



It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system,
- Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks, and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment, and the overall health of the community.

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

6:00 PM

UPDAC OUTDOOR LEARNING PAVILION

1505 N. BROADWAY AVENUE

URBANA, IL 61801

I. Call to Order – Welcome New Members and Introductions

II. Public Comment

Any member of the public may make a brief statement at this time within the public participation rules of the Board.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the August 22, 2023 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. UPDAC Year-in-Review
- B. Upcoming Programs and Projects

V. Reports

- A. UPDAC Chair
- B. Board Representative
- C. Director’s Report
- D. Capital Projects Report

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

VII. Adjourn

Upcoming meetings:

***October 24, 2023
November 21, 2023
December – no meeting
January 23, 2024
February 27, 2024***

*****This month’s secretary is Kelsey Beccue*****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD website at <http://www.urbanaparks.org/documents/index.html>; choose the “Public Meetings” category and search for the meeting information you wish to download.

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
 URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023
 7:00 PM
 PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
 1011 E. KERR AVENUE
 URBANA, IL 61802**

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at the Urbana Park District Planning & Operations Facility at 7:00 pm. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the park district administrative office and at the location of the meeting. Copies of the notice and agenda were received by each member of the committee and by local newspapers, radio, and television stations at least forty-eight hours before the meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois. A copy of the notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. Also available for inspection are all documents that were reviewed or approved at the meeting.

UPDAC Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Ashley Withers, Chair	X	
Lauren Chambers	X	
Lori Choquette	X	
Reba Daniels		X
Amy Delahanty		X
David Dorman	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Lucia Maldonado	X	
Hannah Sheets	X	
Ashley Sims	X	
Rachel Spencer		
Gary Stensland	X	
Michael Stevenson		X
Brittany Tammen	X	
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	
Karl Weingartner	X	
Darius White		X

Others Present:

- Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;
- Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
- Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
- Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
- Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
- Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;

Kayla Boparai, Planning and Operations Office Manager;
Keenan Portis, Park Planner

VIII. Call to Order and Introductions

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

Everyone in the room introduced themselves and shared their favorite Urbana Park District park.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Approval of the Minutes of the June 27, 2023 Meeting

Gary Stensland made a motion with a second from Lori Choquette to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 UPDAC meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

XI. New Business

C. UPD GIS Map

Derek Liebert gave some background information on the park district's use of GIS mapping to keep track of district facilities and utilities. GIS has typically been only used by the district internally for tracking purposes, but has the potential to be used in externally-facing ways, as well. This led to the creation of a GIS map application intended for public use. Kayla Boparai introduced a new, district developed GIS map that is intended to be used by the public as well as frontline staff with the goal of UPDAC providing feedback on its functionality and ease of use. Kayla noted that the map is intended to help the public understand what facilities and amenities are available at each Urbana park to help them better plan their trips. For instance, if someone is interested in visiting a certain park, they can use the map to get information on what kinds of amenities and services are available. Or if someone is planning a hike, they can use the map to get information on the trails within a given park, such as whether they are paved or mown. Kayla explained that the map is built in layers which can be toggled on and off to add or remove certain categories of information, and it can be used on any device.

A lot of discussions and questions followed the introduction of the mapping tool. Ashley Withers said it would be good to ensure that accessible parking options are distinguished. Cedric asked if there was more granular information on playgrounds, such as if a certain playground in a park had swings. Kayla responded that level of detail isn't included at this time. Ashley Withers suggested that pavilion amenities be listed. David Dorman asked if the program could open a new browser window when drilling down on the various park amenities, and Kayla responded that functionality is not an option within GIS. Cedric asked if a person could be geolocated within the map if they were using it inside a park, and Keenan Portis answered that would be possible if a person had geolocation enabled on their phone.

Kayla thanked UPDAC for their time and feedback in the meeting, and said that the link to the map would be emailed to all UPDAC members for them to test and provide further feedback before being made available for public use.

D. Saline Greenway

Tim Bartlett introduced the Saline Greenway idea and his work with University of Illinois Landscape Architecture students on developing preliminary concepts for a greenway along the Saline which runs from the Champaign County Fair Grounds to Perkins Road Park Site, and could create a green connection of the four northern parks in Urbana: Crystal Lake Park, AMBUCS Park, Weaver Park, and Perkins Road Park Site. He stressed that the information he was sharing is highly conceptual and used as a teaching tool for his students, but that the idea is a forward look for creating green connections within our community. Tim then presented a slideshow of the different conceptual plans students had come up with to develop a proposed Saline Greenway. Many of the plans incorporated several types of development: housing, retail, greenspace, etc. Several were also quite ambitious, including bridges over the Saline, fountains, and plazas for people to gather.

After sharing some of the student designed plans, Tim noted that there are many steps between the concepts presented and feasibility, including things like actually acquiring land along the Saline and negotiating easements. David asked if it was conceivable to have a long-range conceptual plan, and Tim said yes. A similar example is the Kickapoo Rail Trail, which has taken over thirty years to be developed. There are still important differences, as with a rail trail, there are usually fewer property owners, so it can be easier acquire longer connections at a time.

Kanittha Fay commented that the concepts were inspirational and wondered if there was a way to use Urbana Park District resources to bring other agencies such as the City of Urbana and University of Illinois on board. Lori Choquette said she saw the advantages to having a bridge over the Saline. Finally Lucia Maldonado commented that there are real transportation barriers for Latino students in north Urbana who ride their bikes, and something like the Saline Greenway could go a long way toward alleviating some of those issues.

XII. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Ashley Withers announced that the next UPDAC meeting would be on September 26 at 6:00 PM at the UPDAC Outdoor Learning Pavilion near the Anita Purves Nature Center. She also reminded everyone about the Zoom meeting for public input on Weaver and Prairie Park master planning to take place on September 23.

B. Board Representative

Laura Hastings and Cedric reminded everyone of the upcoming Jazz Walk on September 15 and encouraged them to attend.

C. Director's Report

Tim gave everyone an update on the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center, and said that local indoor swim advocates were working with PTAs to host pool parties at the UIAC. Rentals of the UIAC overall have been going very well.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek gave a couple brief capital projects updates on the Health & Wellness Center and the Crystal Lake Park bridge.

XIII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Lori asked how many trees were lost in the recent derecho – Derek said he was not sure at the moment, but would get back to her.

Brittany Tammen shared that she enrolled her daughter in Summer Arts Camp this year, and she absolutely loved it.

Tim commented that UPD has been getting grateful emails regarding the pool being open, and Lauren Chambers and Lori both shared that they have noticed the uptick in people swimming.

Lori said that she's heard a lot of positive comments about the district's teen programming.

Kanittha praised staff at the Crystal Lake Park Art Fair as well as the new location within the park for the event this year.

Ashley Withers gave kudos to the private swim lesson program with instructor Skylar.

Gary asked if there were any parking conflicts at the Race Street Parking lot at Meadowbrook due to the new development at ClarkLindsey. Derek said there hadn't really been any conflicts, and noted that parking lot is actually meant to be shared with ClarkLindsey staff. ClarkLindsey contributed funding toward the development of that parking lot along with the district, and their staff use the northernmost spaces during the day.

XIV. Adjourn

Ashley Withers adjourned the meeting at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kelsey Beccue