since last month's report. There was a significant amount of damage after the June 10th storm in the downtown area that impacted the Riverwalk from Sindt Woods and Centennial Beach to Eagle Street. Mostly tree damage occurred with some fence damage at Centennial Beach, which was closed for one day for cleanup. A total of four trees were lost and will be replaced this fall.

The plaque for the "Mr. and Mrs. Naperville" statue has been installed.

A contractor pressure-washed the granite stones surrounding the Exchange Club Memories Fountain in Fredenhagen Park and the engraved letters were hand painted in black.

A donor through the Conservation Foundation once again donated over 650 native plugs to plant along the river.

4. Riverwalk Foundation - Jeff Martin

Commissioner Martin and Penick met with Commissioner Picco to discuss the Fredenhagen Park window displays. The Naperville Riverwalk Foundation will assist with funding a replacement for one of the displays that needs to be updated. Chair Shields expressed her appreciation for their efforts.

5. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

Commissioner Cowen reported that an upcoming meeting of the committee was scheduled later in the day and more information should follow.

6. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

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 six 8" x 8" commemorative bricks.

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

7. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields

There was no report as the June 30, 2026 meeting was canceled. The August 4, 2026 meeting is scheduled with focus on the Eagle Street South Bank Improvements project scope.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

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

***Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, September 1, 2026 - TBD
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL*

Riverwalk Commission, September 9, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, October 6, 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 Martin and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

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