

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019
6:30 PM-8:30 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 Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 6:30 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 Michael Walker		X
Vice-President Nancy Delcomyn	X	
Commissioner Lashaunda Cunningham		X
Commissioner Roger Digges	X	
Commissioner Meredith Blumthal	X	

Also present were Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Derek Liebert, Planning and Operations Superintendent;
Corky Emberson, Recreation Superintendent;
Caty Roland, Business Manager;
Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;
Kara Dudek, Park Planner;
Aaron Gold, Speer Financial;
Jarrod Scheunemann, Campfire Concepts;
Kelsey Beccue served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

Vice-President Delcomyn called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Accept Agenda

COMMISSIONER DIGGES MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL SAID “AYE”, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

IV. Discussion

A. Strategic Plan Updates

Park Planner, Kara Dudek, gave an overview of the 2020 Strategic Plan Pillars and how they have been refined during the strategic planning process. She also discussed the estimated financial costs of achieving the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, with a focus on a new Health and Wellness Facility and the Crystal Lake Park Rehabilitation Project.

1. Financial Strategies

Aaron Gold of Speer Financial presented on three different bond refunding options as a way of generating interest savings for the district, as well as generating extra capital as a means to finance some of the goals in the Strategic Plan. The first option was “foot print refunding” which would generate roughly \$883,866 in savings to the district because of the reduced interest rates on the district’s debt payments. The second option was a refund with an additional \$5,000,000 in new capital. This would extend bond payments by three years, and add an additional \$50,000 to the district’s annual debt service payments. The third option was a refund with an additional \$6,000,000 in new capital. This option would see bond payments extend an additional three years, and the debt service payments would gradually increase to an additional \$170,000 in payments over eight years. At the end of that eight-year period, the district would have the option to refund again if interest rates are favorable to reduce those payments. It was noted that these bond refunding options could raise considerable capital to finance the Strategic Plan goals without an increase to Urbana taxpayers. Superintendent of Planning and Operations, Derek Liebert, presented on how some of this additional capital might be used to finance a new Health and Wellness facility and improvements to Crystal Lake Park.

2. Focus Group Reporting

Jarrold Scheunemann of Campfire Concepts presented on the Strategic Plan Focus Group results. Mr. Scheunemann mentioned that many methods were used to reach out to participants, and that the focus groups had varied demographic representation, and people were very interested in participating in the process. The focus groups results indicated that many people have a fondness for Meadowbrook Park and appreciate it as a regional destination. The focus group participants also noted a difference in use patterns between families with children and families without children. Some non-users felt they had “aged out” of the park district once their children no longer participated in park district programs and activities. Regarding Health and Wellness, people were interested in the parks as a place for physical activity, play, nature, and stress reduction. Participants were very interested in the Crystal Lake Park improvements, and Mr. Scheunemann said that some participants came just to find information on that subject. Participants also considered the Weaver Park area vital to increasing access for the underserved in our community, and shared how race affects how they use the park and perceptions of safety of the parks.

V. Comments from Commissioners

Vice-President Delcomyn commented that the district should share the results of the Strategic Plan focus groups with other organizations in the community, especially regarding soliciting community partnerships for a Health and Wellness facility. Commissioner Blumthal commented that it would also be good to share these results with the Urbana Parks Foundation. Commissioner Digges mentioned the idea of using the focus group results as a promotional tool, and Executive Director Bartlett thought that would be a good idea, and that the final Strategic Plan informed by these results would be a public facing document.

VI. Adjourn

Vice-President Delcomyn adjourned the meeting at 8:59 PM.

Michael W. Walker, President

Timothy A. Bartlett, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: September 10, 2019