



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, MAY 26, 2020
7:00 PM**

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

VIDEO LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600242862>

PHONE: (312) 626-6799

MEETING ID: 826 0024 2862

PASSWORD: 295015

I. Call to Order - Introductions

II. Public Comment

See following page for instructions.

III. New Business

- A. SPLASH Program Report – Niki Hoesman, Community Programs Coordinator
- B. Museum Grant Application – Outdoor Learning Pavilion

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 April 28, 2020 Meeting

VII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

VIII. Adjourn

Upcoming meetings:

June 23, 2020

July – no meeting

August 25, 2020

September 22, 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.

Public Input for Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) Meeting (Tuesday, May 26, 2020)

MEETING ID: 826 0024 2862

PASSWORD: 295015

Anyone can attend the meeting virtually via Zoom. Any member of the public may make a brief statement during the Public Comment portion of the agenda. Per Board rules, comments will have a 2-minute time limit. The Board typically accepts comments but neither the Board nor staff will respond to individual comments during the meeting.

You will be able to use a phone to call in:

- Join by calling (312) 626-6799.
- Callers will then be asked to enter the Meeting ID number followed by the # key. The Meeting ID number is 826 0024 2862.
- Enter meeting password 295015, followed by the # key.
- We ask that you please mute yourself until the time for public comment.
- You can toggle between mute and unmute by dialing *6.

You will be able to use a computer to address the Urbana Park District Board using Zoom:

- Make sure you have a microphone on your computer if you wish to speak. Please identify yourself for the record if you do speak.
- You do not need to install software to use Zoom. You can click "Join from your browser." It appears that Zoom prefers for users to download and install their meeting client software on your computer. Use whichever option you are most comfortable with, and note it may be browser-specific.
- You should see the meeting video stream through Zoom and hear people talking. The link to join by computer is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82600242862?pwd=Nk5yMUUpZbjZ1Mk1rb0NiSWlxSUVydz09>
- If you do not want to be seen, please turn off your webcam video feed as everyone connected will be able to see you and your background.
- This Zoom session will be recorded as part of the record.
- We ask that you please mute yourself until the time for public comment.
- We will not be using the Chat or Participant windows for this meeting.
- You can find tutorials and help information here:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/enus/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>.

If you are unable to call or video in to the Zoom Meeting, or would prefer to write in, public input can also be received before the meeting via email. Please submit your comments via email by 7:00 pm to erkirsanoff@urbanaparks.org – these will be read per Urbana Park District Board rules and time limits. This is a work in progress, and we ask your patience as we navigate this difficult situation.

URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020

7:00 PM

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

VIDEO LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/94040440098>

PHONE NUMBER: (312) 626-6799

MEETING ID: 940 4044 0098

PASSWORD: 027604

I. Call to Order - Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Paley at 7:02

Meeting Attendees (23)

Cedric, Laura Hastings, Ellen K, Jean Paley, Judy Miller, Ben Kaap, Kay Holley, Derek Liebert, Corky Emberson, Caty Roland, Nikki Ambrose, Tim Bartlett, Tim Stephens, Vanessa, Brad Hudson, Melissa, Sarah, Brad Hudson, Howie Shine, Tomas Delgado, Travis S, Brad Hudson, Chelsea Prah, Jen Hardesty, Lori Ellinger, Sarah

II. Public Comment Please see attached document for details regarding attendance and public comment via Zoom.

There was no public comment.

III. New Business

A. Organic Gardens Action Plan – UPD Staff

Tim Bartlett reported on diving deeper to the Meadowbrook and Victory Park Garden Plots. Staff will give reports tonight.

Derek Liebert reported on focus groups, there were two with 14 total participants. Individual interviews were done with Victory park due to not enough for respondents for a focus group. Average age of those using the gardens is 58.5. People liked availability of water, communal atmosphere, renewed connection with our food source, Accessibility was a positive aspect, as were fees. The participants felt UPD could do a better job of marking where plots are. The participants voiced that they need a wide variety of contact information. Some liked receiving information via email, others preferred US postal mail. When asked what the participants would like to see the park district provide they responded they want better soil organic material, others want manure. The park district removed some of the raised beds at Victory. Further they would like to see the UPD manage invasive species, start a tool sharing programs, general oversight from staff for questions.

Chelsea Prah- presented the Garden Action plan targets topics of 1. completed 2. ongoing projects Chelsea shared a slide presentation of both projects which outlined, (First Slide?), Communication, Garden Plots, Weeds, Wildlife & Pest Control, Tools & Storage, Staff Oversight, Tilling, Supporting New Gardeners, Accessibility,

Jean Paley asked how the Deer Herd is managed, Derek responded they have a committee that is looking at the issue. The U of I is also looking into the area next to Meadowbrook. Bigger leadership is needed to see an outcome.

Melissa commented on the mugwort and that gardeners wanted to affirm that the plots are in better condition. She asked about the reception for partnering with a mentor. Chelsea had one new gardener who wanted a mentor and she was able to find a match.

Judy Miller commented that they are looking to be a better resource for gardeners in the future. Howard Schein asked if the UPD works with the Master Gardeners for mentors. Chelsea replied that she provided a link from the Master Gardeners for new gardeners. Derek provided more information on possible connections with the extension.

Judy Miller asked about the increase in numbers of gardeners. Chelsea commented that she didn't have the number right in front of her, but the numbers are up.

Caty Roland shared a video about identifying Mugwort as an invasive species.

Derek Liebert reported that the district is working to regularly inspect for the Mugwort and are taking action to remove it when possible.

