

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026
6:00 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 on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 6:00 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;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Laura 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 6:01 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2, PART 'C', EXCEPTION #1 OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, I MOVE TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:04 PM.

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 6:19 PM.

III. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting

President Stratton reconvened the regular Board Meeting.

IV. 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."

V. 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.

VI. Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Report

Hannah Sheets provided minutes for the March UPDAC meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2026 Study Session Meeting

B. Approval of the Minutes of the March 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

C. Monthly Reports

1. Administration

2. Planning & Operations

3. Recreation

D. Action to Accept the Philanthropy Report and Gifts Listed with Gratitude

E. Approval of the Monthly Paid Accounts Payable

F. Action to Receive Post-Issuance Tax Compliance Report

G. Action to Approve Resolution 2026-01 to Designate Committed Ending Fund Balances

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."

VIII. Reports

A. Financial Reports

1. Revenue and Expenditure Report

Laura Orcutt presented the Revenue and Expenditure Report.

2. Action on Treasurer's Report

Laura Orcutt presented the Treasurer's Report.

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUDIT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN,

ALL SAID “AYE.”

3. Capital Budget Report

Laura Orcutt presented updates to the Capital Budget.

Andy Rousseau reviewed several capital projects, including the Kickapoo Rail Trail pavilion, stonework, waterproofing, and painting at Carle Park, and the EV fleet transition plan.

B. You Belong Here

The You Belong Here report was included in the meeting materials.

C. Executive Director

Executive Director Rachel Lenz provided an update on multiple projects, including:

1. Recreation Software Demos – the District is having to switch registration software programs and a staff team has demoed 5 new options, staff will continue narrowing down the options with the goal deadline of November 2026 for implementation;
2. Strategic Planning Update – there was an initial meeting with the strategic planning committee with the consultant from Blue Sky Recreation, and additional meetings such as focus groups and stakeholder interviews will be conducted in May. There will also be a community survey questionnaire, and the June Study Session is planned to be a strategic planning workshop;
3. U of I Strategic Plan Meeting – Director Lenz attended the meeting, along with many other community groups, and discussed local work-force needs and community partnerships;
4. Special Meeting – the Board will need a special meeting before the end of April to review and finalize some financial items, the date of Monday, April 27, 2026 at 5:00 PM was scheduled;

Director Lenz also commented that she had been sending out Board communication updates regularly and welcomes feedback for any changes or additional information the Board may want to review.

Commissioner Blumthal suggested adjusting the date of the Study Session in August 2026 with the new date being Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

D. President

1. Review of upcoming meeting agenda
President Stratton reviewed the upcoming UPDAC, Board Meeting, and Study Session meetings.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Study Group
President Stratton noted that the Finance Committee would next meet in early May.
2. UPD Policy Study Group
There was no update from the Policy Study Group.
3. Urbana Parks Foundation Representative
Commissioner Blumthal noted that the Urbana Parks Foundation met on the previous day and

the primary discuss was the annual dinner coming up on May 28, 2026 at the Lake House.

4. UPDAC Planning Study Group
Commissioner Withers stated that the next meeting of the UPDAC Planning Study Group would be in May or June 2026.

IX. Old Business

- A. Action on any Old Business Removed from the Consent Agenda
There was no old business removed from the Consent Agenda.

X. New Business

- A. Action on Resolution 2026-02 to Approve 2026-2027 Annual Compensation Actions
Staff noted that approval of the compensation program is an annual action based on previous discussions and incorporating information from the recent Compensation Study from MGT.

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-02 APPROVING FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ANNUAL COMPENSATION ACTIONS WITH A BASE INCREASE OF 2.5% AS WELL AS MARKET ALIGNMENT WITH STEP AND MERRIT BONUSES. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

- B. Action to Approve King Park OSLAD Design Services
Andy Rousseau reviewed the next steps in the King Park project, with a focus on design services. He reviewed the current proposal from Farnsworth Group of Champaign. He also reviewed the budget, schedule, and next steps.

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO AWARD DESIGN SERVICES FOR KING PARK OSLAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,220, AND A NOT-TO-EXCEED CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AMOUNT OF \$25,650, WITH A 15% CONTINGENCY (\$16,780.50) TO THE ENTIRE CONTRACT OF \$118,870 TO FARNSWORTH GROUP OF CHAMPAIGN, IL. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

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

XI. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Withers noted that coming up on May 5, 2026 is Parks Day at the Capital and that although she cannot attend this year, she highly recommends attending, as it is a great experience.

Commissioner Roper commented positively on the Urbana Park District's participation in the Bone Yard Arts Festival.

XII. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Cedric A. Stratton, President

Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: May 12, 2026