

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION & EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025
7:00 PM
PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

The study session meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL 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 commissioner of the district 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.

COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Michael Walker		X
Vice-President Cedric Stratton		X
Commissioner Laura Hastings	X	
Commissioner Roger Digges	X	
Commissioner Meredith Blumthal	X	

Also present were Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Laura Orcutt, Superintendent of Business Services;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Blumthal called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

COMMISSIONER DIGGES MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL AS CHAIR PRO-TEM. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID “AYE.”

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Accept Agenda

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DIGGES TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL VOTED “AYE.”

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

IV. Discussion

A. Donor Level Project Support

Director Bartlett introduced the topic of donor level project support and naming opportunities. He noted that the UPD does not have an official naming policy at this time and the unofficial process has typically been if a donor paid for approximately half of the project cost, then they would receive naming rights. He also noted that the UPD brought on a consultant fundraising company during the Health and Wellness Center process and that it was overall a successful and worthwhile effort. Board and staff discussed fundraising processes, naming rights, licensing, sponsorships, grants, donor driven projects, value-based cost estimates vs. construction cost estimates, forever projects vs. programs with a limited scope or sunset date, and coordinating with the Urbana Parks Foundation on these efforts.

B. Alcohol Permitting

Director Bartlett reviewed the issue of alcohol permitting in Urbana parks. Staff have noticed alcohol use in the parks through official rentals with permits, as well as casual gatherings without permits. Staff have worked with the Urbana Police Department in monitoring social media for announcements of large gatherings on UPD property. Director Bartlett suggested keeping a limited scope for alcohol permits on UPD property, potentially only at the Lake House. He suggested evaluating how alcohol permits fit into the mission of the Urbana Park District. He also noted that staff plan to communicate with, coordinate with, and get support from the Urbana Police Department on these matters to keep the parks safe.

V. Comments from Commissioners

There were no further comments from Commissioners.

VI. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DIGGES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2, PART 'C', EXCEPTION #1 OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AN EMPLOYMENT MATTER. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:05 PM.

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DIGGES TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RETURN TO THE BOARD STUDY SESSION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VII. Reconvene Study Session Meeting

Commissioner Blumthal reconvened the Study Session at 8:18 PM.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Blumthal adjourned the meeting at 8:19 PM.

Michael W. Walker, President

Timothy A. Bartlett, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: April 8, 2025