

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION & EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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, October 7, 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 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; Laura Orcutt, Superintendent of Business Services; Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operation; Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation; Keenan Portis, Park Planner; Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

Vice-President Blumthal called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Accept Agenda

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

IV. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS 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 A LEGAL MATTER. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

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

The Executive Session concluded at 7:15 PM.

V. Reconvene Study Session Meeting

President Stratton reconvened the Study Session at 7:19 PM.

VI. Old Business

A. Action on Presence Hospital Settlement and Intergovernmental Agreement

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO ACCEPT THE PRESENCE DISTRIBUTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TREASURER AND OTHER TAXING BODIES. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VII. Discussion

A. Strategic Plan

Staff presented information on developing a new Strategic Plan for the Urbana Park District. Elements discussed include previous Strategic Plans, an asset inventory, a park "report card," evaluating the skills and abilities of staff, cross department support and engagement, and a potential staffing study. Staff also reviewed the previous Strategic Plan from 2020, strategies for incorporating public input, and utilizing consultants during planning. Next, staff reviewed the most recent major pillars of the Strategic Plan, including Reaching all Residents/You Belong Here, Health and Wellness, Kickapoo Rail Trail/Trails & Connectivity, and Crystal Lake Park Rehabilitation/Placemaking. Staff then reviewed the timeline and budget for the Strategic Planning process, listening sessions, a community survey, stakeholder meetings, reaching the community in multiple languages, and incorporating the Capital Budgeting process.

B. UPD/UPF Prioritized List

Director Lenz discussed the need to begin working on the Urbana Parks Foundation Prioritized Projects list as a tool for the Foundation to use when fundraising. Commissioner Blumthal noted that they would like this meeting to involve more engagement and discussion with the UPF when possible. Staff reviewed the 2024 Priority Project List and discussed changes and additions available for the next calendar year, including naming opportunities, King Park updates, the Robin Hall Sculpture Fund, gardening/food security efforts, Health & Wellness phase 2, scholarships, and other major projects.

VIII. Comments from Commissioners

There were no further comments from Commissioners.

IX. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Cedric A. Stratton, President

Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: November 12, 2025