



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 24, 2023
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802

- 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 the Minutes of the October 25, 2022 and November 15, 2022 Meetings**
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. Diversity Lab Phase II Study
 - B. Health & Wellness Update
- V. **Reports**
 - A. UPDAC Chair
 - B. Board Representative
 - C. Director's Report
 - D. Capital Projects Report
- VI. **UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**
- VII. **Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

February 28, 2023
March 28, 2023
April 25, 2023
May 23, 2023
June 27, 2023

*****This month's secretary is Reba Daniels*****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD ebsite 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, OCTOBER 25, 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, October 25, 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
Ashley Withers, Chair	X	
Gary Ambler	X	
Jonville Chenoweth		X
Lori Choquette	X	
Reba Daniels	X	
Amy Delahanty		X
David Dorman		X
Kanittha Fay	X	
Ashley Moore		X
Bruce Rummenie		X
Gary Stensland	X	
Michael Stevenson	X	
Brittany Tammen	X	
Karl Weingartner		X
Darius White	X	

Others present:

Nancy Delcomyn, Commissioner
Cedric Stratton, Commissioner
Tim Bartlett, Executive Director
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations
Leslie Radice, Aquatics Manager
Janet Soesbe, Community Program Coordinator
Andy Rousseau, Project Manager

Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

I. Call to Order – Welcome New Members and Introductions

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public attended and there was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2022 Meeting

Michael Stevenson made a motion with a second from Lori Choquette to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

IV. New Business

A. Meadowbrook Park and Wandell Sculpture Garden 25th Anniversary

Janet Soesbe, Community Program Manager provided a pamphlet presentation on the celebration and programming for the Wandell Sculpture Garden 25th Anniversary.

- History of Wandell Sculpture Garden
- Overview of Park Districts planning of events and partners
 - Provided a schedule of upcoming events
- Purpose of Event
 - Call attention to the existing and new art and create programming each month “Jazz Walk to Jazz Walk” to get citizens outdoors.
- Ongoing Projects
 - Installation of two new pieces
 - Tim Bartlett, Executive Director provided overview of new artist and donor relationships needed for continue improvements and development of ownership of certain sculptures
 - Interactive Map: Citizens can use to engage with the art on walks or from home. Plans to incorporate in upcoming camps.
- Goals for Future
 - Tim Bartlett, Executive Director mentioned importance of UPD team visiting other gardens to learn new approaches and ideas. Recent takeaway is updating to signage to be accessible to all ages and abilities.
 - Janet discussed bringing Geocaches back to Meadowbrook, what geocaches were, purpose, etc.
 - Continue Active Aging week in the future with proactive planning with partners.

B. Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center Agreement Update

Leslie Radice, Aquatics Manager, provided an overview of current aquatics offerings and outlined future budget scenarios for continued partnership with Urbana School District to maintain certain programming efforts while reducing the deficit and cost.

- Tim Bartlett, Executive Director, provided history of partnership and creation of original center and decision making that has continued to impact the efficient of operating the center and limiting the ability to improve revenue; limited locker room space, no administrative area, limited pool deck, limited parking, etc.
- Leslie Radice provided definitions of the following programs and general overview of negotiation plan as the contract renewal approaching with school district as UPD does not own the facility but currently shares in capital and operational costs:
 - Lap Swim (used frequently by members)
 - Open Swim (open to public)
 - Swim Team Rentals (Mahomet and St. Thomas)
 - UPD Programs
 - PE Classes
 - UHS Swim Team
 - Private Rentals
 - Public Hour Rentals (occur during open swim times)

Throughout the presentation, UPDAC members shared the following comments and questions:

- What is current staffing standards for insurance?
- What happens when staff is low or call outs/no shows?
- What are the hours of lap swim vs. open swim?
- Pool temperature seems colder than surrounding pools?
- Swim lesson feedback on recent experiences
- What is the current participation rate looking like for walk-ins or PE Classes?
- What is the school boards approach in negotiations, why should they accept it?
- How do we get the community to know that UPD only manages the facility and doesn't own the building?
 - Recommendations to create a "Did you know?" Social Media Campaign
 - Recommendation for a community meeting

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Reminder for next month's meeting is a week earlier due to holidays and no December meeting.

