

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026
 6:00 PM
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 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, February 10, 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;
 Mark Schultz, Public Information & Marketing Manager;
 Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

President Stratton called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 Introduction – There were no new staff introductions.

IV. Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Report

UPDAC Chair Hannah Sheets provided a written report for the January meeting.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Executive Session
- 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

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO APPROVE ALL OF 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 & Expenditure Report
Laura Orcutt presented the Revenue & 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 ROPER TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUDIT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

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

Corky Emberson commended UPD staff who worked on 3 major grants that helped fund the construction of the Health & Wellness Center, as it was a complex situation with many moving parts and required a lot of teamwork, communication, and oversight.

Andy Rousseau provided updates on several Capital Projects, including the Kickapoo Rail Trail pavilion, the ITEP path on Bakers Lane, the kickoff meetings for Perkins Road Park and Prairie/Weaver phase ii projects, and a new crosswalk with concrete boardwalk at the Health & Wellness Center.

- B. You Belong Here Report
- details provided in meeting materials
- C. Executive Director
Director Lenz provided updates on several ongoing projects, including:

1. The Great ARTdoors – A meeting was hosted by the UIUC College of Fine and Applied Arts with local stakeholders to discuss how they could increase collaboration on public art efforts. The group came up with several ideas to explore further, but will first join forces for The Great ARTdoors event, which has been held locally in the past. The theme will be the 250th anniversary of the United States and history of the area, and UPD staff in Community Programs are working on creating an exciting event.
2. Soaring to New Heights Conference = The annual IAPD Soaring to New Heights conference in Chicago in January at the highest attendance ever recorded for the event, with over 4,300 people in attendance. Staff have reported positive experience from attending, and should consider presenting at future conferences.

D. President

1. Review of upcoming meeting agenda

President Stratton reporting on several upcoming events, including the IAPD Legislative Breakfast to be held at the CU Special Rec Center, the 2/24/26 UPDAC meeting on IAPD Conference review, the 3/3/26 Board Study Session on wages & benefits, and the regular UPD Board Meeting on 3/10/26.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Study Group

Commissioner Stratton noted that the Finance Study Group met this week and plans to meet next on February 12, 2026.

2. UPD Policy Study Group

Commissioner Hastings stated that the next UPD Policy Study Group meeting will be held on March 2, 2026.

3. Urbana Parks Foundation Representative

Commissioner Blumthal stated that the UPF met on 2/9/26 and discussed their annual audit process. She also noted a new Trustee joining the UPF Board, and that the UPF Annual Dinner is expected to be held on May 28, 2026.

4. UPDAC Planning Study Group

Commissioner Withers commented that the UPDAC Planning Study Group will next meet in early 2026.

VII. Old Business

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

VIII. New Business

A. Action to Award Annual Bid for Program Guide Printing Services

Mark Schultz presented information on the bid process for the FY 2026-2027 program guide printing. He noted that the UPD sent out 24 bid packages and received 4 bids. He also stated that the bid includes 3 program guide printings, bulk mail organization, and extra copies to be provided to UPD.

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER WITHERS TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM KK STEVENS PUBLISHING TO PRINT THE PROGRAM GUIDE WITH OFFSET PAPER AND AN ADDITIONAL GLOSSY COVER IN FULL-COLOR PAPER THREE TIMES IN FY 2026-2027 AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$50,238.32. THEY WILL PRINT TWO EDITIONS OF 80 PAGES AND ONE EDITION OF 72 PAGES. THIS REPRESENTS A TOTAL YEARLY INCREASE OF \$1,510.23. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

B. Annual Recreation Statistics Report for Calendar Year 2025

Corky Emberson presented detailed statistics on recreation program revenue, facility visits, memberships, and rentals for the Urbana Park District for calendar year 2025. He noted that staff are working on ensuring consistency for recording statistics and participation numbers across all departments. He also reviewed efforts to make summer camp registration more accessible. Lastly, the Board and staff discussed ways to present the data in the most understandable and useful format.

C. Update to Tuition Reimbursement Benefit – Personnel Policy, Section 6.01 Education

Director Lenz reviewed the proposed changes to the UPD's Personnel Policy, section 6.01 Education, on increasing the annual tuition reimbursement maximum. She noted that the amount available for reimbursement had not been updated in a number of years and that UPD wants to continue to support staff growth and education.

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED REVISION TO PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTION 6.01 EDUCATION INCREASING THE ANNUAL TUITION REIMBURSEMENT MAXIMUM TO \$2,000. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

D. Action on any New Business removed from the Consent Agenda

There was no new business removed from the Consent Agenda.

IX. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Hastings commented that while out to dinner recently she overheard a community member comment positively on the new HAWC facility which has supported them through a difficult emotional time.

X. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Cedric A. Stratton, President

Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: March 10, 2026