URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION & EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026
5:30 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 on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 5:30 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	

Also present were:
Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
Laura Orcutt, Superintendent of Business Services;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Janet Soesbe, Community Program Manager;
Andy Rousseau, Senior Project Manager;
Peyton Perry, Park Planner;
Jameel Jones, Outreach and Wellness Manager;
Leslie Radice, Aquatics Manager;
Amy Banner, Environmental Program Manager;
Kern McCalla, Development Manager;
Megan Owens, BlueSky Consulting;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

President Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

A. Remote Attendance
There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5(c)(3), TO DISCUSS THE SELECTION OF A PERSON TO FILL A VACANCY IN A PUBLIC OFFICE WHEN THE PUBLIC BODY IS GIVEN THE POWER TO APPOINT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:32 PM.

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

The Board exited the Executive Session at 5:59 PM.

III. Reconvene Study Session Meeting

President Stratton reconvened the Study Session at 6:00 PM.

IV. Accept Agenda

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

V. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

VI. Discussion

A. Vision Workshop

Megan Owens from BlueSky Recreation Consulting conducted a vision workshop with UPD staff and Board. The group began with an activity evaluating the Urbana Park District's impact on the community. Megan then reviewed the brainstorming session from the previous evening, and the group discussed the organizational values identified at that meeting. Next Megan presented a draft values statement for the group to consider: *We believe in being intentional with community input while creating impactful, innovative experiences in order to open doors for new opportunities for new and existing growth*. Staff and Board provided feedback on the draft statement and Megan will further develop the ideas shared to refine the values statement.

Next the group discussed drafts of the mission statement: *The mission of the Urbana Park District is to enhance community wellbeing for all through welcoming and inclusive spaces, programs, and opportunities to connect*.

Next, small groups formed and each group discussed what they envision UPD accomplishing in the next 5 years. The groups created vision drawings to express where they see UPD fitting into the community. Several themes emerged from the drawings, including partnerships, connections, growth, wellness, and stability. Megan then presented a draft vision statement to the group: *A future where the Urbana community is healthy, vibrant, and connected*.

Finally, Megan Owens closed the workshop, thanking Board and staff for their participation and ideas.

VII. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Blumthal thanked staff for including the Board in the visioning workshops and commented that Megan Owens was able to make the process fun, as well as providing a great opportunity to build community and connections with everyone present.

VIII. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

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Cedric A. Stratton, President

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Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: October 13, 2026