



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, AUGUST 23, 2022
7:00 PM
MEADOWBROOK INTERPRETIVE CENTER
2808 S. RACE ST.
URBANA, IL 61802

I. Call to Order – Welcome New Members and Introductions

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 the Minutes of the June 28, 2022 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. UPDAC Year-in-Review
- B. Upcoming Programs and Projects

V. Reports

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

Upcoming meetings:

September 27, 2022

October 25, 2022

November 15, 2022

December – no meeting

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

VII. Adjourn

*****This month's secretary is Kelsey Beccue****

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.

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022
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, June 28, 2022 at the Urbana Park District Planning and 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	
Ben Kaap	X	
Ashley Moore		X
Jean Paley		X
Sarah Roper	X	
Howard Schein	X	
Gary Stensland	X	
Karl Weingartner		X
Ashley Withers	X	

Also present were:

Nancy Delcomyn, Commissioner;
Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;
Janet Soesbe, Community Program Manager

I. Call to Order

Laura Hastings, Kelsey Beccue called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of May 24, 2022 UPDAC Meeting Minutes

Howard Schein made a motion with a second from Nicoline Ambrose to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 UPDAC meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

IV. Discussion

A. Arts and Culture Matrix Team Updates

Corky Emberson introduced Urbana Park District Community Program Manager, Janet Soesbe, Co-chair of the Arts and Culture Matrix Team. Janet gave some background on the Arts and Culture Matrix Team and reviewed the team's major programs and events: Youth Summer Theatre, Great ArtDoors, live music, Jazz Walk, Bridging the Arts Divide, Crystal Lake Park Art Fair, and the Wandell Sculpture Garden 25th Anniversary celebration.

Janet explained that Youth Summer Theatre is one of the oldest youth theatre programs in the area, and every summer the kids put on a full scale musical. This year's production is Newsies. It is a no-cut show, meaning everyone who wants a role will receive one – either a speaking role or in the chorus. Further, there are opportunities for participants to get involved in the actual production aspects: lighting, sets, etc. Kids will often come back year after year, and sometimes even return as adults to direct the productions.

Next, Janet reviewed the many opportunities for live music facilitated by the Arts and Culture Team including Neighborhood Nights, Folk and Roots Fridays, and the Candlelight Serenade. Neighborhood Nights is a weekly summer concert series that the Urbana Park District has been putting on for over thirty-two years. Each concert takes place in a different park in Urbana and provides an opportunity for neighbors to get connected to community resources. This year, community groups with tables at events have included the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, League of Women Voters, Uniting Pride, and the Urbana Parks Foundation. Folk and Roots Fridays are lunchtime concerts at the Lake House that take place on second and fourth Fridays of the month during the summer. This program is done in partnership with the CU Folk and Roots Festival, and these concerts usually see fifty to sixty people. Candlelight Serenade is a new program this year in partnership with CU Symphony. It is a ticketed event where people will be able to take paddle boats out on the lake while it is lit up and listen to music from CU Symphony. It's the beginning of looking at opportunities for bringing more classical music to Urbana Park District events.

Janet then went on to talk about Jazz Walk, which is one of the most popular musical events of the year. Jazz musicians set up along the sculpture loop in Meadowbrook Park, and participants can stroll through to admire the sculpture and listen to music.

It is an excellent blending of art, music, and nature. Janet noted that the quality of jazz musicians in our area is excellent, and Ashley Withers commented that she has seen that many of them perform at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

The next program reviewed was Bridging the Arts Divide, which is funding with a City of Urbana Arts and Culture Grant. The first year of the program featured a temporary, juried art installation on one of the bridges at Crystal Lake Park, featuring artists of color. The second year of grant funding will focus on the many talented Black musicians that have played music in Crystal Lake Park over the years, and it will be a featured Point of Pride on the African-American Heritage Trail.

Next, Janet gave some background on the Crystal Lake Park Art Fair, which is a newer event done in partnership with 40 North. It is a juried art fair featuring about forty artists and working in many different types of media. The artists are both local and countrywide, with many returning yearly. Janet noted that the idea for a juried art fair has been percolating in the district for over twenty years, so it was very gratifying to see it into fruition.

