



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, APRIL 26, 2022
6:30 PM
BLAIR PARK
1406 S. BROADWAY AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61801

- I. Call to Order
- 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. Approval of March 22, 2022 UPDAC Meeting Minutes
- IV. Discussion
 - A. Blair Park Tour
- 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

Upcoming meetings:

May 24, 2022
June 28, 2022
July – NO MEETING
August 23, 2022

*****This month's secretary is Jean Paley*****

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, MARCH 22, 2022

7:00 PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85088168980>

MEETING ID: 850 8816 8980

PASSCODE: 018184

PHONE: (312) 626-6799

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, March 22, 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;

Nancy Delcomyn, Vice President;

Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;

Kara Dudek, Park Planner;

Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;

Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;

Maria Blood, Upland Design

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Comment

Laura asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

III. Discussion

A. Meadowbrook Park Playground Concepts

Derek Liebert introduced Maria Blood from Upland Design and gave a review of the public input process in regard to the new playground at Meadowbrook Park. Kara Dudek, then expanded further on the public input process, describing how it began looking for more general information, and through a series of surveys and feedback, it has condensed into three concept plans. Kara noted that engagement with these surveys has been much higher than usual, with over 600 people responding to the most recent survey.

Maria reviewed the project planning schedule, playground components and concept features, survey #1, concept plans, and the public input survey. She compared the most favored components from the survey results with the existing components at the current playground and what is proposed in the three different concept plans. She went over some of the top choices on the public survey and noted that UPDAC was involved in helping determine the features that were included. Features discussed included 2-5 year old play areas, slides, climbers, swings, structures, and spinners. The top choices in these play categories all made their way into the three concept designs presented.

An aerial of the existing site was reviewed, and Maria noted that the intention was to keep as many trees as possible. Maria went on to explain that these concepts all have themes intended to tell a story. Concept A: Animal Explorations was reviewed. This concept is intended to create “pockets of play” to encourage exploration and curiosity. Sarah Roper asked about the distance from the swings to the zipline and Maria responded that it’s about 60 feet. Sarah then asked about the distance from the zipline to the furthest swing-set at the southeast of the site plan, and Maria said that was a distance of just under 300 feet. David asked about the placement of rubber surfacing, and Maria explained that it was placed strategically around the play areas and paths throughout for accessibility. Kara asked Maria to elaborate on the colors for these concepts, and Maria said that a green and brown color palette was used on all concepts so colors don’t bias survey takers to any one concept. There were some questions about the Brava accessible swing, and the maintenance of the zipline. Mara explained that the Brava is meant to swing side to side, and that the zipline lasts as long as a lot of other playground equipment – about 15 years. Sarah asked about the location of inclusive play features far away from the parking lot, and Maria noted that there are several inclusive features spaced throughout the site, even though the Brava swing is located further away from the parking lot.

Maria then reviewed Concept B: Pollinators at Play. She talked about how changes in elevation were used on the site to increase accessibility to the play structure from the entrance of the playground, and to become its own play feature. Features of this concept include the tot area with playhouses, play circuits, caterpillar climber and pollinator themed

spring rides. The main play structure is taller than the existing Prairie Play playground, both in roof and deck height. Maria noted that custom panels could also be included relating to the specific theme on this concept and the others.

Concept C: Tree Top Adventure was reviewed. It has multiple access points from the parking lot. Features include a zipline, swings, fencing, sandplay, playhouse in the 2-5 area, and a play structure with the tallest deck at 14 feet. Maria said that this structure was really inviting for circuit play. Maria noted that there are no monkey bars included in this concept, but it would be an easy update.

Maria then reviewed a draft of the next survey to be released for public input. Kara asked UPDAC to provide feedback on the survey – whether it's too confusing, too long, etc. Jean Paley asked if the costs of all the concepts was roughly the same in total. Maria responded that they were, but the funds spent on each type of feature is not the same across concepts. David Dorman mentioned that he found it difficult to get a sense of the play features from the pictures included in the survey. Ashley Moore suggested more clearly dividing each picture, and Ashley Withers suggested adding a couple interpretive bullet points describing the features of the different play structures. Nancy Delcomyn suggested use of "catalog" style images with no background. Sarah mentioned that she struggled with the layout of Concept A, and thought it would make it more difficult to supervise kids on the playground. Ashley Withers suggested using the word layout instead of concept for the site plan question, noting that the word "concept" could be confused with theme. Ben Kaap noted that the survey allows for a mix and match approach. Nany mentioned that overly landscaped areas might be a maintenance issue with kids running through them.

Maria asked about including a question about independent play features in the survey, and Jean said she thought it was unnecessary, and those decisions should be left to staff. Nancy also noted that the way the question is currently phrased implies that you have to have certain independent play features together. Sarah agreed it made sense to exclude the question. Jean thought we should still ask about the zipline, specifically. Nancy asked about the range in prices of the individual independent play pieces. Maria responded that on the high end is the butterfly climber and zipline at around \$20,000 each, with the chill spinner on the lower end at \$2,000 or so. Kara said that these features have already been ranked in previous surveys, but suggested that for some of the larger independent features it might be good to rank the importance of including them in the final concept. Sarah said that question 8 about the physical, mental, and social development of the concepts is confusing because the survey moves from asking about individual concepts to asking about the concepts together as a whole. Nancy thought that question 8 was not necessary to bring to the public, but that they are things the park district should consider.

IV. Approval of February 22, 2022 UPDAC Meeting Minutes

Ashley Withers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 minutes with a second from Howard Schein. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Laura asked people to keep working on recruiting for the new UPDAC class.

B. Board Representative

Nancy did not have a report.

C. Director's Report

Tim Bartlett was not present at the meeting, but Kelsey Beccue gave UPDAC some information on the upcoming public input opportunities for the City of Urbana's American Rescue Plan Act funds in regard to the Health & Wellness facility project.

D. Capital Projects Report

Andy Rousseau gave updates on several capital projects. He shared that the Blair Sutu wall has been installed with fencing to be finished soon. The Health & Wellness schematic design documents have gone to our construction manager, with the first estimates expected to come next week. After estimates are received, we will submit those estimates to DCEO to begin the grant agreement process. The board also awarded the Crystal Lake Park road resurfacing project, and construction is expected to begin this summer or fall.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion

There were none.

VII. Adjourn

Due to some internet connectivity issues, Laura Hastings was unable to adjourn the meeting. In her absence, Howie Schein adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Beccue