



Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Planning Commission Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-Final

Date: 7/24/2025

Minutes prepared by Kurt Chatfield

Location: Mississippi River Greenway Tour (Kaposia Landing, Swing Bridge Park, Pine Bend Bluffs)

Attendance

Members Present

- Amy Hunting
- James Guttman
- Tony Nelson
- Paul Nasvik
- Barry Graham
- Ibrahim Abdinasir
- Kelly Kausel
- Steve Shurts
- Jerry Rich
- Lori Hansen

Dakota County staff members attending:

- Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager
- John Mertens, Principal Planner

Member(s) Absent:

- Dennis Peine
- Jill Smith

Meeting Called to Order

- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- By Chair, Jim Guttman

Pledge of Allegiance

- The Planning Commission opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

- Comments/Notes: No audience member wished to address an item not on the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Guttmann asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

The Planning Commission advised no changes, additions, or deletions.

MOTION: Commissioner Hansen moved, seconded by Commissioner Hunting, approving the agenda. Voice vote: Ayes – 10 – Nays – 0 – Unanimously Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (from June 26, 2025)

Chair Guttmann asked if there were any changes to the previous meeting's minutes.

The Planning Commission advised no changes, additions, or deletions.

MOTION: Commissioner Graham moved, seconded by Commissioner Shurts, approving the previous meeting's minutes. Voice vote: Ayes – 10 – Nays – 0 - Unanimously Approved

Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions

Comments/Notes: Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, provided the Planning Commission with an update on the following County Board Actions:

- The County Board authorized a design contract for the boat launch at Spring Lake Park Reserve (formerly Bud's Landing)

Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach

CSAH 86 Roundabouts on Hwy 3, and on Hwy 56 - Design Open house	Monday, August 11, from 4:30-6:30 pm Saint Mark's Lutheran Church 28595 Randolph Blvd
Hwy 42 and US 52 Interchange Open House	Monday, August 25, 4pm-6pm Rosemount Public Works Building, 14041 Biscayne Avenue

Mississippi River Greenway Tour (John Mertens – Planning Office)

The Planning Commission received an update on the process to update the Mississippi River Greenway Long-Range Plan. John Mertens provided a history of the previous plan, adopted in 1999, and the role of the cities and county in delivering the existing trail and trailheads. John described the purpose of the plan and its importance for seeking and securing federal and state funding along the corridor.

Kaposia Landing

The Planning Commission tour began at Kaposia Landing. The Planning Commission discussed the following topics (with staff responses in italics):

Since Kaposia Landing was originally a landfill, are there any concerns about methane gas management? *The landfill mitigation at Kaposia Landing was led by the City of South St. Paul, and it is our understanding that much of the old landfill consisted of construction and demolition debris from the former stockyards.*

The Planning Commission discussed the availability of the bathroom building at the north end of the park for general public use, as opposed to primarily for users of the athletic complex. It is believed that the bathroom, while open to the public, is currently open only for athletic events. *Staff responded that the update of the Long-Range Plan can address the benefits of shared facilities and shared costs between the City and the County. Kaposia Landing would appear to make for an excellent trailhead for the Mississippi River Greenway.*

The topic of high-speed electric bikes was discussed. Several Commissioners voiced their concerns about safety for pedestrians. Several comments were made that electric bikes open the door for a wider range of users. *Staff responded that electric bikes are rapidly growing in popularity and that recreation providers around the country are concerned about potential safety concerns. At some point, it may make sense for the County to update its recently adopted Park Ordinance to address the changing technology and use trends. Dakota County will need to work with other agencies to develop consistent electric bike standards and rules.*

Planning Commissioners talked about trail conflicts in general, and it was noted that off-leash dogs or poorly managed dogs can also cause problems for other trail users.

The Planning Commission talked about the connectivity of the Mississippi River Greenway to other greenways and to local trail loops. The South St. Paul loop along the river was discussed and was recognized as being as popular as the regional trail. The need to have a pedestrian connection along Bryant Avenue to the Mississippi River Greenway was raised as an issue.

Planning Commissioners discussed the need to coordinate with other agencies as the Mississippi River Greenway extends south and potentially to Redwing. *Staff responded that a master plan was prepared for the trail alignment between Dakota and Goodhue counties. Recently, Dakota County staff have met with Goodhue County staff and Prairie Island Indian Community members about the potential for constructing the trail in coordination with the reconstruction of CSAH 54 that runs along the river.*

Swing Bridge Park and Trailhead

The Planning Commission drove along the Mississippi River Greenway trail alignment to Swing Bridge Park. Planning Commissioners walked out onto the river pier and toured the facility at the trailhead. Planning Commissioners discussed the importance of having ADA facilities, noting that most ramps and facilities were in

place, but that a few additional ADA facilities were missing. *Staff noted their comments and shared the information with County Facilities staff.*

There were numerous positive comments about the views from the Swing Bridge pier and the LED lights that have recently been installed on the bridge. Planning Commissioners looked at the interpretive signs and historic artifacts that were preserved from the original swing section of the bridge.

Planning Commissioners discussed the partnership with Inver Grove Heights and the shared facilities for bathrooms, picnicking, parking, and maintenance.

Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific Natural Area and Trailhead

The Planning Commission drove parallel to the Mississippi River Greenway trail to Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead. Planning Commissioners discussed the County's partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on the surrounding land and for the trail and trailhead.

Planning Commissioners walked along the Mississippi River Greenway trail to an overlook of the bend in the Mississippi River and Spring Lake. Several Planning Commissioners also walked out to remnant bluff prairie and views of the Mississippi River Valley.

Wrap up

In conclusion, Planning Commissioners stated that the tour was beneficial and will be helpful moving forward as a plan draft is prepared.

Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Nelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kausel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Voice Vote: Ayes – 10 – Nays – 0 – Unanimously Approved.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 7 p.m., Western Service Center, Conference Room L139

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Chatfield