



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 25, 2022
7:00 PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88468217557>

MEETING ID: 884 6821 7557

PASSCODE: 145673

PHONE: (312) 626-6799

I. Call to Order

This meeting is being held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Illinois Public Act 101-0640. Though the meeting will be conducted remotely, the regular meeting location (Urbana Park District Planning & Operations Facility at 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802) will be open to the public.

II. Public Comment

Any member of the public may make a brief statement at this time within the public participation rules of the Board.

III. Discussion

- A. U of I Diversity Lab – Underrepresented Study Phase II

IV. Approval of UPDAC Meeting Minutes

- A. November 16, 2021 UPDAC Meeting Minutes
B. November 30, 2021 Special UPDAC Meeting Minutes

V. Reports

- A. UPDAC Chair
B. Board Representative
C. Director's Report
D. Capital Projects Report

VI. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion

VII. Adjourn

*****This month's secretary is Gary Ambler*****

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.

Upcoming meetings:

February 22, 2022
March 22, 2022
April 26, 2022
May 24, 2022

URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at the Urbana Park District Planning & Operations Facility at 7:00 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 member of the committee 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.

UPDAC Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Laura Hastings, Chair	X	
Gary Ambler	X	
Nicoline Ambrose	X	
Jonville Chenoweth		X
David Dorman	X	
Patricia Hatch		X
Ben Kaap	X	
Ashley Moore	X	
Jean Paley	X	
Ashley Price		X
Sarah Roper	X	
Howard Schein	X	
Gary Stensland		X
Karl Weingartner	X	
Ashley Withers	X	

Also present were;

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;

Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;

Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;

Caty Roland, Superintendent of Business Services;

Elsie Hedgspeth, Outreach & Wellness Manager;

Kelsey Beccue, Administration Office Manager;

Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;

Tracy Parsons, Community Relations Manager, City of Champaign;

Kim Shinew, University of Illinois;
Monika Stodolska, University of Illinois

I. Call to Order and Introductions

UPDAC Chair Laura Hastings called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Discussion

A. Champaign County Community Coalition – Tracy Parsons

Tracy Parsons, Community Relations Manager with the City of Champaign, gave a presentation on the work of the Champaign County Community Coalition. The Coalition formed in 2009 in response to the shooting of an unarmed, black teenager by the police officer, and is made up of various education, government, non-profit, law enforcement, faith-based, child welfare, and health organizations. Tracy shared that the focus areas of the Community Coalition include:

- **Police/Community Relations**
- **Community Engagement**
Tracy said that the Coalition's focus on Community Engagement includes promoting events and activities in six identified neighborhoods. Events include the Lovin' U Bus Tour, painting peace posts, 48 Hours of Peace, Basketball Campference, and academic programming. 692 youth participated in these events in 2020.
- **Youth Development**
- **Addressing Community Violence**
Tracy noted that the Coalition is engaged in an anti-violence messaging campaign that includes school-based activities, CU Fresh Start, the CU Trauma and Resilience Initiative, neighborhood safety meetings, and creation of a Community Violence Response Team.
- **Mutual Advocacy**
The focus on mutual advocacy means that the Coalition helps to promote the work of other organizations and initiatives that share some of the same values as the Coalition, including CU Pride and the Welcome Week event.

Tim mentioned that UPD is engaged in some initiatives to engage in these areas also, including the new Health & Wellness Facility and nature-based programming.

It was asked what Urbana residents could do, and Tracy responded that promoting peace, love, understanding, and support in messaging is important. He also noted that persistence and consistency are key to building trust and community engagement, as is asking communities directly what they want to do and learn about.

Mr. Parsons mentioned that some of the “hot spot” areas where community violence has been on the rise in Urbana are the Prairie Green, Vawter/Silver, and King Park neighborhoods.

B. Introduction to Underrepresented Study Phase II

Monika Stodolska from the University of Illinois Diversity Lab shared some information on Phase 2 of the Underrepresented Study from 2017, which aims to evaluate the success Urbana Park District has had in terms of reaching out to underserved communities. Monika said that overall, the district has done a tremendous job in their outreach efforts, and is considered on the leading edge of this kind of outreach. The new study is an effort to evaluate the success of the district’s outreach efforts through interviews, focus groups, and surveys from generally underserved populations including people of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, and people with disabilities. Door to door surveys in the Silverwood, Lierman, and King neighborhoods, as well as Ivanhoe Estates will be conducted. So far, there has been about a 50% response rate, which is improved from Phase 1 of the study.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2021 Meeting

Jean Paley made a motion with a second from Howard Schein to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2021 UPDAC meeting. All said aye, motion carried.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Laura Hastings reminded everyone that there is no UPDAC meeting in December.

