



Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Commission

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

7:30 AM

NEU

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction (PDC) Committee Chairman Friant called the June 12, 2024 Naperville Riverwalk Commission meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the Naperville Employee University (NEU) at the Naperville Municipal Center located at 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present: Pam Bartlett; Grant Cowen; John Cuff; Jan Erickson; Jeff Friant; Mary Gibson; Ian Holzhauer (arrived 7:34 a.m.); Bill Novack; Tiffani Picco; Johnna Shields; Mike Sullivan; and Carl Wohlt

Absent: Pat Kennedy, Chairman

Also Present: Jesus Cortez, NCTV; Rebecca DeLarme, City staff; Brian Dusak, ERA; Rick Hitchcock, former Riverwalk Commission Chairman; John Joseph, Riverwalk 2031 Fund; Peggy Motta, Naperville Park District; and Stephanie Penick, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation

C. PUBLIC FORUM:

There was no public forum.

D. PROJECT UPDATES:

There were no project updates.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Riverwalk 2031 Fund Donor Policy - Bill Novack

Approve the proposed Donor Recognition Policy for the Riverwalk 2031 Fund

Attachments: [Riverwalk 2031 Fund Donor Recognition Policy](#)

Novack discussed the Riverwalk 2031 Fund Donor Policy that was introduced at last month's Riverwalk Commission meeting and included in the agenda packet. John Joseph, Chairman of the Riverwalk 2031 Fund,

explained their responsibility to raise money for the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan and reported on the Fund's progress noting they were off to a good start with a solid marketing communications plan and that the website has launched. Social media will kick-off in the next two to three months.

Friant shared comments received from Kennedy which 1) recommended shifting the table to reflect recognition requiring much larger donations; 2) questioned the future impact to the Riverwalk experience and value to donors with everything being named, including additional items that would need to be listed on the Riverwalk signage; and 3) suggested a single "Master Plan 2031 or Bicentennial Master Plan" Garden with a single stone or plaque that lists donor names and levels, or a single plaque associated with each major capital project in the Master Plan.

Cuff noted concerns he's received regarding the number of signs going on the Riverwalk. He reminded the group that the signs have to be maintained through the years and that while plaques were more durable, the Foundation spent \$30K restoring plaques within the last few years.

Picco commented on the longevity of naming some of the assets. Erickson discussed the Park District's Remembrance Program noting that if a donated tree dies before five years, it will be replaced. If it dies after five years, the donor has the option of buying another one or paying for the replacement. Picco noted that the Park District is reviewing that program due to the maintenance of the plaques and the number of requests they receive throughout the parks. Gibson noted the number of requests they receive for trees on the Riverwalk.

Erickson spoke of the Riverwalk Foundation's cost for the commemorative bricks and benches and suggested universal pricing with the same rules for all Riverwalk assets.

Cuff requested that the "Riverwalk Foundation" be changed to "Naperville Riverwalk Foundation".

A motion to table this item until the August 14, 2024 Riverwalk Commission meeting and have representatives from the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation, the Riverwalk 2031 Fund, the City and Park District meet to develop a consistent plan that works for all groups was made by Novack and seconded by Erickson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Funding Requests for Naperville Riverwalk Capital Projects - Bill Novack

Receive the funding requests for the Naperville Riverwalk capital projects

Attachments: [Riverwalk 1 - Grand Pavilion](#)
[Riverwalk 2 - Ecological Enhancements](#)
[Riverwalk 3 - Eagle Street Gateway](#)
[Riverwalk 4 - Hillside Road Gateway](#)
[Riverwalk 5 - South Gateway](#)

Novack reviewed the funding requests for capital projects that were developed by the City's Communications Department as a one-page flyer for various capital projects. Included with the agenda packet were copies that related specifically to the Naperville Riverwalk and the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan. Novack noted that the information originally was obtained from our consultants and the Riverwalk 2031 Fund and that the dollar value indicated on the flyers was for the remaining unfunded portions of those costs. The group expressed their appreciation for the City's efforts.

