URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES - REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026
6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING
EXECUTIVE SESSION
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, August 11, 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	

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;
Katie Bickers, Community Outreach Coordinator;
Megan Owens, BlueSky Recreation Consulting LLC;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

Vice-President Blumthal called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested from Commissioners.
Executive Director, Rachel Lenz attended remotely via Zoom.

II. Adjourn to Executive Session

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2, PART 'C', EXCEPTION #11 OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR PUBLIC BODY HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING

BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE PUBLIC BODY FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:08 PM.

The Board adjourned the Executive Session at 6:18 PM.

III. Reconvene Regular Board Meeting

COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO AUTHORIZE UPD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RACHEL LENZ TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE FINANCE COMPANY UPON FINAL LEGAL APPROVAL FOR THE UPDATED SOLAR PROJECT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

IV. Accept Agenda

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

VI. Appointment – 2026-2029 UPDAC Class

Katie Bickers presented information on the 2026-2029 UPDAC Class.

COMMISSIONER HASTINGS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ROPER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES TO SERVE 3-YEAR TERMS AS PART OF THE 2026-2029 CLASS FOR THE URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC). THE CANDIDATES ARE: JUANITA N. ROGERS, JEREMY WALDER, KATHY ADAMS, NICOLE HAGLUND, AND SOPHIA MEYN. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

VII. Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Report

There was no UPDAC meeting in July.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Minutes of the July 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
B. Approval of the Minutes of the July 14, 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 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 presented the Revenue and Expenditure Report.

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

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

   Andy Rousseau reviewed several ongoing Capital Projects, including the Kickapoo Rail Trail trailhead pavilion at Weaver Park, the Bakers Lane trail, a new boardwalk path and floor refinishing at the Health & Wellness Center, the Busey Woods bridge replacement, and upcoming playground updates at the Sunnycrest Tot Lot.

B. You Belong Here

Corky Emberson reviewed ongoing You Belong Here programs and activities, including Play Days in the Park, Jettie Rhodes Day, Skate Fest, and programming with partners such as the Urbana Free Library, a basketball program with the Urbana Police Department, and a swim program with the Boys & Girls Club. Corky also presented information on attendance figures and rental numbers for the Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center and the Health & Wellness Center.

C. Executive Director

Director Lenz reported on several ongoing projects, including:

1. Consolidated Election –coming up in April 2027, with 2 Commissioner terms ending, as well as the partial-term vacancy to fill;
2. Park Report Card Training – will begin this process at the August UPDAC meeting;
3. KRT Trailhead Ribbon Cutting – this event is being postponed due to final electrical work at the Pavilion, but will be rescheduled soon;

- UPD is partnering with the Urbana Police Department to support their "Stuff the Squad" event for school supplies at King School;
- Staff will be scheduling a Visioning Workshop soon with Megan Owens from BlueSky Consulting.

D. President

1. Review of upcoming meeting agendas
   Vice-President Blumthal noted that there is an upcoming UPDAC meeting on 8/25/26, a UPD Board Study Session on 9/1/26, a 9/8/26 regular Board Meeting and Executive Session, and a 9/22/26 UPDAC meeting at Meadowbrook Park.

E. Liaison Reports

1. Finance Study Group

There was no Finance Study Group report.

2. UPD Policy Study Group
   Commissioner Hastings noted that the UPD Policy Study Group will next meet on August 17, 2026.

3. Urbana Parks Foundation Representative
   Commissioner Blumthal reported that the Urbana Parks Foundation met the previous day discussed Jazz Walk planning and how to support the King Park school supply drive event.

4. UPDAC Planning Study Group
   Commissioner Hastings commented that the UPDAC Planning Study Group will next meet in December.

X. Old Business

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

XI. New Business

A. Action on Resolution 2026-07 Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network
   Derek Liebert presented information on the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, a voluntary program to assist other municipalities with available resources for storm recovery and disaster management. He also noted that there is an annual training, a conference, and minimal dues to participate.

   COMMISSIONER ROPER MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-07 AUTHORIZING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC WORKS MUTUAL AID NETWORK. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

B. Presentation of 2026 Strategic Plan Community Engagement Report by Dr. Megan Owens with BlueSky Recreation
   Dr. Megan Owens from BlueSky Recreation Consulting presented 2026 Strategic Plan Community Engagement Report. She noted great community participation, including approximately 1,200 completed surveys, participation from 20 stakeholder organizations, and 8 focus groups. She shared the process for community outreach and demographics of survey takers, as well as highlights and key findings of the outreach. Some of the key findings include: affordable access to programs is vital, the need for bold and innovative strategies for future growth, the positive reputation of the district results in high expectations from the community, maintaining trust with the community is essential, and that the district is often viewed as a community resource, to be of service to the people, not just a service.

   The Board and staff continued to discuss community engagement, marketing and outreach to the community, and next steps for the Strategic Plan.

C. 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 Hastings commented positively on seeing the UPD's Youth Summer Theater performance of "Frozen" and also noted that the CU Special Recreation Flamingo Race fundraiser event is ongoing through August 14.

Commissioner Roper commented that she appreciates a physical print copy of the UPD Program Guide and also inquired about the location of ADA accessible picnic tables in the parks.

Commissioner Blumthal commented that she also appreciates a physical print copy of the UPD Program Guide.

XIII. Adjourn

Vice-President Blumthal adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

_____
Cedric A. Stratton, President

_____
Rachel D. Lenz, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: September 8, 2026