MINUTES

Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC)
Tues., January 25, 2011- 7:00 pm
Phillips Recreation Center

UPDAC Members Present: Deb Aronson, Alice Englebretsen, Ed Garrett, Carl Larson, Beverly Rauchfuss, Mark Sweeney, Gary Wszalek

UPD Staff Members Present: Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Ellen Kirsanoff, Dottie Lierman, Dana Mancuso, Vicki Mays,

Approval of November Minutes: moved by Beverly Rauchfuss and seconded by Carl Larson

Chair's Report: Deb Aronson said she continues to work with the "Friends of Urbana Parks" committee on pool issues. Some of the members of the committee are Tyler Fitch, Scott Dossett, Kirsten Hansen, Steve Rugg, Vicki Mays, etc. and Shawn Lee on website. "Friends of Urbana Parks" is a Political Action Committee (PAC) which advocates for a new pool. They are identifying people within neighborhoods to help promote a new pool. They are also developing a Facebook presence. Members can become active with Friends.

Director's Report: Vicki Mays reported that the Board requested staff to start the process, which means getting ready to sell bonds, legal work, and be ready to go if voters vote for approval to build the pool. This will cost less than $500 to start process. Hopefully they will have $7 million in the bank to start immediately on approval. Downside is the perception that the Board is starting process before final approval. The proposed referendum to be put on the April ballot will request a $.11 property tax increase for a new pool.

No Board Representatives Present:

New and Unfinished Business:

Finances
General discussion was lead by Vicki and Dottie. The following points were made.

- Vicki discussed how individual tax payer's bills are paid and what the UPD collects. Financial definitions were distributed earlier.
- Dottie Lierman went through some complicated spreadsheets to show how UPD taxes are determined, compared with Urbana City.
- Before any expenses, UPD must set aside money for certain funds such as for pension payments, Social Security and Liabilities. All other expenses come after that.
- If property owners assessed value goes down, so do the taxes a homeowner pays.
- The Estimated Assessed Values (EAV) is not known until after the levy (request to County for amount of money needed) is presented by UPD.
- Vicki gave an example of the Mahomet Library issue which the city tried to pass. The bond to build a library passed, but the bond to operate the library did not pass. It took two more years for the 2nd bond to pass. The recommendation is a bond being requested that goes for both building and operating on the referendum.

- Pool bond will be paid for from the 11 cent rate increase to the general-recreation fund.
- There are two kinds of bonds, 1) payments for roll over bonds are always collected in the bond fund, and 2) bonds for pool will be paid back from the $.11 tax increase.
- This year UPD set aside 6% of $5,000,000 in case hospitals go off tax roles. The decision of hospitals being on tax rolls for local communities is a national issue being decided in courts.

UPDAC nominations: It is the time of year to recruit people interested in serving on UPDAC. Names must be submitted by the end of February and presented to the Board who then contacts applicants. In April the Board appoints new UPDAC members. Encourage others to fill out form. Contact Ellen with questions.

Other topics for future UPDAC meetings were suggested such as Special recreation and Safety. Mark suggested someone talk about summer programs. Deb suggested a discussion on the Emerald Ash Borer…..what will go in instead. UPD will plant a tree for each one taken out. Carl suggested feedback to the Park District from UPDAC. Ed suggested long term planning process. Vicki said there is a 22 year cycle to complete a renovation process per park. Some parks currently under consideration are Ambucs for playgrounds along with Wheatfield and Blair Parks for playground replacement. Lohmann Park needs playground which would greatly enhance the neighborhood. Crystal Lake Park playground equipment has been in process for some time. UPD is one of the few districts able to improve their parks. Bids for the Meadowbrook Park Interpretative Center are very good. There is a plan for putting metal roofs on the Anita Purvis Nature Center and new lights for Blair.

Alice asked in light of the new state tax increase, what arguments can be posed for approving the April referendum to increase taxes for a new pool. Tim suggested a $.15 tax increase allows money to be spent in Urbana to local contractors and incentives are matched by the $.15 increase. UPD is part of energy coop. with other entities.

Deb moves to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by Alice Englebretsen