

Oct 23, 2023 5:30 PM |  Stakeholder Meeting

Attendees:

*Name - Background; Subcommittee

- **Phil Anders** - Former Coach, UPDAC; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Randy Ashman** - Director of Facility Services; School and Community Engagement
- **James Barkely** - Former UPD/USD Soccer Coach; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Chris Berti** - Master Naturalist, UPD Volunteer; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Jonville Chenoweth** - Softball & Soccer Coach; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Mario Felarca** - UPD Volunteer Soccer Coach; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Mel Fros** - UPD Volunteer Soccer Coach & Pickleball; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **George Hardebeck** - Naturalist; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Jennifer Ivory-Tatum** - Urbana School District 116 School Superintendent; School and Community Engagement
- **Danielle Jackson** - Dr. Williams Elementary School Principal; School and Community Engagement
- **Ben Kapp** - UPD Volunteer Soccer Coach; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Bryan Lake** - Dr. Williams Elementary School Teacher; School and Community Engagement
- **Steve Miller** - Skateboard Community Leader; Athletics & Active Recreation
- **Kayla Meyers** - Landscape Architect and Weaver Park Watchdogs; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Julie Nieset** - Wetland Plant Ecology; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Henry Pollack** - Ecology, Omithology; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Zak Sutton** - Ch Co Audubon; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Bob Vaiden** - Urbana Natural Areas Committee; Natural Resources & Environment
- **Mary Ellen Wuellner** - Kickapoo Rail Trail Friends Group; Trails & Kickapoo Rail Trail
- **Jeff Yockey** - Ch Co Bikes, Kickapoo Rail Trail Friends Group; Trails & Kickapoo Rail Trail

Notes/Agenda

- Introductions
 - Tim Bartlett explaining the Weaver & Prairie site and why we chose that location
 - Introductions
- Master Planning Expectations
 - Developing: land, programs, the flow of the land
 - Meadowbrook advisory committee sparked the ideas for Meadowbrook Park; took the necessary time to envision a dream park
 - Take the time to see what's happening around us: covid, climate change, mental health. We need to act before it is too late.
- Background and Status Updates
 - **Weaver & Prairie Parks Planning History and Update Presentation:**
https://www.urbanaparks.org/assets/1/6/Weaver_and_Prairie_Parks_Planning_History_and_Updatev2.pdf
 - Weaver Park Acquisition
 - Big Grove Discovery
 - Active and Passive Recreation for Weaver & Prairie Parks
 - Signature Park site
 - 2005 Master Plan; 8-9 soccer fields and 3 ball fields
 - Stormwater wetland created around 2006-2008
 - Seeded prairie in 2013 as a temporary element
 - Bakers lane path - ITEP Multi-Use trail grant award 2023
 - Brookens lease ends 2026; alternative location is needed for active recreation
- FAQs
 - We will be creating a form for FAQs
- Subcommittee Designations
 - There will be several different groups that will each give us different perspectives as we continue with Weaver & Prairie Parks
- Next Steps
 - Engage with community/Going back to the drawing boards/Meeting with subcommittees

Statements/Questions

- Chris B. - This land was purchased? Is the grant public information? What types of athletic fields are in the grant? Is the grant stating specific athletic fields or is it general? Wiggle room for other outcomes.
 - Answer: This grant is public information and specifically states the use of the land which shall be athletic fields.
- Kayla M. - How often are we getting together? Stakeholder Committee. Will staff help moderate the committee?
 - Answer: We will test out meetings once every month and we will begin to create our subcommittees.
- Julie N. - What subcommittee would community members fall in?
 - Answer: Community members will most likely fall in the category with schools.

- Chris B. - Choose a subcommittee or assign?
 - UPD staff will create subcommittees with at least 1-2 UPD staff on board of that committee.

Other Thoughts

- Well rounded group - clear roles
- There will be a committee structured with staff supported teams
 - School & Community Engagement
 - Natural Resources & Environment
 - Athletics & Active Recreation
 - Trails & Kickapoo Rail Trail
- Recommendations for a shared site master plan
- Need for a rational plan to address these key drives of this master plan
 - Climate change/Environment
 - Social equity; Inclusive
 - Weaver & Prairie Parks
 - Sustainability