B. UPD Work During COVID-19

Tim Bartlett reported on the changes due to the COVID-19. March 13 started coming up with a plan to shut down facilities during the shelter in place. The staff looked at how to utilize the work force and what essential work staff can do. Hats off to the staff groups for working together to put plans in place.

Focus now on what the UPD can do. Playgrounds and tennis courts are closed. The Dog Park is currently closed, but they are looking into reopening with CPD. Immediate items such as the pools, day camps, looking at not opening the pools. Closing the Indoor Pool to do big maintenance. TIme Bartlett commented that we are still in the learning mode with the ever changing situations. Working closely with the C-U Health Dept. People are still visiting parks. It will take a long time for gradual re-opening. Hiring and training staff to reopen what is currently closed. At the May 12 next board meeting more plans will be discussed. Looking at what we can do and how we can fill alternative activities for next steps.

Derek Liebert Operations, quickly assessed how they can keep parks safe and open. Garbage service every other day. Inspections of parks and playgrounds. Staggered shifts with smaller crews for grass work. Everyone has their own vehicle and mower. Sanitize the garbage truck daily. Challenge with landscape beds, weeds, try to keep on top of weed management. Annual beds are being evaluated. Coordination with public health for closings. Looking to reopen the Dog Park. Challenging, but making sure the staff are safe, providing PPE, eating in their own spaces. The staff are appreciative of the efforts for their safety.

Corky Emberson reported on timelines on CLP, it takes eight weeks to get the pool ready for the season. Some work has been done, but social distancing has made many tasks impossible. One hundred twenty five lifeguards are needed for operation so it will not be possible to open. Indoor pool,

what are the regulations going to be when we are not sheltering in place. Training will be difficult with people staying six feet apart.

Caty Roland reported a main concern is trying to figure out a date for cancellations of summer programming. Find another way to reach the community needs. Payment plans come out two weeks before the day camps start. Need to come up with a date for cancellation of programs. Month to month is not realistic as a time table. At this point, the recreation department would be half way through planning for the fall season. Make the best estimates for what to do moving forward.

Creative things the staff have done. Judy Miller and nature center staff have had facebook releases, fitness classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Trying to see how many more of those can be done. Judy celebrated that Savannah and Chelsea turned an in person event to a virtual event with much success. Essential functions, maintaining animal care, gardens, end of year processes. Keep as many people away from facilities as possible.

Jean Paley commented that during this stressful time the UPD staff are looking at the positive possibilities!

Caty Roland reported that the business office is working to make sure everyone is safe while still working on the end of the year budget. Working on cashflow and budget. County was looking at postponing the tax payment dates. The country voted it down and will leave the June and September dates in place. Mini CDs have been allowed to mature to help cover the unknown cash flow. Financial hit on the park district due to refunds. Working to try to forecast the ongoing budget with the uncertainty of COVID.

Tim Bartlett-Rescheduled Barn Bash and Urbana Parks Foundation is working on how to work distantly, CU-Special Rec was going to come to Urbana Park District. Working with United Way for food distribution is a critical need. U of I project for Kickapoo Rail Trail had to be cancelled. It will be a slow restart and listening to the community.

Derek Liebert asked UPDAC members to reach out to staff if they see something that is concerning.

IV. Questions and Answers – Answer any questions as follow up from last month's meeting

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair, Jean Paley has no report

.

B. Director

Tim Bartelett reported on rise in violence and we are working with police, schools, city to find answers to help

C. Board Representative

No Board Representative

D. UPD Projects update

Capital Projects are continuing

CLPark bid was postponed, a number of state projects were postponed and other contractors were interested in the CLPark project and the bids came in just slightly over bid so that was good.

Grant programs, Blair Park grant moving forward, but may be a year out, Park Grant facility appears to still be moving forward. Capital Projects at the Outdoor Pool Facility to work on those projects, bringing in more shade to the deck. Indoor and outdoor ph balance system from acid to Co2 system switch over, Saline Branch project with native plants, additional money from fish and wildlife.

VI. Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2020 Meeting

Minutes from the February meeting

The March meeting was cancelled due to Covid.

Melissa commented that a couple of typos needed to be corrected. Jean Pailey asked for approval of the minutes. Minutes were approved by all in attendance.

VII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Howard Schein is on the Food Bank Volunteer Committee and commented that the Food Bank cannot give to the day camps, but can give to the foundation for distribution to the campers.

Ellen Kirsanoff commented that the Public Health District feeds campers lunch.

Sarah asked about the Goose situation. Looking at the Canada Goose situation with goose droppings. The UPD has tried many options to lower the number of geese to help alleviate the problem. Adding eggs have seen a gradual decline. The volume of feces they produce is toxic in the lower water quality. Seeking public input about the harvesting of geese for meat production. Ask for public input for the next Board Meeting. Appropriate time to look into the goose problems with the new renovation at CLPark. Many concerns with health difficulties from the goose poop. Charity Harvest Dept of Natural Resources has said UPD has done more than other PDs to manage the Goose population. Lori asked about harvesting; what it is. During the molting season they net them, taken to a processing plant and the meat will be given away. Howard Schein said to look at it from a public health issue. Judy Miller, carrying capacity, not all of the geese will be taken, there will be a manageable number left. Giant Canada Goose do not migrate, they change their pattern and do not leave. Caty Roland asked that the survey be sent to UPDAC. Tim Bartlett commented that the landscape has changed, with the addition of retention ponds it has created more geese habitat. Geese management system will still need to be done with the new possible program. Managing in a proactive way.

VIII. Adjourn

Lori and Howie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Jean Paley adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m..