



**AGENDA**  
**URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**ANITA PURVES NATURE CENTER**  
**1505 N. BROADWAY**  
**URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Approval of Minutes of the September 27, 2011 Meeting
- IV. Reports
  - A. Chair
  - B. Director
  - C. Board Representative
- V. Comments
- VI. New and Unfinished Business
  - A. Youth Scholarship Fund at the Urbana Park District – Corky Emberson
- VIII. Adjourn

\*\*\*This month's secretary is Deb Aronson\*\*\*

# Urbana Park District Advisory Committee

## Minutes

September 27, 2011

Attending: Deb Aaronson, Gary Bernstein, Maria Capps, Neal Gibbens, Carl Larson, Bob Mandra, Beverly Rauchfuss, Scott Santeler, Tom Schumacher

UPD Commissioners present: Nancy Delcomyn

UPD staff present: Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Vicki Mayes, Ellen Kirsanoff, Dana Mancuso

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Larson at 7:00 pm.

Minutes from prior meeting were reviewed and approved

Reports:

II. Chair - Carl Larson talked about the subcommittees that were forming to address the 4 areas identified at the prior meeting as priorities by the UPDAC membership. These subcommittees include

- Bicycle trails in the Parks
- Signage to help people locate the parks
- Playground replacement
- Adolescent/young adult play equipment or areas

Carl reported that there has been a modest response to the effort to recruit UPDAC members to the committees and Carl also volunteered to help any of these committees get going. Carl emphasized that there were opportunities for UPDAC members to be on these committees.

The sub-committee that is looking at bicycle trails was asked to meet and Deb Aaronson agreed to organize that meeting.

The question was brought up as to what the goal of these sub-committees? Carl responded by stating that the sub-committees were an effort to get UPDAC members involved in tangible projects with the parks and these committees would research topics such as bicycle trails, report their findings to the complete UPDAC. From the research there could be potential improvements to the current park system or perhaps meet an unmet community need.

A quick review of the prior months meeting regarding the pavilion at Carle Park brought out a new revelation that there is an insurance policy for the pavilion. The use of the policy and how it could affect repairs at the pavilion are now being explored.

III. Board Representative – Nancy Delcomyn quickly commented on how useful the last UPDAC meeting was when the Park District Board met. The minutes from the UPDAC meeting were presented and comments from UPDAC influenced the discussion about the pavilion at Carle Park. Nancy cited the creative ideas brought forth by UPDAC as helpful. Nancy also commented that the Pool project is underway and moving forward.

IV. Comments: The November UPDAC meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday immediately prior to thanksgiving. An email will be sent to members asking their input as to when the meeting will be held.

V. Follow up from prior months meeting regarding the pavilion at Carle Park. The discussion at the UODAC meetings was again mentioned as very beneficial to the process of what to do for the Carle Park pavilion. Three strategies emerged as ways of affecting change in the pavilion:

1. Positive actions, how can we encourage these?
2. Negative behaviors, how do we discourage?
3. How can we offer new ideas to invigorate the pavilion?

Also the program statement for Carle Park was briefly reviewed and it was part of that statement from 2009 to keep the pavilion. A review of this program statement with the neighborhood was presented as a possibility.

New Business –Tim Bartlett from the parks district made a presentation on the parks planning process. Tim reviewed how the parks district develops a plan for a park and how these plans are reviewed periodically and carried out over time. Tim provided a handout of this process. Tim stated the the Park district has a goal of creating a master plan for all of the parks, currently there is a master plan for about half of the parks. Each plan is reviewed approximately every two years. The plans can be changed as needed.

Victory Park was cited as an example of how a plan can affect the community in a positive way. The planning process created community involvement which led to increased dialogue with local residents which led to lower crime in the park and resulted in a safer place for kids to play. Another example of how the planning process is effective was the recent pool referendum which benefitted from tremendous community support. Tim even showed how kids participated in the process by having children do drawings of things they would like in the pool. Some of the elements included in the pool plan came from the kids drawings.

Tim was asked how the park district sets priorities in light of the presence of a master plan. Tim reported that the UPD strategic plan helps prioritize items.

The plans need to be fluid and have the ability to adapt to changing times and pressures. The examples of ADA compliance, keeping facilities current and repairing structures were presented as challenges to

the park district in its planning. Also grants often require master plans and having these in place helps the UPD to apply for and present a better program to use the grant monies.

A question was raised about how the park district solicits feedback from the community about parks and community needs? Nancy responded by informing the committee that the UPD does surveys of the community to assess needs.

The meeting was adjourned as 9:00

Respectfully submitted by Tom Schumacher.