B. Board Representative

Mentioned upcoming board and UPD meetings.

C. Director's Report

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director, stated two potential new partners or programming ideas

- Siebel Center for Design - Design Thinking
 - Planning to take a tour soon.
- Attended a Bike Summit at I-Hotel and a takeaway from presenters was the idea of a Ciclovía “Takeover a street typically used by cars” for events to reclaim the space for a brief period and connect with residents a new way

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations provided the following updates:

- Nature Center’s Pavilion has had significant progress as concrete is poured and pillars are up including subgrating the parking lot in. Plumbing, Electrical, Masonry work is ongoing. This area is used for nature camps and general public use.
- Crystal Lake Park has ongoing tree replacement for trees that didn’t make after planting, reseeding of trouble areas and those impacted by recent projects.
- Gave general reminders of upcoming meetings for capital projects teams and upcoming budget discussions and 5 year planning which may be discussed in the coming months more in depth.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Various comments on timing of meetings and any issues please communicate.

VII. Adjourn

Chair, Ashley Withers adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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, November 15, 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
Ashley Withers, Chair	X	
Gary Ambler		X
Jonville Chenoweth		X
Lori Choquette	X	
Reba Daniels		X
Amy Delahanty	X	
David Dorman	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Ashley Moore		X
Bruce Rummenie		X
Gary Stensland	X	
Michael Stevenson		X
Brittany Tammen	X	
Karl Weingartner		X
Darius White		X

Others present:

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations
Andy Rousseau, Project Manager
Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

I. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM, and noted the absence of a quorum, adjourning the meeting at 7:11 PM. After adjourning the meeting, the remaining members opted to stay for discussion of the evening's topics.

II. Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance, and there was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the October 25, 2022 Meeting

There was no quorum, so no action was taken to approve the minutes.

IV. New Business

A. Health & Wellness Updates

Ashley Withers noted that the original topic for the evening, a presentation from the University of Illinois Diversity Lab on Phase II of the Underrepresented Study was pushed out due to a scheduling conflict. Director Bartlett then provided some updates and background on the new Health & Wellness Center and its importance to Urbana. He said that the Urbana Park District (UPD) really began looking for this type of space thirty years ago. Planning for the Health & Wellness Center began with tours of like facilities several years ago from small towns like LeRoy to larger cities like Carmel, Indiana. All these facilities added to the overall health and wellbeing of their citizens and created a sense of community, but as Tim mentioned, we do not have that in Urbana. Tim went on to say that the neighborhood surrounding the location of the new facility was a factor in choosing Prairie Park as the site. The district wants to make investments in "high hope" neighborhoods, and this location will serve our urban, suburban, and rural neighbors. The current facility, Brookens Gymnasium, does not adequately meet the needs of our community, but when the district had the opportunity to lease it, it did partially fill a gap in facility offerings at the district created by the loss of the old Thornburn Center. In planning for the new Health & Wellness Center, outdoor space was considered just as important to develop, and Prairie Park offers a lot of opportunity: plenty of space for outdoor development and proximity to the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT). The Health & Wellness Center is meant to serve everyone in our community and is critical for engaging our youth. After sharing some background on the Health & Wellness Center, Tim also shared that while we have pursued many funding sources (state grants, UPD capital funds, private fundraising), there is still a funding gap. Tim noted that we have a funding gap for this facility. To help fill this gap, the district is seeking American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from both the City of Urbana and Champaign County.

Derek Liebert said that the district's ARPA application to the City of Urbana will be submitted November 16. Corky mentioned that Brookens is our most visited facility at UPD, but is programmed only, whereas H&W facility will be an "open hours" facility. He went on to say that the district has never been able to really offer that type of

experience with the exception of the pools. Brittany Tammen asked if we had use of the basketball courts, and Corky responded that we lease Pod 400, but there is not much extra program space outside of the gym. Ashley Withers noted that UPD does not always have access to the gym because of early voting. Corky said that the County plans made it a necessity to plan for our future gym needs. Ashley shared that some county offices would be staying at Brookens. Tim mentioned that there is an emphasis on “community hubs” and the Health & Wellness Center could fit that concept and be a candidate for further future funding with the University of Illinois Call to Action. There is a gap for that type of service in Urbana due to the closing of Civic Center.

