

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
 7:00 PM
 PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
 1011 E. KERR AVENUE
 URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

A regular meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 7:00 p.m. 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. UPTV taped the meeting for future airing.

COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Cedric Stratton	X	
Vice-President Meredith Blumthal	X	
Commissioner Laura Hastings		X
Commissioner Sarah Roper	X	
Commissioner Ashley Withers	X	

Also present were Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
 Lara Orcutt, Superintendent of Business Services;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
 Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;
 Allison Jones served as Recorder.

- I. **Call to Order**
 President Stratton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - A. Remote Attendance
 There was no remote attendance requested.
- II. **Accept Agenda**
COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."
- III. **Public Comment**
 - A. Public Comment
 There were no comments from members of the public.
 - B. UPD New Staff Introductions
 There were no new staff introductions.

IV. Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Report

Hannah Sheets has provided a written report for the August UPDAC meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the August 5, 2025 Study Session
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the August 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- C. Monthly Reports
 - 1. Administration
 - 2. Planning/Operations
 - 3. Recreation
- D. Approval of the Monthly Paid Accounts Payable
- E. Action to Accept the Philanthropy Report and Gifts Listed with Gratitude

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO APPROVE ALL THE ACTION ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ACCEPT ALL THE INFORMATION ITEMS LISTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA IN AN OMNIBUS MANNER. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VI. Reports

- A. Financial Reports
 - 1. Revenue and Expenditure Report
Laura Orcutt presented the Revenue and Expenditure Report.
 - 2. Action on Treasurer's Reports
Laura Orcutt presented the Treasurer's Report.

COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR AUDIT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

- 3. Capital Budget Report
Laura Orcutt presented the Capital Budget Report.

Andy Rousseau presented updates on several Capital Projects, including the Kickapoo Rail Trail construction and trailhead, the wood floor sanding and resealing at the Health and Wellness Center, demolition of the old shed at Canaday Park, and the upgraded entrance ramp and railing at the Phillips Recreation Center.

- B. Executive Director
Director Lenz reported on several projects and activities, including:
 - 1. You Belong Here Report – working on opportunities for future DIY skate parks/skate programs, as well as looking into insurance requirements for a potential skate park location near downtown Urbana;
 - 2. Wending – Ted "Sitting Crow" Garner –sculpture installation went smoothly and it looks beautiful at Meadowbrook Park;
 - 3. Leadaz Partnership – Corky Emberson reviewed the potential agreement with Leadaz on a sports table/digital screen at the Health & Wellness Center;

4. NuToys Site Visit – looked at one of their accessible swings and other equipment for options for future UPD park updates;
5. Philo Road Event – a great event hosted by the City of Urbana and UPD was thrilled to participate.

Director Lenz also noted the Jazz Walk coming up on Friday, September 12, 2025 and invited everyone to attend.

C. President

1. Review of upcoming meeting agenda

President Stratton noted several upcoming events/programs, including:

Jazz Walk on 9/12/25, the next UPDAC meeting on 9/23/25, the Board Study Session on 10/7/25, and the regular Board Meeting on 10/14/25.

D. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Study Group

President Stratton stated that the Finance Study Group last met on August 21, 2025 and discussed levy options and tax rates. He noted the next meeting will be on September 18, 2025.

2. UPD Policy Study Group

Commissioner Roper stated that the next Policy Study Group meeting will be on September 22, 2025.

3. Urbana Parks Foundation Representative

Commissioner Blumthal stated that the Urbana Parks Foundation last met on September 8, 2025 and discussed several projects, including solar development possibilities at Delcomyn Park, Jazz Walk activities, the annual holiday party which is set for December 11, 2025, and the possibility of several new UPF Board members at the start of the year. She also noted that the Foundation hopes to work more closely with the UPD Board regarding the December Joint Board Meeting, continuing deeper engagement between the groups.

4. UPDAC Planning Study Group

Commissioner Withers noted that the UPDAC Planning Study Group last met on August 26, 2025 to review and update meeting topics for the remainder of the year.

VII. Old Business

- A. Action on any Old Business removed from Consent Agenda

There was no old business removed from the Consent Agenda.

VIII. New Business

- A. Action to Authorize Purchase of 4 Fleet Vehicles

Andy Rousseau presented information on replacing 3 of the UPD fleet vehicles, following UPD's Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Schedule. He noted that the UPD can utilize the state of Illinois joint procurement process, and is also evaluating which vehicles could transition to electric.

Commissioner Blumthal stated that it would be helpful to see cost projects for electric vehicle options in the future. The Board expressed support for continuing to explore electric vehicle options within the UPD fleet.

**COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE, THROUGH COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT BIDDING, OF THREE NEW ½ TON TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$155,160, TO MORROW BROTHERS FORD OF GREENFIELD, IL. AND TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE, THROUGH COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT BIDDING, A NEW ¾ TON TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84, 947 TO LANDMARK FORD OF SPRINGFIELD, IL. AND TO APPROVE A 5% CONTINGENCY TO THE 2025 TRUCK PURCHASES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,005.
A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID “AYE.”**

B. Action on any New Business Removed from the Consent Agenda
There was no new business removed from the Consent Agenda.

IX. Comments from Commissioners

President Stratton noted he attended the recent Philo Road community event and was pleased to see a focus on that area. He also suggested that UPD highlight Crestview Park in that area, as it serves both a young and older adult population nearby. Derek Liebert stated that Crestview Park will be up for a new playground in the next few years, as well as possible additional amenities based on community feedback, such as basketball courts.

X. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Cedric A. Stratton, President

Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: October 14, 2025