



*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, OCTOBER 27, 2020  
7:00 PM**

**REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**VIDEO:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84014054043>

**PHONE:** (312) 626-6799

**MEETING ID:** 840 1405 4043

**PASSWORD:** 490182

- I. Call to Order - Introductions**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. New Business**
  - A. CUSR Joint Recreation Programming – CU Special Recreation Staff
  - B. CARES Plan Introduction – Video Presentation
- 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 September 22, 2020 Meeting**
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

***Upcoming meetings:***

*November 17, 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> wk)  
December 2020-no meeting  
January 26, 2021  
February 23, 2021  
March 23, 2021*

**\*\*\*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.

**UPDAC Minutes**  
**22 September, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Attending UPDAC Members:** Gary Ambler, Nicki Ambrose, Jonville Chenoweth, Laura Hastings, Jean Paley, Ashley Price, Sarah Roper, Howard Schein, Travis Schiess, Amita Sinha, Tim Stephens, Cedric Stratton, Ben Kaap.

**UPD Staff:** Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Derek Liebert, Ellen Kirsanoff, Andy Rousseau, Caty Roland, Elsie Hedgspeth, Niki Hoesman, Keith Ewerks, Savannah Donovan, Kara Dudek, Alex Ivanova, Janet Soesbe, Leslie Radice, Matt Balk, Nicole Hilberg.

**UPD Commissioner:** Nancy Delcomyn

**Guest Presenters:** None present.

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Jean Paley.

**II. Public Comment:** None.

**III. New Business**

**A. Matrix Teams at the UPD:** Tim and Corky provided an overview of the UPD Matrix teams explaining that they were developed as a means to increase communication, invite new ideas, for all employees to feel important and heard, and to collaborate across the district in 6 key areas.

-Customer Service Team: Focus is now on "You Belong Here." Co-leaders are Elsie and Nicole. Elsie relayed that "You Belong Here" must be embodied through everything that the district does. The four main areas of focus are inclusion, reaching community members that are non-native english speakers, bringing activities and programs to neighborhoods, and ensuring that all park spaces are welcoming.

-Tech Team: Caty explained that this team's focus is on determining the district's technology needs so that they may be relayed to the city. In addition, the team develops tech goals such as adding wifi to district spaces and developing online registration tools and drives these initiatives forward. Meets quarterly.

-Aquatics: Original matrix team. Started due to the need for increased communication. Has done wonders, tackled big problems over years, good to have non-aquatics staff involved. Has had focus groups.

-Green Team: Savannah Donovan and Kara Dudek shared details of the team. Environmental stewardship statement was the driving force until 2017 when there was a revitalization of a new green team. Team implements and oversees environmental initiatives district wide such as solar installations, motion sensors, LEDs, and low-flow shower heads and faucets. The team is starting a climate action plan for the district.

-Arts and Culture Team: Janet Soesbe and Niki Hoesman- Focus is on arts and culture activities, initiatives, and events. This is one of the most recent teams. Previous projects

included public arts grant for the barn quilt, Crystal Lake Park art fair, and community projects such as the peace posts. Always finding ways to bring arts and culture to the park district.

-Safety Team: Keith shared that safety has improved significantly over the years.

Developing a safety manual was one of the first things the team did and they have updated it many times. One current goal is figuring out how to get staff trained during COVID times. Loss control inspection occurs annually, last 2 years has been excellent. Insurance carrier looks at big picture, work comp etc. and team looks for solutions to keep issues from recurring in the future. Alex added that it is important to know the risks and issues across the district so that they can be addressed.

### **B. Perkins Rd. Park Site- Updates and Site Review:**

-Tim shared a detailed history of the site including how it was acquired from the Webber family and the Sanitary District. Initial ideas in the 1980's for development of the area included a golf course and boat launch. The district worked with the Central Illinois Archery Club to develop Judge Webber Park as an archery field and in the 90's began work on developing the remainder of the site in collaboration with the Sanitary District. With community interest in a dog park, the district started leasing the land. The dog park is about 10 acres, one of largest in the area. Around the year 2000, there was a new state grant program that allowed for funding for restoration and habitat development and subsequent grants allowed for more money to restore the site. The Sanitary District has contributed about \$50,000 a year to restore the area. There have been multiple phases of restoration that have been completed over the years and the last phase is nearing completion. The original master plan was to have this site serve as a signature park. The site is at the point where it is ready for development but there are not currently enough staff or dollars to develop/fully commit to another large park. Current plan is to keep the area very natural. The Sanitary district is having their 100th anniversary next year and they are excited to partner in the effort. Current plans were brought to the board at the last meeting.

-Derek shared a visual overview of the master plan developed years ago. Invasive species present but also very important habitat for shorebirds and other wildlife. Some ambitious aspects of the master plan would not be in the current plan. A loop trail would be developed and eventually a trail that would connect to Crystal Lake Park. Derek also shared details of the restoration plan. The UPD worked with a consultant and conducted extensive environmental sampling. The site was actually quite clean aside from some elevated lead in a hillside which has now been cleaned up. Some capping was done to reduce risk of bioaccumulation.

-Andy discussed details of Phase 3 and shared the grading plan. An 18" cap was used to cover biosolids. Site is 98% planted. UPD staff worked with a herpetologist from the U of I to create a snake habitat using large boulders and rubble that was onsite. The herpetologist is interested in the introduction of other herps at this site.

-Matt Balk shared spectacular drone footage of the site that gave a nice, big picture view of the area and the topography.

-Amita stated that she is very excited about the site and has had a recent tour. She is interested in how people are using the different park sites and may do a presentation in the future.

-Nancy noted that the Sanitary District has been a super partner and said that it is really hard to put a measure on it.

-Tim talked about upcoming steps. New name in order. Need to figure out parking needs. Planning staff will be making an interim plan for the site. Pack in, pack out site for now. Prairie and wetland, soft trails. No loose dogs. Hoping to make a big announcement with the Sanitary District in 2021.

#### **IV. Questions and Answers: None**

#### **V. Reports**

**A. UPDAC Chair:** Cedric noted that the Health and Wellness steering committee is ramping up.

**B. Director:** Tim noted that Caty has been elevated to a superintendent position and congratulated her on the promotion saying that it was very much deserved. Tim also shared that Ellen has announced that she will be retiring on January 15th and spoke to what an incredible job she has done at the park district over the years in all of the various roles that she has filled.

**C. Board Representative:** Nancy commented on Caty's exceptional work at keeping track of the district funds. She also noted that Ellen has done a fabulous job with UPD.

**D. Projects Update:** Andy gave an update on work at Crystal Lake Park. Recent work has been done on removal of sediment. More sediment removal later with more effective equipment but finished for now. Fountain has been removed and will be replaced with tiered pools, cobbles, and vegetation. Work is being done on paved path to accessible stone outcropping. New playground has been delivered, not yet installed. New pavilion concrete has been poured. Using rock tow for bank stabilization in places that grading cannot happen. Some road closures to come in the near future. Plan for seeding to start by Oct 15th. More planting in spring.

#### **VI. Approval of the Minutes of the August 25th, 2020 meeting: Moved and approved.**

#### **VII. UPDAC Member Comments: None.**

#### **VIII. Move to Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.**