Kanittha asked about membership fees and Corky responded that it would likely be the same as the Leonhard Center at \$110 per year.

Ashley Withers asked how much the district is asking in City ARPA funds, and Derek responded that we are asking for 3.3 million. Despite the efforts of the district and foundation, we have been unable to secure a donor for a high profile naming opportunity to fill the current funding gap. David Dorman asked about the impact of inflation on costs, and Derek responded that the answer is complicated due to initial estimates from architects that were too low, supply chain issues, and state funds that caused us to increase footprint before the impact of inflation was factored in. Kanittha asked about donor recognition at the facility, and Kelsey reviewed the donor recognition scheme. Ashley asked about corporate giving, and Kelsey responded that was a group we have had trouble getting gifts from and recapped efforts made.

Derek mentioned that the anticipated construction schedule includes bidding in January and awards in March. Crucial to that timeline is Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and ARPA funding. Bidding the project is what will ultimately lock in prices. The City anticipates inviting groups to present on their ARPA applications in January. Once the City makes their decision on funding for the Health & Wellness Center, we will present to the County Board, and they will decide what ARPA support the district might receive toward the project. The County has made clear they will not act before the City. Kanittha asked what is next if the City does not fully fund the Health & Wellness Center. Options would be asking for further funding from Champaign County, continuing to privately fundraise, tapping into emergency reserve funds, and/or borrowing funds. Kanittha mentioned that having some different messages for different user groups might be useful for outreach.

B. S.P.L.A.S.H Follow-up Discussion

Tim referenced the SPLASH discussion from two months ago, and wanted to follow-up and allow for questions and further information. Corky reviewed the expiration and nonrenewal of the 21st Century Grant for King and Dr. Williams, and noted that the school district spends significant sums to make SPLASH work. The other 21st

Century Grant was renewed at 70% of cost rather than 80%, and that changed the administration of the program since other funding was sought to fill that gap. Corky shared info on a pilot program within SPLASH where UPD will provide activities from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM for one day for each school. Corky mentioned that UPD is working collaboratively with the school district to determine the future path forward if the 21st century grants are not reliable. Ashley Withers asked what the qualifiers are that determine grant eligibility, and Corky mentioned that a disqualifier for us is that we have received the grant too many times. The idea of the grant is to encourage sustainability. Lori mentioned that people don't know the difference between the afterschool programs and SPLASH. The larger discussion moving forward is how is UPD involved with afterschool programs? The goal is a larger, districtwide integrated program, but USD and UPD need to come together to determine costs, involvement, etc. David asked if the schools might be willing to apply for a planning grant to coordinate a collaborative UPD/USD program. Corky responded that he didn't think the school would need to do that, and that we could work together with them to chart the future of afterschool opportunities.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Ashley reminded everyone that there is no December meeting. Ashley also asked if people would be interested in starting at 6:30 PM, and that Kelsey can send out a follow up email to ask that question.

B. Board Representative

No report.

C. Director's Report

Tim encouraged all to see the new pieces at the Wandell Sculpture Garden, and mentioned that Janet Soesbe ran a program at Meadowbrook Park with the Camera Club for people to take photos of the sculptures.

D. Capital Projects Report

Andy provided updates on the UPDAC Outdoor Learning Pavilion and shared progress photos. Lori asked if the fireplace would be available for rental users. Staff responded that we were looking for a structure to make that possible.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

David asked if UPD has had issues with the homeless population. Tim said that yes, it has been an issue, and we have worked closely with CU at Home, Urbana Police Department, and other groups to manage those situations. Ashley let people know that the Township

accepts donations of winter gear. Amy asked why the Turkey Trot is only one mile, and if there is tension between Meadowbrook Park neighbors and UPD, and recounted a recent experience she had. Tim responded that generally there is not tension with Meadowbrook Park neighbors. Most really appreciate the proximity to such a great park!

VII. Adjourn

While the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:11 PM, the members present stayed for discussion until 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Beccue.

DRAFT