



Placemaking Committee

5/13/2026

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Charles, Claire, Rob, Patti, Louise, Lea Pinsky, Darius Dennis, Dustin Harris,

Charles moved to approve the draft minutes from the March 11, 2026 meeting. Claire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Darius Dennis and Art Encounter presented three mural concepts for 1231 Chicago Avenue centered on the message, "We're Glad You're Here." The designs incorporated photographs of people gathering and enjoying community. Tuckpointing on the building is expected to begin within the next few weeks. Rob shared lessons learned from the Open Studio Project mural process. Following committee feedback, Darius will return with revised design concepts.

A mural at Greenwood and Sherman by Jeff Zimmerman is expected to be installed in May or June. The mural celebrates inventions, creations, and cultural contributions associated with Evanston. Tuckpointing for the Open Studio Project mural wall is expected to begin in May or June, with installation anticipated in July or August following the curing period.

The committee began discussing 2027 placemaking priorities and reviewed the Board Strategic Review document. Recommendations under consideration include district-wide pressure washing, mural repairs, festoon light maintenance, and potentially assuming responsibility for the black Main Street planters. Additional ideas discussed included enhanced litter collection, holiday decorations, bridge lighting support, streetscape enhancements, and expanded rebate or façade improvement programs. The committee will finalize its recommendation in July for Board consideration later in the summer.

Due to a property owner declining permission to use their façade, Katherine recommended limiting the Main Street festoon lighting project to the west side of the street.

Green Edens completed its first seasonal planter installations.

The April 18 Earth Day Neighborhood Cleanup attracted nearly 100 volunteers.

New directory and gateway signs, funded by Evanston Thrives, are expected to be installed within the next two to three months.

Illuminight replaced 110 bulbs in late March and completed maintenance to correct sagging sections of the Dempster Street festoon lighting system.

Proposals for the Dempster Street bridge lighting project have been received. No further updates were available. The project is funded and managed by Evanston Thrives.

Adjourn