

City of Naperville

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



Naperville

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Friday, January 9, 2026

8:00 AM

Meeting Room C

Naper Settlement Museum Board

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Scott Wehrli called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Also Present: Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese, President & CEO; Harriet M. Pistorio, COO; Alex Atkinson, Director of Finance; Andrea de la Torre, Project Specialist; Hannah Horgan, Student Representative; Marcie Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager

Absent: Aarush Jalan, Student Representative

Present 5 - Leanne Meyer-Smith, Scott Wehrli, Mary Gibson, Julie Schremser, and Erik Long

Absent 1 - Lee Quillinan

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

No one present.

D. OLD BUSINESS:**1. Receive 2025 Deferred Maintenance Update on Project Locations, Estimated Cost, and Completion Status.**

Harriet M. Pistorio reported that the 2025 Deferred Maintenance budget exceeds \$205,000 to complete projects including roof replacements at Daniels House and Halfway House, resealing of the Copenhagen Schoolhouse floor, and exterior painting of Hobson Law. Additionally, \$35,000 in unplanned deferred maintenance was addressed, consisting of schoolhouse door replacement, a concrete ramp (formerly pavers) for improved egress, Schulz bathroom updates, and concrete skim coat repairs to the groom stairs at the chapel.

2. Receive Naper Settlement Long Range Site Plan Update on the Community Focus Group Workshops Contributing to a Collective Vision for the Future of Naper Settlement.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese discussed workshops conducted to help shape a larger portion of the Long-Range Site Plan, noting their importance in establishing direction. The workshops brought together diverse groups with varied expertise. Information from the workshops was compiled into an attached summary identifying what participants like, do not want, and consider needed.

Erik Long explained that community input gathered to date is being used to prioritize elements of the Long-Range Site Plan and to inform development of the associated capital campaign, while regular operations are maintained. He further reported that recent NS Task Force 2.0 meetings have clarified details of the Long-Range Site Plan. He stated that staff intend to present proposed phasing and anticipated timing of operations for the next several years at the next Naper Settlement Museum Board meeting and noted that the Long-Range Site Plan is expected to increase exhibit space and further support interpretation of Naperville's history.

Mayor Scott Wehrli explained that while the perimeter fence raises concerns about blocking access to the Naper Settlement facility, it also serves as a key advantage for hosting community events by addressing public safety through enhanced security. The rental fee structure already incorporates the fence, positioning Naper Settlement as one of the few turnkey venues ready for immediate use in town.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese explained that the facility has effective methods to manage ingress and egress and that access patterns can be adjusted as needed based on the specific event.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Naper Settlement Museum Board Student Representatives Aarush Jalan and Hannah Horgan.

Mayor Scott Wehrli invited Student Representative Hannah Mogan to introduce herself.

Student Representative Hannah Mogan introduced herself as a sophomore at Naperville North High School. She expressed enthusiasm for serving on the Naper Settlement Museum Board and noted her prior participation in several programs at Naper Settlement.

Mayor Scott Wehrli asked if Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese wanted to say anything about Student Representative Aarush Jalan.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese welcomed Aarush Jalan who could not attend today due to an important final project worth 15% of his grade.

2. Receive 2025 Farmers Market Recap on Attendance, Revenue, and Advertising.

Harriet M. Pistorio reported on the 2025 Farmers Market season. It was noted that overall activity in 2025 was somewhat lower than in 2024 and that changes implemented in 2025 included delaying the start date to July to allow for more fresh produce and increasing the number of fresh-produce vendors. For the 2026 season, staff reported that five vendors have been secured to date and that 14K dollars in sponsorship has been committed. Staff are also exploring the feasibility of accepting SNAP cards, given the associated technical requirements, and plan to increase joint marketing efforts with vendors.

Mayor Scott Wehrli inquired whether it would be possible to receive a weekly email listing anticipated vendors for the farmers market, noting from a customer perspective that vendor attendance has been inconsistent week to week.

Harriet M. Pistorio acknowledged appreciation for the feedback regarding vendor email notifications.

3. Grant Applications Submitted September - November 2025 - Planning Grant, Digitizing Hidden Collections, FFA partnership, Chapel Roof, Archival Projects.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese reported that six grant opportunities are being pursued. The first is a grant to support the permanent professional, interactive exhibit currently in development. The second is a planning grant to support the 'Suburban Nation' project, interpreting the story of suburbanization as a major twentieth century American theme. The third is a 'Digitizing Hidden Collections' grant to digitize materials documenting immigrant experiences from arrival in Europe through their establishment in Naperville. The fourth is an FFA partnership grant aligned with the site's agricultural interpretation, designed to help youth understand farm operations and potential careers in agricultural fields. The fifth is a grant to support the Chapel roof, with the goal of preserving the Century Memorial Chapel's historic appearance. The sixth is archival projects grant to digitize approximately 50 linear feet of manuscripts, materials, and other collection items.

Mayor Scott Wehrli asked if a question was raised regarding whether a relationship already exists with the Naperville Central Chapter in connection with the FFA partnership.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese confirmed that a relationship exists with both Naperville North and Naperville Central FFA chapters, and that efforts have been made to collaborate with all five area schools.

4. Stem Class 2025 Recap on Attendance, Revenue, Feedback, and Advertising.

Harriet M. Pistorio reported on the 2025 recap, noting the successful launch of the new Naper Settlement Family STEM Night program with approximately 250 attendees. Due to this success, the program has been expanded for 2026 to include Family STEM Nights throughout the calendar year. This initiative supports efforts to engage children in agriculture and its connections to STEM fields.

Macarena (Rena) Tamayo-Calabrese explained Family Stem Night is a good way for family to spend time together, not spend a lot of money, and broaden kids' horizons.

F. REPORTS:

1. Receive CY25 Attendance Demographic Tracking Report for August, September, and October 2025.

Harriet M. Pistorio presented the 2025 Attendance Demographic Tracking Report, noting that as of October attendance stood at approximately 90,000, below the projected 115,000 and likely to fall short of target. Lower attendance was attributed to reduced participation at Naper Nights, the Josh Sigo event, and the Women's Club Art Fair, as well as the absence of Fiesta Italian this year.

2. Receive and Approve Minutes from August 22, 2025, Naper Settlement Museum Board Meeting.

This Report was approved.

3. Receive and Approve the Naper Settlement Financial Reports from July, August,

Alex Atkinson discussed the Naper Settlement financials for the month ending October 31, 2025 as follows: Operating revenue was a .981 percent of the year-to-date goal. Operating expenses were a .896 percent of the year-to-date goal. Preliminary financials through the end of the year indicate the Naper Settlement operating revenue has exceeded the yearly budget. Operating expenses for the year will not exceed budget.

This Report was approved.

G. AJOURNMENT:

Mayor Scott Wehrli called the meeting to adjourn at 8:32 a.m.
Motion made by long, seconded by Meyer-Smith

/S/ Andrea de la Torre Project Specialist