

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION
 TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
 6:00 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 3, 2026 at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 6:00 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 and Operations;
 Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

A. Remote Attendance

President Stratton called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

II. Accept Agenda

COMMISSIONER WITHERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

IV. Discussion

A. Capital Projects

Derek Liebert provided updates on several Capital Projects, including:

- South West area of Busey Woods – currently an area not accessible to the public, has received some restoration in the past in terms of leveling and native grass seeding, UPD has received a donor gift to use at Busey Woods and additional work will begin in the next few months;
- Busey Woods Board Walk – needs replaced so staff are exploring options for new materials, could potentially be a Boy Scout Jamboree Project in 2027;
- McCullough Creek at Meadowbrook Park – beginning the third and largest phase of invasive plant removals using a Lumpkin Family Foundation Grant, to be followed by seeding and new plantings;
- AMBUCS Scoreboard – has failed and will be replaced with a new wireless version, currently using a portable version and pen & paper in the meantime;
- Reception area at the Phillips Recreation Center – needs updating to meet ADA requirements;
- Reception area at the Antia Purves Nature Center – needs updating to meet ADA requirements;
- Sculpture updates – leasing 3 new pieces from 40 North for a 2-year period, to be placed at Meadowbrook Park, Larson Park, and South Ridge Park. The UPD sculpture collection currently includes 44 total pieces, with 16 on loan and 28 owned by the district.

B. Brown Fund

Laura Orcutt provided an overview of the Brown Fund and noted it was established in 2021 from a trust donated to UPD in support of development, operation, and maintenance of the Wandell Sculpture Garden in Meadowbrook Park. She noted that historically the district uses the approximately \$10,000 in annual income from the Brown Fund to support lease renewals of sculptures. She also stated that the Brown Fund principal has been used several times for special projects within the Sculpture Garden or sculpture acquisition. Lastly, she stated that different management options for the Brown Fund exist but no changes are recommended at this time, as yields would be very similar as the current set-up.

V. Comments from Commissioners

There were no additional comments from Commissioners.

VI. Adjourn to Executive Session

Removed from the agenda.

VII. Reconvene Study Session Meeting

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Cedric A. Stratton, President

Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: April 14, 2026