



**AGENDA**  
**URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 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 February 22, 2011 Meeting
- IV. Reports
  - A. Chair
  - B. Director
  - C. Board Representative
- V. New and Unfinished Business
  - A. Celebrating Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation – Dawn Shaefer, Hannah Sheets, Jessica Brutti and Lisa Morand
- VI. What Can UPDAC Do?
- VII. Comments
- VIII. Adjourn

\*\*\*This month's secretary is Ellen Kirsanoff\*\*\*

## Urbana Park District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

### Minutes

Attending: Deb Aronson, Maria Capps, Alice Englebretsen, Neal Gibbens, Carl Larson, Beverly Rauchfuss, Mark Sweeney, Nancy Delcomyn, Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Vicki Mayes, Ellen Kirsanoff, Dana Mancuso, Randy Hauser.

The meeting was called to order by Deb A. at 7:10 pm.

Introductions were made around the room.

The minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting were approved with no changes. Moved by Mark.S.  
Seconded by Beverly R.

#### Reports:

- A. Deb A. gave her report. She reviewed some of the PR information out for the referendum.
- B. Vicki's report was reviewed by all. There were several questions regarding items in the report. Deb A. wanted to know more information regarding the Meadowbrook Park Interpretive Center. How will the barn be used once it's completed? It will be used as a three season building for school groups and others to gather when using the Meadowbrook Prairie or other areas of the park for educational programs.
- C. Nancy D. gave her report. She highlighted the Busey Woods Gateway project, Barn project and the lighting upgrade of the Blair Park Tennis courts. These are all good examples of the UPD being able to supplement their resources with grant funds and helping to complete needed projects with effectively. She also mentioned that the Board of Commissioners voted to go ahead and start the bond process, so if the referendum passes the UPD will be able to hit the ground running and get going on the pool quickly. It's advantageous to take advantage of great interest rates. And additionally, bids will be accepted for demolition of the pool site if the referendum fails, so that we are efficient there as well.

#### New and unfinished business:

Randy presented his report on the management of the Urbana Park District's Urban Forest. As the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor here at the UPD, Randy's direct responsibility is everything that grows here at the UPD. The main focus of his talk tonight is on the effects and process of dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer. The UPD has, conservatively, approximately 4,000 specimen trees. In the past, the way the UPD dealt with issue/problems that happened with a tree was to be reactive, not proactive. We have always wanted to be proactive, but resources have not always allowed us to be. The UPD now puts \$75,000 into our Capital budget each year for tree care/removal/services. Using this money now

allows the UPD to be proactive in its care of trees, dealing with something before it becomes a problem such as a large tree coming down in a park.

Randy explained about the Emerald Ash Borer and its impact on how the UPD is handling removal of trees. To date, we have contracted with Arbor Smith to remove 60 hazardous trees in Crystal Lake Park. Most of the trees are Ash trees, but a few are of other species and are deemed to be hazardous. Dead Ash trees dry out quickly and become a serious hazard sooner rather than later. It's important to remove them before this occurs. The goal for the UPD is to replant with variety. No more than 3% of any one species will be replanted. We have decided to treat a handful of Ash trees with the soil drenching method to ensure that the UPD has a few specimens in our parks. Randy is working with Phil Nixon @ the U of I to make sure we have good info on best practices for treating for EAB.

Hiring much of the tree work out is a cost effective and economical way to handle tree removal. The UPD only has one full time arborist. Plus the equipment we have is not sufficient to handle large mature trees with a high canopy. When working with mature trees and a high number of them, economy of scale for the work makes it more cost effective to have a contractor do the work than our own crew. Plus, phasing of the work is better for the budget and cash flow of the district.

The ash wood from trees cut down is handled in the mandated way to comply with regulations, it's chipped to the uniform standard required. Randy is investigating other possible allowable uses for the ash wood. There was some additional talk of other diseases such as Oak Wilt and Leaf Scorch, and the way the UPD handles those problems too.

Discussion of issues related to the referendum: Deb A. updated the UPDAC on the Friends of the Urbana Parks committee work. The Friends paid for bus boards are up and can be seen around town.

Comments: Carl L. told everyone that since last month's meeting, he understands his tax bill much better. He thanked Dottie and Vicki again for the presentation.

