



It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system,*
- Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment and the overall health of the community.*

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020
7:00 PM
PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 KERR AVE.
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

- I. Call to Order - Introductions**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. New Business**
 - A. Urbana Park District Bonding and Capital Budget – Caty Roland, Business Manager
- IV. Questions and Answers – Answer any questions as follow up from last month’s meeting**
- V. Reports**
 - A. UPDAC Chair
 - B. Director
 - C. Board Representative
 - D. UPD Projects Update
- VI. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Meeting.**
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

- February 25, 2020*
- March 24, 2020*
- April 28, 2020*
- May 26, 2020*

*****This month’s secretary is Ellen Kirsanoff*****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD website at <http://www.urbanaparks.org/documents/index.html>; choose the “Public Meetings” category and search for the meeting information you wish to download.

Minutes of the November 19, 2019 UPDAC Meeting

Attending: Kelly Boeger, Lori Ellinger, Laura Hastings, Kay Holley, Ben Kaap, Jean Paley, Sarah Roper, Howard Schein, Travis Schiess, Amita Sinha, Tim Stephens, Cedric Stratton, Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Derek Liebert, Ellen Kirsanoff, Andy Rousseau, Elsie Hedgspeth.

The meeting was called to order by Jean Paley at 7 pm.

There was no public comment.

Tonight's presentation is on the new Health and Wellness Facility planning. Tim introduced the work that's been done to date by staff, UPDAC, and volunteers, laying the ground work for the potential Health and Wellness Facility that we hope to build in Urbana. Tim described the Bond Sale opportunity, and how we can do this to fund a facility and Crystal Lake Park work. There will be 5 Million in bonds sold, with half to help fund the work in Crystal Lake Park, and half used as a match for the PARC Grant Program being awarded in 2020.

Staff walked UPDAC through the process by which sites were considered and what criteria were used to come up with sites that were viable. They are:

- Weaver Park – not viable
- Lela Park – not viable
- Lincoln Square – not ideal, private owner, not UPD property. Possible for a future partnership
- Crystal Lake Park – not viable
- Lohmann Park – possible, not ideal. Howard asked if USD/UHS property across Iowa St. was being considered, as a partnership with the school district? Staff felt it was not viable since the school district owns the property and the neighborhood is not well suited for more vehicle and pedestrian congestion.
- Prairie Park – is possible and provides many positive elements. Staff reviewed what usage is existing at Prairie Park, it could tie in many of our current athletics programs and usage. Having Weaver Park close/adjacent is a positive. Also the neighborhood is a high need area in Urbana. This would serve many of our underserved populations being in this location.

This is a very compressed timeline for the planning process. A number of site visits were conducted earlier in 2019 and summer of 2018, in anticipation of designing a building like this. So much work has been done to date to prepare for the planning process we are in right now, we have solid base on which to build.

Discussion then turned to design considerations for the Facility. What has been looked at to date includes; 2 full basketball courts, 2 to 4 multipurpose rooms, fitness room(s), childcare area, storage space, locker rooms, possible niche? E-sports, Seniors, more holistic space with a focus on wellness. We want to make sure that all our facilities work together. Tim asked UPDAC members to be honest and

give us as much input and feedback as possible. Derek presented the PowerPoint presentation that our consultant's, The Farnsworth Group, put together.

Comments included;

- Jean likes this idea (Prairie Park location) a lot. It also sets us up with possible future grant applications for field developments. She asked if the County was ready to do anything for their facility at Brookens. Could they work with us in some way on space usage? Staff responded that they are not far enough along, and we need to move quickly on this.
- Ben expressed his concern with soccer fields. All of Urbana's soccer fields are here. What happens to all our fields. The best field we have is right in the north part of Prairie Park. He encouraged us to think seriously about soccer, participation is growing, we need to preserve as many fields as we can. And make sure that we don't lose any more if at all possible.
- Travis pointed out the challenge is that neighborhood to the south feel animosity to the overall site north of Washington. The county property has the Youth Detention Center, and county offices. If we do this right it's an opportunity to make a difference to this neighborhood and everyone who lives there. It's worth doing. Staff told UPDAC that our lease at Brookens ends in 2021.
- Howard asked about work force in the community. Can we staff this? What if the YMCA opens a location in Urbana. Then we are competing with them for staff too.
- Staff explained another consideration is that our CU Special Recreation program needs space in Urbana. This is an opportunity for them also.
- Sarah asked about the timeline. Staff explained that once the bonds are sold, they must be used within 3 years. Once PARC (Parks And Recreation Construction) Grant is announced and awarded, there is a two year window for project completion.
- OSF is interested in this facility, they did something similar in Peoria area. This could be a model for us.
- What about transportation? Is this site good in that regard, Washington is a regular route with CUMTD.

Overall conclusion with UPDAC is that this is a good site and they are very supportive of this site and this facility.

Staff took time to show UPDAC a CUUATS video developed that provides information about planning to date and the recent Transportation Study just completed. Long range goals for area transportation were outlined in the video.

UPDAC Chair – No Report

Director – Tim highlighted upcoming Turkey Trot.

Board Representative – Nancy was home ill tonight, no report

UPD Projects Update – Andy Rousseau was here to give UPDAC members a brief update on ongoing UPD construction projects. Work is being done on the Saline Creek in Crystal Lake Park. This work will improve water quality and fish habitat, and overall will improve the park itself. The Meadowbrook Interpretive Gateway installation is happening now. If you have seen the concrete being poured at Meadowbrook Park, you're seeing the beginning of this project. This is happening at the Race St. side of the park. it is part of a larger Interpretive plan for the park as a whole.

Approval of the minutes of the October 22, 219 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes with one minor correction as made by Laura Hastings, seconded by Howard Schein. The minutes were approved by all.

No other UPDAC member comments or discussion.

There was a motion to adjourn, made by Cedric Stratton, seconded by Laura Hastings. The meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Kirsanoff