B. Board Representative

Commissioner Stratton shared that the Meadowbrook Park playground project is ongoing, along with initiatives in Crestview Park. Commissioner Stratton also commented on the progress being made with the Health & Wellness Facility.

C. Director’s Report

Director Bartlett gave some brief updates on donor projects at Meadowbrook and Blair Parks.

D. Capital Projects Report

Andy Rousseau gave several updates on capital projects:

- The Phillips Recreation Center roof replacement has been mostly completed

- Concrete for the path and Sutu wall area is being poured at Blair Park
- UPD is meeting with contractors regarding the ITEP path for the southern part of Crystal Lake Park along Broadway Avenue.
- UPD has requested submissions of qualifications from construction management firms for the Health & Wellness facility

Project staff also asked if UPDAC members would be free for a Special UPDAC Meeting on November 30, 2021 to engage with Upland Design on the design process for the new playground at Meadowbrook Park. UPDAC members indicated that they were interested and available for a special meeting on this topic.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion

Ben Kaap thanked UPD for their commitment to helping kids get registered for soccer, and noted that Phillips Recreation Center Office Manager, Heather Britsky, came onsite after hours to help register kids and provide information on scholarships.

Ashley Withers inquired about the fees that would be associated with the Health & Wellness Center, and staff responded that it would likely be a combination of monthly/yearly membership fees, and a pay-per-class model.

Commissioner Stratton asked about the status of opening the Perkins Road Park Site, and staff responded that the opening of that site is on hold due staffing and maintenance issues.

Sarah Roper asked about how the staff vaccination requirement went, and Caty Roland responded that 100% of full-time staff complied either by getting vaccinated or submitting the proper exemption forms. There were 25 part-time staff who did not turn anything in, but who had not recently worked. A few part-time staff quit.

VII. Adjourn

UPDAC Chair Laura Hastings adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ashley Withers

URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at the Urbana Park District Planning & Operations Facility at 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802 at 7:00 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 member of the committee 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.

UPDAC Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Laura Hastings, Chair	X	
Gary Ambler	X	
Nicoline Ambrose		X
Jonville Chenoweth		X
David Dorman		X
Patricia Hatch	X	
Ben Kaap	X	
Ashley Moore		X
Jean Paley	X	
Ashley Price	X	
Sarah Roper	X	
Howard Schein	X	
Gary Stensland		X
Karl Weingartner	X	
Ashley Withers	X	

Other people present were:

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Nancy Delcomyn, Vice President;
Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
Caty Roland, Superintendent of Business Services;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Kara Dudek, Park Planner;

Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;
Michelle Kelly, Upland Design;
Maria Trueblood, Upland Design;

I. Call to Order and Introductions

UPDAC Chair, Laura Hastings, will call the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Everyone introduced themselves, and Director Bartlett gave a little bit of background on the Meadowbrook Park playground project.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Discussion

A. Meadowbrook Park Playground

Michelle Kelly and Maria Trueblood from Upland Design gave some background on the process of gathering public input for the new playground at Meadowbrook Park. Kara Dudek provided information on the results from the survey conducted from October 6-November 12: most people were from Urbana and visit the park with their children or grandchildren. Safety was a key priority for most survey respondents, and swings, slides, and climbing features were the most commonly mentioned playground features. Fencing was also something that many expressed a desire for.

Michelle presented a site analysis plan that addressed some shade and access challenges along with lighting. Laura Hastings commented that hide and seek seems to be a popular game with kids, and Ashley Withers shared that she liked all the nooks and crannies for hiding when she was a kid, but does not like it as a parent. The concept of play circuits was discussed. Commissioner Stratton noted the clear separation of space in the site plan, and noted that bike accessibility is important. Laura brought up the idea of different surfacing options. Vice President Delcomyn brought up slide options, and thought a “tot slide” should be included in the plan. Caty Roland said she thought tunnel slides would be a good feature, and many in the group mentioned the need for the playground to have a “wow factor.”

After discussion, Upland directed UPDAC members to the idea boards featuring several different types of playground equipment and amenities, and had UPDAC members engage in a sticker exercise rating the features they liked best.

IV. Adjourn

UPDAC Chair Laura Hastings adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.