The last program covered was the upcoming Wandell Sculpture Garden 25th Anniversary Celebration (WSG 25). WSG 25 will be a year-long celebration beginning with Climate Action Week and ending with the 2023 Jazz Walk. Tim Bartlett explained that there will also be a special sculpture exhibition featuring the work of many of the artists who have displayed pieces in the garden during its twenty-five year history. He went on to say that the district is working on a new sculpture acquisition as well. Howard asked about the definition of the Wandell Sculpture Garden, and if it only applied to sculptures owned by the district. Tim responded that it is a mix of owned and leased sculptures and that it is more defined by its location in Meadowbrook Park. He also mentioned that a goal of the district is to get a piece of art in every park in Urbana. Howard then suggested that a tribute to the late Cecilia Allen, an artist who has displayed multiple pieces at Meadowbrook.

After the review of programs and events, David Dorman suggested incorporating the Hip Hop Express into more Arts and Culture programs. Corky responded that we have worked with Hip Hop Express before, and that they were most recently at Jettie Rhodes Day and the Play Days in the Park. Ashley Withers inquired about when Youth Summer Theatre typically starts, and Janet replied that it auditions usually begin in April. Janet also noted how critical community partnerships have been to the success of the Arts and Culture programming at the Urbana Park District.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Laura commented that Jettie Rhodes Day was hugely successful despite the weather, and encouraged all members to attend next year's event. Corky mentioned that this year, minority owned businesses and community groups were given the opportunity

to have vendor booths and 83 organizations signed up. Laura mentioned she did have several people ask her if there were food trucks, and suggested offering that for next year. Laura also noted that this would be her last meeting, as her UPDAC term is ending. She said she thoroughly enjoyed her time on UPDAC and encouraged members to spread the word about UPDAC.

B. Board Representative

Commissioner Delcomyn commended district staff for their commitment to displaying art throughout the parks in ways both large and small, noting that it greatly enriches our community.

C. Director's Report

Tim shared that there was a recent PBS News Hour segment on Arts and Medicine which went into how art can be used for communitywide peace and reconciliation activities. He noted that UPD has recently been engaged with this type of activity. He also thanked Laura for her excellent work as UPDAC Chair, and thanked all outgoing members for their service.

Next, Tim updated the group on the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center (UIAC). He said that it has been twenty-five years since the UIAC opened, and that the district has changed a lot in that time. With our You Belong Here focus and the new Health & Wellness Center, it is time to evaluate our program balance and shift our role at UIAC. Tim stressed that we will always be a partner to the Urbana School District in this endeavor, but that the roles and financial needs of both partners are evolving, and new solutions are necessary. Tim recapped several successes and challenges of operating UIAC over the years. Successes included the initially high membership, several capital improvements, jobs for community youth, rental space for school groups, and travel swim team and life guard training opportunities. Challenges included lack of a physical education program, no third-grade swim lessons, operating two pools simultaneously, staffing and facility management, expenses associated with operation, and introducing a new facility. This will likely be a focus area of UPDAC over the next year while the district works out a new agreement with the school district. The UPD will be transitioning away from day-to-day management of the UIAC and returning that to the school district. UPD still intends to be involved at UIAC with revenue generating programs such as swim lessons. Tim went on to mention that looking at our role at UIAC fits within a larger look at district recreational needs and who we are serving.

Howard said he felt that the school district was not taking full advantage of the indoor pool for physical education or water safety purposes, and noted that there is a racial disparity in swim ability which could be reduced with something like universal swim lessons through the school district. Tim responded that the main barrier to being able to implement the swim lessons was transportation, as the grade school kids would need transportation to get to the school. Howard suggested the program

apply to middle school students who share a campus with the pool. Laura commented that there are issues with universal school swim programs: not everyone has a swimsuit for example. Howard commended the aquatics staff on their great work.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek Liebert provided updates on district capital projects including Blair Park renovations, Crystal Lake Park road resurfacing, and the Meadowbrook Park playground replacement.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion

Sarah Roper commented that the Meadowbrook Park playground plan looks great, and thanked staff for taking her suggestions into account that late in the design process. Howie remarked that UPDAC is one of the only committees he has been part of where staff listen and accept feedback.

VII. Adjourn

Laura Hastings adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Beccue.