URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
5:30 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61801

A regular meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 5:30 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	

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

Commissioner Stratton called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 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 5:33 PM.

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

The Board concluded the Executive Session at 6:27 PM.

III. **Reconvene to Regular Board Meeting**
President Stratton reconvened the regular Board Meeting at 6:28 PM.

IV. Accept Agenda
COMMISSIONER ROPER 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

A. Public Comment
There were no comments from members of the public.

B. UPD New Staff Introductions
There were no new staff introductions.

VI. Appointments – UPDAC Vacancies & 2026-2029 UPDAC Class

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATE TO SERVE A 3-YEAR TERM AS PART OF THE 2026-2029 CLASS FOR THE URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE CANDIDATE IS: CURTIS MASON. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VII. Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Report
Eusebio Briseno provided a written report from the August 2026 UPDAC meeting**.**

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes of the August 4, 2026 Study Session
B. Approval of the Minutes of the August 11, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
C. Approval of the Minutes for the August 11, 2026 Executive Session
D. Monthly Reports
   1. Administration
   2. Planning/Operations
   3. Recreation
E. Approval of the Monthly Paid Accounts Payable
F. Action to Accept the Philanthropy Report and Gifts Listed with Gratitude

COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS 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."

IX. Reports

A. Financial Reports

1. Revenue and Expenditure Report
   Laura Orcutt reviewed the Revenue and Expenditure Report.

2. Action on Treasurer's Reports
   Laura Orcutt presented the Treasurer's Report.

   COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR AUDIT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

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

   Andy Rousseau reviewed several capital projects, including floor resealing at the Health & Wellness Center, the boardwalk and striping for the Health & Wellness Center parking lot, Perkins Road expanded parking, and the Busey Woods bridge replacement process.

B. You Belong Here
   Corky Emberson reviewed the You Belong Here report, including information on The Dive Program, Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club swim lessons, the Mid-Autumn Festival with the University of Illinois Asian American Cultural Center, and Skate Fest. He also reviewed membership, revenue, and visit numbers for the Health & Wellness Center and the Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center.

C. Executive Director
   Director Lenz reported on several projects and programs, including:
   1. Financial Sustainability Workshop – attended the workshop and stated it was a great presentation with valuable information, plans to send additional staff in 2027; they are also doing a Commissioner presentation at the next IPRA Conference.
   2. Jazz Walk – coming up on Friday, 9/11 at 5:00 PM with a mixer from 4-5:30 PM for the Urbana Parks Foundation; focusing on King Park project.
   3. Scholarship – staff are current working on revamping the requirements for UPD's scholarship program in order to simplify the process and remove barriers to access from the community.

D. President
   1. Review of upcoming meeting agenda
      President Stratton reviewed the upcoming meeting agendas for the 9/22/26 UPDAC meeting, the 10/6/26 Study Session, and the 10/13/26 Board Meeting. He also highlighted several upcoming events and programs, including the Jazz Walk on 9/11/26 and Bat Fest on 9/26/26. President Stratton also commented on the Parks Report Card project and its unique ability to engage the community.

E. Liaison Reports
   1. Finance Study Group
      Director Lenz stated that the Finance Study Group plans to meet before the end of the month.

   2. UPD Policy Study Group
      Commissioner Roper stated that the Policy Study Group met twice in August and will meet again in September.

3. Urbana Parks Foundation Representative
   Commissioner Blumthal provided an update on Urbana Parks Foundation activities and projects, including their next meeting scheduled for September 14, the Jazz Walk on September 11, and the joint meeting with the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners on December 1. She also noted the UPF has begun planning for their annual Holiday Party in December. Lastly, Commissioner Hastings also commented that UPDAC is looking for new members.

4. UPDAC Planning Study Group
   Commissioner Hastings stated that the UPDAC Planning Group will meet next in December 2026. She also commented that UPDAC had a very successful meeting last month with Jarrod Scheunemann with Campfire Concepts regarding the UPD Strategic Planning process. She also noted that the Meadowbrook Park history tour will be moved to an UPDAC meeting in the Spring.

X. Old Business

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

XI. New Business

A. Action to Approve Resolution 2026-08 for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Application for the Weaver Park Shared-Use Path
   Andy Rousseau presented information on the ITEP application for the Weaver Park shared-use path, including details on amount UPD is applying for ($312,00) and the up to 20% community match required.

   COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-08 ALLOWING STAFF TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE WEAVER PARK SHARED USE PATH IN WEAVER PARK. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

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

XII. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Roper inquired about several items on the monthly expenditures.
Commissioner Hastings commented positively at all the updates that have been done over the summer at the CUSR Center in Champaign.

XIII. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2, PART 'C', EXCEPTION #1 OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, I MOVE TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:17 PM.

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

The Board concluded the Executive Session at 9:14 PM.

XIV. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting

President Stratton reconvened the regular Board Meeting at 9:15 PM.

XV. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the regular Board Meeting at 9:15 PM.

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Cedric A. Stratton, President

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Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: ___October 13, 2026_____