



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, FEBRUARY 25, 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. Trees and Gardens – UPD Grounds Maintenance Staff
- 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 January 28, 2020 meeting.**
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments and open discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

*March 24, 2020
April 28, 2020
May 26, 2020
June 23, 2020*

*****This month’s secretary is Vanessa Lane*****

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.

UPDAC Minutes

January 28, 2020

Attending:

UPDAC Members: Niki Ambrose, Tomas Delgado, Lori Ellinger, Jennifer Hardesty, Laura Hastings, Kay Holley, Ben Kaap, Vanessa Lane, Melissa Logsdon, Jean Paley, Sarah Roper, Howard Schein, Travis Schiess, Tim Stephens, Cedric Stratton.

UPD Commissioners: Nancy Delcomyn

UPD Staff: Tim Bartlett, Derek Liebert, Ellen Kirsanoff, Andy Rousseau, Kara Dudek.

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

There was no public comment.

New Business:

Note: Planned presentation on UPD Bonding and Capital Budget by Business Manager Caty Roland has been postponed due to illness.

Kara Dudek shared updates on the Blair Park Project.

- The UPD has applied for a \$400,000 grant from the state for Blair Park updates. These funds would be matched with UPD capital. The total cost for this phase of the project: \$825,000.
- The master plan includes several phases. Future updates would include a restroom rehab, benches, a gaga ball pit, addition of patio and a seating wall to the pavilion.
- Phase 1 (which will hopefully be done in the next 2 ½ years) includes: completing the walking path loop, adding a ½ court for basketball, 2 playground zones (2-5year olds and 5-10 year olds), connector paths, accessible horseshoe, challenge course for all, Yalp Sutu Interactive electronic soccer wall, accessible t-ball, interpretive panels for tree identification and Blair Park namesake.
- Ideas generated in response to the presentation:
 - Sarah asked about providing handicap parking and access into the park. She asked if curb cutouts could be added to the plan to provide handicap access from the curb into the park. Derek said the idea of adding a handicap parking spot on the street would be a possibility through reaching out to the city.

- Seasonal tennis bleachers.
- Donors for the bleachers and a pavilion update.

Andy Rousseau presented an update on plans for a Health and Wellness Facility.

- Funding: The UPD has recently applied for a \$2.5 million PARC grant. In addition the UPD had a Bond reissue of \$3 million and has additional funds planned through partnerships, donors, and the UPF for about \$500,000 each. If all funding comes in, the UPD will have the \$6.8 million needed to fund this facility building project. The project would need to be completed within 2 years.
- Location: Near Prairie School. Current proposed location would provide for later connection into Weaver Park.
- Floor Plan includes spaces to meet the indoor recreation needs of the district for the next 20-30 years: Walking track and fitness room upstairs, basketball courts and office space downstairs.
- Priority spaces in plan will be added based on additional funding. First, 5 additional office spaces (instead of just 2). Second, An indoor play area/party area. This space could generate income. And the third priority would build out the courts to 2 full courts, instead of 1.5 courts.
- Ideas generated in response to presentation:
 - This location would provide accessibility for the neighborhood across Washington.
 - Laura proposed future collaboration opportunities with Prairie School would be possible.
 - Ben asked about indoor soccer usage. Since this facility would take the place of the rented gym at Brookens, there could be temporary walls set up in the facility to continue indoor soccer.

Q&A:

There was a general question about the UPD's reforestation plan. The ground supervisor will speak on this topic at the February UPDAC meeting.

Reports:

Chair – Jean shared a compliment on the new structures at Meadowbrook.

Director – The staff recently attended the State park conference. As always, they came away with a lot of new ideas and updates. Of note, HR law updates, staff development, and using apps for marketing.

Tim shared how the UPD, as a stakeholder and advisor, has been in discussions with Stone Creek on their redevelopment plan. Stone Creek is closing the golf course and looking at what might be a good solution. The UPD recommends creating trails and wetlands to replace the golf course. The goal is for the community to continue to have a stable tax base, the residents of the subdivision to be happy with

the changes, and for further building and expansion of the community through this redevelopment. A few thoughts shared: develop smaller lots to provide aging in place housing, a farm to table restaurant for the building, planting sunflowers to pull out the golf course toxins, and creating an urban farm with jobs.

Board Representative – no report

Ellen announced it's time once again to start spreading the word and applications for new UPDAC members. Application deadline is in June.

UPDAC Project Updates–

- Derek shared an update on the plot gardens. Through focus groups it was determined that the loss of manure was hurting the crop productivity, even though the soil tests weren't showing a need for it. As gardeners brought in their own manure, they noticed an increase in products. As a result, the park district will be providing manure this coming season. In addition compost will be provided along with soil testing and education for the gardeners.
- At the March UPDAC meeting, there will be further discussion on the gardens and updates on Crystal Lake Park.

Approval of the November 19, 2019 minutes. Melissa Logsdon moved to approve, Laura Hastings seconded. Approved by all.

UPDAC Member Comments:

- The gate wasn't working at the dog park, possibly vandalism. It's now been fixed.
- There's been a second act of vandalism to the public art at the King park tennis court. The staff is looking into possibly moving the art.

Howard Schein moved to adjourn the meeting, Laura Hastings seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Logsdon