



City of Naperville

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

Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

8:15 AM

Meeting Room C

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Commission Chair Erickson called the May 13, 2026 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 8:16 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; Jan Erickson, Chair; Ian Holzhauser; Andy Hynes; Jeff Martin; Seth Michael; Tiffani Picco; Leslie Ruffing; Johnna Shields; Carl Wohlt

Absent: 2 - Greg Sagen; and Mike Sullivan

Also Present: Mayor Scott Wehrli (until 8:22 a.m.); Tim Ball, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc. (GRWA); Pam Bartlett, former Riverwalk Commission Chair; Tom Castagnoli, Planning and Zoning Commission; Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Mike DiCristina, Naperville Park District; Brian Dusak, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA); Natalie Fopma, NCTV; Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation; Steve Rubin, Naperville Development Partnership; and Katie Wood, Downtown Naperville Alliance (DNA)

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

Mayor Wehrli thanked the Riverwalk Commission and recognized Chair Erickson for her many years of service and dedication to the Naperville Riverwalk and the City of Naperville. This was Chair Erickson's last Riverwalk Commission meeting as her second term as commissioner expires on May 30th.

Chair Erickson requested to change the agenda order to accommodate the attending presenter and respective attendees. New Business was discussed prior to Project Updates, with the group verbally expressing agreement to the change.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation on Parking in Downtown Naperville and the proposed Nichols Library Parking Deck project - Andy Hynes

Receive the presentation on parking in Downtown Naperville and the proposed Nichols Library Parking Deck project

Attachments: [DT-ParkingGrowthFuture-April2026-Riverwalk Commission](#)

Commissioner Hynes introduced Katie Wood, Executive Director, Downtown Naperville Alliance, who shared a presentation on downtown parking and the proposed Nichols Parking Deck project that was included in the agenda packet. Wood advised that they were not seeking any action at this time but rather educating and sharing new data in hopes of future support from the commission.

A flyover video of the proposed parking deck was shared with Councilman Holzhauser suggesting a change to ensure that the side facing the Riverwalk was not a brick wall but rather the row house façade depicted in other areas. Commissioner Hynes advised that the video shown was over twenty years old and that depiction may have been an oversight but would be addressed for the Jackson Avenue frontage.

Hitchcock discussed the historic precedent of other projects and public improvements that received input and support from the Riverwalk Commission.

Chair Erickson thanked Wood for the presentation.

E. PROJECT UPDATES:

Commissioner Hynes provided the following project update:

430 S. Washington Street/North Central College Riverwalk Park project: Five bids were received with Baumgartner Construction coming in under budget. This will be on next week's City Council agenda for approval and construction is expected to begin in early summer.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Jan Erickson

Approve minutes from the April 8, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [26RWCMminutes0408](#)

A motion to approve the April 8, 2026 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Shields and seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Brauer, Cowen, Holzhauser, Hynes, Martin, Michael, Ruffing, Shields, Wohlt

Abstain: 2 - Erickson, Picco

Absent: 2 - Sagen, Sullivan

2. Chair - Jan Erickson

Chair Erickson thanked the group for their recognition and discussed the importance of how much the Riverwalk has meant to her over the past decades. Her participation began with the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation and she started with the City as Riverwalk Administrator in 2006. She spoke of the importance of the commemorative brick program that was developed with the Exchange Club, the Foundation and the City of Naperville, and the many projects that she was able to be a part of during her tenure.

Hitchcock spoke to Erickson's passion put into her stewardship of the Riverwalk, and the remarkable amount of effort, research, detail, knowledge and influence she has had.

Chair Erickson discussed the importance of the relationship with the City and the Park District and complimented the Park District staff for their efforts and dedication.

3. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [26ParkDistrictMemo0513](#)

Commissioner Picco thanked Chair Erickson and shared the following highlights from the Park District report included in the agenda packet.

The Dandelion and Horse Trough Fountains were started up on April 24th and the Exchange Club Memories Fountain is operational as of May.

New banners were installed. Staff will continue to monitor how the colors hold up.

Twenty new trees were planted with a few more coming in and all wood bollards and shelters were pressure-washed.

Volunteer groups have helped with mulching and weeding.

Carillon tours began May 9th. Paddleboat and kayak rentals are open, and Centennial Beach has been filled and is scheduled to open Memorial Day Weekend.

Commissioner Picco noted that regarding the Centennial Park detention basin, the proposed development of new ice rinks was not deemed a priority based on survey results received last fall and will be re-evaluated in the future. Motta noted that they would be building a new sand volleyball court at Meadow Glens that would be ready for next year. The Asset Management Plan (AMP) Walk summaries for April 29th and May 7th will be included in the June 10th Riverwalk

Commission agenda packet for approval.

4. Riverwalk Foundation - Jeff Martin

The 2026 Riverwalk Duck Race is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5th between the Eagle Street bridge and the Moser (covered) bridge. Ducks went on sale April 20th and \$5,000 has been raised to date. More information can be found on the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation's website, Downtown Naperville's website under the Events page, and at <https://go.rallyup.com/riverwalk-duck-race/Campaign/Details>.

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 three 8" x 8" commemorative bricks.

7. Planning, Design, and Construction - Johnna Shields

There was no report as the May 5, 2026 PDC Committee meeting was canceled. Commissioner Shields thanked Chair Erickson on behalf of the commission and expressed appreciation for her mentorship.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Commission, June 10, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

**Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, June 30, 2026, 8:15 a.m.
Municipal Center Meeting Room C, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, July 8, 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 Michael and seconded by Commissioner Cowen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

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