Neal G. pointed out the problems with crime that are occurring in the Lohmann Park area. Huge issues are there, he asked if there is anything the UPD can or is doing to help kids stay safe. Vicki commented on how we are attempting to scholarship more kids into camp and sports activities. And she talked about Brookens Gym, and using it more for open gym and other free activities during other down times. Neal also asked about Blair Park lights and how/ when the work will get done. Corky explained that the courts will be shut down for a one week window to get the work accomplished. It will occur between May 18 and June 6<sup>th</sup>. We are waiting that long to make sure that the high school tennis season is over.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Kirsanoff



# Urbana Park District

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TO: UPDAC  
FROM: VICKI MAYES  
RE: APRIL DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

CHAMPAIGN URBANA SPECIAL RECREATION: This month's UPDAC program will be on the Champaign Urbana Special Recreation Program (CUSR). This joint program was organized in 1985. Illinois state law allows local park districts to levy a Special Recreation tax of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. It is only possible to levy this tax if there is a partnership of at least 2 local units of government. UPD's partner is the Champaign Park District and each district levies 4 cents. By intergovernmental agreement, two cents of the levy for each district is dedicated to providing a joint recreation program for individuals with disabilities. The other 2 cents of this levy is dedicated toward making improvements in UPD's parks and facilities to increase accessibility. Staff often refer to these funds as ADA funds.

The first Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1991. This federal law requires compliance for parks and recreation facilities and programs. One of the first tasks in 1991 was to complete an audit of the district's facilities in relation to accessibility. After the audit, the district was required to develop an implementation plan to bring facilities into compliance. The ADA was updated in 2010. Through CUSR, both the Champaign and Urbana Park Districts are in the process of completing a new audit as required by the 2010 update. Next both districts will develop an implementation plan to bring facilities into compliance. Both the audit and the implementation plan will be completed this summer.

POOL REFERENDUM: The staff will provide copies of results information from the 2008, 2009 and 2011 referendums to UPDAC at the meeting. Here are a few notes regarding the results.

### TOTAL VOTES (including under votes)

YEAR	TOTAL	YES	NO		UNDER*	MARGIN
2011	3719	2283	1394	+889	42	62.09% YES
2009	5024	2873	1998	+875	153	58.98% YES
2008	7703	3458	3396	-62	849	49.55% YES

\*An under vote means a ballot was taken and not marked for this question.

YEAR	WON	LOST	TIE
2011	18	4	1
2009	16	6	1
2008	11	12	0

NEXT ACTIONS FOR THE POOL: The Board has authorized the sale of \$7,000,000 in bonds to engineer and construct the pool. The bonds will be sold on May 10. Staff will be working with Standard and Poors

next week to have a bond rating assigned. The bond rating is used by bidders to evaluate the security of the bonds. The UPD's bond rating for the 2010 sale of bonds to construct the planning and operations facility and make other park improvements was a AA rating. The highest rating that Standard and Poors gives is a AAA rating.

The Board has also authorized staff to negotiate a contract for architectural, engineering and construction administration services with the team of Ratio Architects, Counsilman-Hunsacker and BCA. The contract should be ready to review and approve by the June 14 meeting.

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Planning and Operations facility – The steel frame, precast insulated concrete walls and roof trusses for the shops, crew assembly and offices are up. The roof is ready to be put on. The steel frame and roof trusses for the equipment /vehicle storage is up and the roof is being put on. Geothermal wells are being drilled now. The project has been delayed waiting for replacement of two precast concrete wall sections that did not meet specifications. In addition to the bond funds, the district has received a grant of \$57,500 for the geothermal system. The Hickory Street Storage project is on schedule.

Meadowbrook Interpretive Center – The interior of the barn has been prepared for finishing. The roof is being installed now. All of the pathways have been poured. In addition to UPD capital funds, this project is supported by a DCEO grant of \$200,000 and donations of more than \$90,000.

Anita Purves Nature Center roof – The contract was awarded in April and construction is expected to begin in May. This project is funded with UPD capital funds.

Busey Woods Gateway Trail – The contract is scheduled to be awarded in May. In addition to a Illinois Museum grant of \$160,000 and UPD capital funds, this project is also supported by nearly \$10,000 in donations.

Lighting upgrades for the cottage, nature center, Phillips Recreation Center and Lake House have been completed. High efficiency lights replaced the older lights in each of these buildings. Incentives of \$10,775 from SEDAC covered the cost of about 1/3 of these upgrades. The upgrades are expected to repay their cost in less than 4 years.

Other projects that are planned to start this year include replacing the lights on the Blair Park tennis courts and replacing the siding on the Lake House.