



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 22, 2022
7:00 PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86343707903>

MEETING ID: 863 4370 7903

PASSCODE: 813912

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. UPD Finance 101
- B. Health & Wellness Updates

IV. Approval of January 25, 2022 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 Ashley Moore*****

Upcoming meetings:

February 22, 2022

March 22, 2022

April 26, 2022

May 24, 2022

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.

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
MINUTES**

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

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, January 25, 2022 online via Zoom 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;

Nancy Delcomyn, Vice President;

Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;

Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;

Caty Roland, Superintendent of Business Services;

Elsie Hedgspeth, Outreach & Wellness Manager;

Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;

Kim Shinew, University of Illinois;
Monika Stodalska, University of Illinois;
Juan Acevedo

I. Call to Order and Introductions

UPDAC Chair Laura Hastings called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Discussion

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

Dr. Kim Shinew and Dr. Monika Stodolska returned to UPDAC to engage members in a focus group session for Phase II of the Underrepresented Study, which aims to gauge the effectiveness of the action steps UPD has undertaken to increase participation among underrepresented groups in our community. Monika explained they will be using surveys, interviews, and focus groups in this phase of the study.

Asked to define the role of UPDAC within UPD, Ben Kaap said it is a volunteer group which gives UPD a community perspective on park facilities and programs. Members are nominated, apply, and elected. Laura added that members must also reside in the park district. The Champaign Park District does not have a similar committee.

From a long list of UPD programs and activities previously identified as of particular interest to underserved groups, Monika asked which programs have been most successful in the last few years. Responses included: SPLASH for the student age group, Tiger Shark swim team, open gym basketball, and family swim with swim passes. Monika said surveys affirmed the popularity of the SPLASH program. Of activities especially attractive to middle-aged and older participants, Ukulele and Tai Chi were both mentioned. Ukulele for ease of use, instruction and affordability, and Tai Chi for health and balance. Monika said their survey agrees with popularity of Ukulele, and Parking Lot Bingo is also very popular.

Asked what roles UPDAC has played in initiatives for underrepresented groups in the UPD, Corky responded that UPD shares input and gets feedback from UPDAC. Ben affirmed that feedback is taken to heart and listened to. Kelsey noted that UPDAC was involved with the strategic plan.

Monika and Kim asked if members had seen an increase in diversity, or received any feedback from the community in UPD's effort to reach out. Jean noted that our communities have been isolated in the last two years. Sarah said it was good to see UPD involved with CU Pride this year, and, also that they implemented her suggestion regarding access to groups with disabilities. David Dorman cited UPD's recent peace

initiative, and Ashley Withers noted the importance of the “You Belong Here” message.

Noting that “underserved” doesn’t only mean people color, UPDAC was asked what groups should be included. Ashley Withers replied: those with a lack of resources to participate in an event or program. Ben suggested UPD identify barriers to register for activities, for example, transportation, language and/or social barriers. He said with a large Hispanic community, language and transportation are often barriers.

Monika asked for any other initiatives to better serve the underserved population. David suggested festivals highlighting different cultures, for example, the Guatemalan and Mexican cultures in Urbana, to help our community better understand the diversity here. Ben said UPD should try to lower registration barriers; the paperwork is over-complicated, especially when there is a language barrier. Laura suggested UPD look at how users are using the website, and Kelsey said staff are working to make improvements there. Gary Stensland suggested a “drive through the park” activity for seniors, perhaps with informational signs or podcasts while you drive. Corky noted that the first study ended with a senior focus. Nancy suggested that the sign outside Phillips have a series of messages with reminders/alerts.

Juan Carlos Acevedo complimented UPD’s work and asked how it gets input from the community, and how it measures the impact and success of its programs. David suggested UPD might seek additional input, not just from individuals, but from organizations, for ideas and perspectives. Corky said that concentrating on neighborhoods and partnering with events is important, citing the Juneteenth event. Kelsey and Corky noted that it is hard to measure success beyond registration data. David asked about Urbana’s current poverty rate, and Monika reported it is 29.8%.

Monika and Kim expressed their appreciation for UPDAC’s feedback, and said it will be included as part of their report to UPD. Nancy said that UPD owes a lot to Monika and Kim, for helping “us see what we didn’t see before”. Monika said that the pandemic made people realize and understand how important parks and recreation are.

IV. Approval of UPDAC Meeting Minutes

A. November 16, 2021 UPDAC Meeting Minutes

Ashley Price made a motion with a second from Jean Paley to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 UPDAC meeting. All said aye, motion carried.

B. November 30, 2021 Special UPDAC Meeting Minutes

Jean Paley made a motion with a second from Howard Schein to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021 Special UPDAC meeting. All said aye, motion carried.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Laura Hastings praised the November 30, 2021 Special UPDAC Meeting which dealt

with the design process for the new playground at Meadowbrook Park.

B. Board Representative

No report.

C. Director's Report

Director Bartlett gave brief updates on a number of topics, including:

1. Staffing transition as Caty Roland, Superintendent of Business Services, leaves her position at UPD, and moves to a new position with Urbana Schools.
2. An initiative with the Housing Authority for youth involvement, which would offer mentoring with UPD staff, as well as work experience.
3. Meetings and events for UPD staff surrounding the upcoming Illinois legislative calendar.
4. UPD staff are following up on a request to schools, city and county, to share some funds provided by the American Rescue Act. Park districts were not included in the Act. UPD is likely to be invited to present on a Health and Wellness project.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek Liebert reported on a number of projects.

1. Construction management services were awarded at the January meeting for the Health and Wellness Center. Also, UPD is following best practices in regard to inclusive restroom design.
2. The one-way conversion for the Crystal Lake Park Road is waiting on completion of the new park pathway.
3. Survey results were received for the Prairie Play project. The design team is working on three concepts.
4. Much of the playground structure at Blair Park is up, with construction continuing as it can.
5. Invasive brush is being removed at Meadowbrook Park.

VI. **UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion**

Sarah Roper asked if UPD participates in the disability resource expo in a capacity that is separate from the CUSR booth. Staff replied they believed they had a booth a couple of

years back.

Laura Hastings commented on the popularity of the basketball half-court at Blair Park.

Howie Schein asked if the community is aware of how often UPD is getting matching funds for projects and programs, saying the management of its resources is impressive. Kelsey added that UPDAC helps in getting that support.

Nancy Delcomyn asked where UPD ranks in relation to park space per population. Staff replied we rank above the mean of 10 acres per resident, at 15 acres. Also noted was how close residents are to the parks, most within walking distance.

Gary Stensland asked if there was an annual summary of volunteers. Staff replied it is included on the Philanthropy report, a monthly in-depth report within the Recreation report. The May meeting report has the fiscal year numbers.

VII. Adjourn

UPDAC Chair Laura Hastings adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Ambler