G. REPORTS:

1. Approval of Minutes - Jeff Friant for Pat Kennedy

Approve minutes from the May 8, 2024 Riverwalk Commission meeting

Attachments: [24RWCMinutes0508](#)

A motion to approve the May 8, 2024 Riverwalk Commission meeting minutes was made by Erickson and seconded by Sullivan. MOTION CARRIED with Cowan and Novack abstaining

Approve summary from the April 18, 2024 Asset Management Plan Walk - West of Eagle Street

Attachments: [24RWCAMPWalk0418WestofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the April 18, 2024 Asset Management Plan Walk (West of Eagle Street) summary was made by Picco and seconded by Bartlett. MOTION CARRIED with Erickson, Friant, Gibson, Holzhauer, Novack, Shields and Sullivan abstaining

Approve summary from the May 1, 2024 Asset Management Plan Walk - East of Eagle Street

Attachments: [24RWCAMPWalk0501EastofEagleSt](#)

A motion to approve the May 1, 2024 Asset Management Plan Walk (East of Eagle Street) summary was made by Shields and seconded by Sullivan. MOTION CARRIED with Bartlett, Erickson, Friant, Gibson, Holzhauer and Novack abstaining

2. Chairman - Jeff Friant for Pat Kennedy

There was no Chairman's report.

3. Finance - Bill Novack

Novack advised that work has begun on the 2025 Capital Improvement Program and he will be providing a framework for the 2025 CIP budget at the July PDC Committee and Riverwalk Commission meetings.

4. Park District - Tiffani Picco

Receive the monthly Park District report

Attachments: [24ParkDistrictMemo0612](#)

Picco reported on highlights from the monthly Park District report included in the agenda packet. They are continuing to experience a higher level of vandalism on the Riverwalk. On two separate occasions, a backless bench was pulled out from the existing pavers and thrown into the river. Garbage cans have been tipped over and nuisance activity has taken place in the Fredenhagen Park restrooms, which will now close at 8:00 p.m.

The Prairie Nature Garden island area was planted last week by a group of Girl Scout volunteers. The two benches were installed yesterday. The cover crop has started to grow in.

Erickson inquired about the potential for cameras at Fredenhagen Park with Picco noting it is still being discussed.

Picco noted that a generous donor through the Conservation Foundation provided funds to purchase 1,600 native plugs on the riverbank slope by the metal bridge. They removed a lot of invasive plants in that area so this will help stabilize the slope.

5. Riverwalk Foundation - John Cuff

There was no report.

6. Riverwalk 2031 Fund - Grant Cowen

Cowen noted their focus continues to be on the development of the Riverwalk 2031 Fund Donor Policy and working toward obtaining donors.

7. Donor Recognition - Rebecca DeLarme

Receive the monthly Donor Recognition report

DeLarme reviewed the Riverwalk Commission Donor Recognition report included in the agenda packet. The Spring 2024 Legacy Gift Order

installation was held with the donors and the Park District staff on Friday, May 10th. The Fall 2024 Legacy Gift Order deadline is September 1st and consists of eighteen 4" x 8" and one 8" x 8" commemorative bricks.

8. Planning, Design, and Construction - Jeff Friant

Receive the June 4, 2024 Riverwalk Planning, Design and Construction Committee draft meeting minutes

Attachments: [24PDCMinutes0604Draft](#)

Friant reported that the majority of discussion at the June 4th PDC Committee meeting focused on the 430 South Washington Street project as they are looking to revisit some of the designs with the progression of the Washington Street bridge construction.

H. MEETING SCHEDULE:

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, July 2, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, July 10, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Planning, Design & Construction, August 6, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

Riverwalk Commission, August 14, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Center NEU, 400 S. Eagle St., Naperville, IL

I. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Erickson and seconded by Shields. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by
Rebecca DeLarme, City Staff