URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026
6:00 PM
PERKINS ROAD PARK
1501 E. PERKINS ROAD
URBANA, IL 61802

The Study Session meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners was held Monday, August 3, 2026 at Perkins Road Park, 1501 E. Perkins Road, 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	

Also present were:
Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
Laura Orcutt, Superintendent of Business Services;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
Matt Balk, Natural Areas Coordinator;
Tegan Flowers, Landscape Technician;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

President Stratton called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

A. Remote Attendance
There was no remote attendance requested.

II. 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."

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

IV. Discussion

A. Perkins Road Tour

Derek Liebert, Matt Balk, and Tegan Flowers conducted a tour of the Perkins Road park site. They discussed its history, restoration, ecological importance, and plan for opening access to the park while also protecting the natural elements. They noted that the UC Sanitary District remains the owner of the property, and it is leased to the Urbana Park District. They also noted that the UC Sanitary District has been an incredible partner and has invested over $1 million to help restore the site. Lastly, staff discussed the amenities that will be added, including trails, parking, improved drainage, interpretation signage, a bird blind, and picnic tables or a pavilion.

B. Board Vacancy and Timeline

Board and staff discussed the process and timeline for filling the Commissioner vacancy. They reviewed the application, timeline, and determined the process for interviews with any potential candidates. They also discussed marketing and promotion of the vacancy.

V. New Business

A. Action to Approve a Letter of Support to the City of Urbana's Proposed Technical Correction to the Enterprise Zone Ordinance

Director Lenz explained the purpose for the letter of support to the City of Urbana's Enterprise Zone Ordinance. She noted that it is a technical correction to ensure the abatement zone can exist the entire time frame it was intended.

COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE CITY OF URBANA'S PROPOSED TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO THE ENTERPRISE ZONE ORDINANCE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VI. Comments from Commissioners

The Board thanked Matt Balk and Tegan Flowers for all their hard work improving the Perkins Road park site.

VII. Adjourn

President Stratton adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

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Cedric A. Stratton, President

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Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: ___September 8, 2026_____