

City of Naperville

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



Naperville

Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, July 9, 2026

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

Liquor Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT:**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Wehrli called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Mayor Wehrli thanked Commissioner Signorella for his years of service and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. July 9, 2026 is Commissioner Signorella's last meeting.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present 6 - Steve Chirico, Maria Rodriguez DiGioia, Amanda Kunzer, Ray McGury, Anthony Signorella, and Mayor Scott Wehrli
Absent 2 - Kelly Douglas, and Jason Dy

Also Present: Shebnem Ozkaptan, Budget and Administrative Manager; Jennifer Bonner, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Detective Marty Creighton, Liquor & Tobacco Liaison, Naperville Police Department

C. PUBLIC FORUM:**Speakers**

Kevin Reed (Vice President of Operations, Biaggi's Ristorante Italiano; Ancho & Agave) discussed reconsidering Naperville's prohibition on happy hour promotions.

Commissioner Chirico stated he will bring the topic up in new business.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approve the Liquor Commission meeting minutes of March 16, 2026

Attachments: [March Draft Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Signorella, seconded by Commissioner Kunzer, approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consider Five Iron Golf's request to increase the cap on Late Night Permits in the downtown by one (1)

Attachments: [Five Iron Golf Concept](#)

Petitioner Presentation: Five Iron Golf

Petitioner representative Joseph DePalma presented the application on behalf

of Five Iron Golf to be located at 47 E. Chicago Ave, 2nd floor. Five Iron operates 42 locations across the U.S. with 4 located in Chicago. They are requesting to increase the cap on Late Night Permits in the downtown by one (1).

Liquor Commissioners approved and referred the request to City Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chirico, seconded by Commissioner McGury, approved and referred to City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chirico, Rodriguez DiGioia, Kunzer, McGury, and Signorella

Absent: 2 - Douglas, and Dy

2. Receive the presentation on Kratom/Feel Free and evaluate whether stricter local regulation is needed

Attachments: [Kratom presentation](#)

[Current Trends In Kratom and Derivates in Summer 2026](#)

[Comment July 9](#)

[Federal Register - DEA Emergency Scheduling 7-OH](#)

Mayor Wehrli opened the discussion providing history of kratom and 7-OH (7-hydroxymitragynine) in Naperville and provided background information.

7-OH (7-hydroxymitragynine) is a potent opioid-like compound found in trace amounts in the kratom plant and heavily concentrated in synthetic products sold in gas stations and smoke shops e.g. *Feel Free or 7-Ohmz*. Products are designed to look like everyday treats like gummies, candies, and ice cream and are falsely advertised as natural kratom products.

The FDA has issued multiple warning letters regarding the illegal addition of synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). This concentrated form can be more potent than morphine, dramatically raising the risk of rapid tolerance, severe substance use disorder, and accidental overdose. Testing revealed that many commercial extracts are deliberately spiked or "adulterated". Laboratories routinely find products with concentrations of 7-OH that are up to 500% higher than what occurs naturally in the raw plant leaf.

Clinical addiction to kratom is treated using the exact same medical protocols as classic opioid use disorder, utilizing medications like buprenorphine and Suboxone. Trying to stop or cut back triggers a withdrawal syndrome highly similar to opioid discontinuation.

Adults between the ages of 21 and 34 reported the highest rates of kratom use. The 2025 Monitoring the Future (MFT) Survey found that 1.2% of 12th grade students reported using kratom in the past year.

Speakers:

Ashley Ware, Naperville resident

Alex Cochran, Fox Valley Institute

Ari Bernstein, Linden Oaks Behavioral Health
Natasha Grover, Matt Cassity, 360 Youth Services
Detective Matt Susnis, Naperville Police Department

Commissioner Signorella made a motion to ban the retail sale of 7-OH and all kratom products, seconded by Commissioner DiGioia. This motion was withdrawn to allow the vote for the written comment received after the deadline.

Commissioners voted to allow the written comment received after the deadline to be included on the record as submitted on time. A motion was made by Commissioner Chirico and seconded by Commissioner McGury and passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Bonner read the comment into the official record.

Commissioner Signorella made a motion to refer to the Naperville City Council an ordinance banning the retail sale of 7-OH and all kratom products at an upcoming City Council meeting; seconded by Commissioner DiGioia.

Commissioner Chirico mentioned that this product should be regulated like marijuana. If there is a medical value to this product it should be prescribed by a doctor or issued in a controlled/regulated way.

Mayor Wehrli thanked the speakers and discussed how this item will be placed on the August consent agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Signorella, seconded by Commissioner DiGioia, approved and referred to City Council. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Chirico, Rodriguez DiGioia, Kunzer, McGury, and Signorella

Absent: 2 - Douglas, and Dy

Other New Business:

Commissioner Chirico discussed adding a happy hour discussion to the next Liquor Commission meeting. Commission approved 5-0 by voice vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chirico, seconded by Commissioner McGury. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. REPORTS:

1. Receive the DUI reports for March-June 2026

Attachments: [City of Naperville DUI Liquor Report-March 2026](#)
[City of Naperville DUI Liquor Report-April 2026](#)
[City of Naperville DUI Liquor Report-May 2026](#)
[City of Naperville DUI Liquor Report-June 2026](#)

Detective Creighton presented the DUI statistics for March - June 2026.

2. Receive the tobacco report

Detective Creighton announced that there were two (2) violations out of 84 licensees in the 3rd round of compliance checks.

3. Receive Naperville Local Liquor Law Essentials class statistics for March-June 2026

Detective Creighton presented the Local Liquor Law Essentials class statistics for March - June 2026:

March - 40 attendees

April - 42 attendees

May - 79 attendees

June - 26 attendees to date

4. Receive the Liquor Concept Committee report for March-June 2026

Attachments: [Liquor Concept March - June 2026](#)

Budget and Administrative Manager Ozkaptan presented the liquor concepts for March - June 2026.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

H. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Commissioner McGury, seconded by Commissioner Signorella, to adjourn the Liquor Commission Meeting of July 9, 2026 at 4:36 p.m. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

/s/ S. Ozkaptan

Shebnem Ozkaptan

Budget and Administrative Manager