



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, MAY 23, 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 April 25, 2023 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Experience Champaign-Urbana

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:

June 27, 2023

July – No meeting

August 22, 2023

September 26, 2023

October 24, 2023

*****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, APRIL 25, 2023
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, April 25, 2023 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
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	
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;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
Savannah Donovan, Environmental Program Manager;
Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

VIII. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

IX. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

X. Approval of the Minutes of the March 28, 2023 Meeting

Upon review of the minutes, UPDAC members asked for a clarification regarding open swim times at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center, and whether they would be removed for weekdays and weekends, or just weekdays. Staff responded that open swim was being removed for both weekdays and weekends. UPDAC requested a correction to the minutes to clarify the issue. Darius also asked if the recent GotSpot promotion for UIAC open swim would be problematic, given the plan to eliminate open swim at UIAC. Staff responded that they would look into that, but would honor any open swim coupons at the Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center.

Michael Stevenson made a motion with a second from Lori Choquette to approve the corrected minutes of the March 28, 2023 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

XI. New Business

B. [Urbana Park District Climate Action, Resiliency, Education, and Sustainability \(CARES\) Plan](#)

Savannah Donovan, Environmental Program Manager, introduced herself to UPDAC and distributed copies of the Urbana Park District's (UPD) CARES Plan for members to peruse during her presentation. Savannah stated that the district needs this plan because carbon emissions are warming our planet, and local governments, such as park districts, are often more trusted by the community as compared to the state and federal levels. She also outlined the background research and community input that went into the plan, and noted that equity and inclusion were critical factors in the plan's creation. The CARES Plan has three main pillars:

- Communicating Climate Action: underscores the UPD's commitment to serve as a community leader and role model for climate action – through internal practices, public outreach & programs, and collaborative partnerships.
- Protecting & Strengthening our Natural Environment: reinforces the UPD's responsibility to care for the health of humans, plants, animals, ecosystems & the climate – by reducing our carbon footprint, stewarding biodiversity & natural areas, and improving air & water quality.
- Conserving Resources: highlights the UPD's dedication to the sustainability of natural resources – through conserving energy & water, using clean energy, reducing waste, and increasing recycling & reuse.

After hearing about the plan, UPDAC members had a lot of questions and comments. Gary Stensland asked about the main audience for the plan, and Savannah responded

that it's primarily an internal document, but is public facing as well. It outlines goals and objectives for the district to follow over the next five years. David Dorman asked if there are any goals pertaining to energy use, and Savannah said that there are. Gary Stensland also asked if there was a completed "approved planting list" for trees at the district and Derek responded that the list is not complete, but that biodiversity is an important consideration. Darius followed up and inquired about the district's planting efforts in low income areas. Derek responded that the district is a little more constrained in that aspect than the City of Urbana, as UPD only plants trees on district property, so new plantings in lower income areas directly affect a smaller number of people.

Lori asked about the incorporation of community gardens into the plan, and staff responded that the focus is on efficiency through community partnerships. Lori suggested collaborating with the Master Gardener's for needed community volunteers, since they are required to complete a certain number of volunteer hours to maintain their Master Gardener status.

There were also some questions around sustainable energy. David asked whether the district pursues LEED certification for its buildings, such as the new Health & Wellness Center. Derek answered that UPD does not pursue the LEED certification because of the expense associated with it, but does apply the LEED principles. Ashely inquired which UPD facilities have solar, and Derek responded that right now the Anita Purves Nature Center (APNC) is the only building that has it, but the new Health & Wellness Center will have solar once it is built.

Discussion around litter and recycling came up frequently as well. Lori asked about additional recycling cans. Derek said the district strives to balance the needs of patrons with the ability to efficiently collect trash and recycling, and would continue to evaluate that balance. He noted that for special events, UPD often brings out extra recycling and trash cans to accommodate the higher use. It was noted that litter has been an issue in Urbana parks, and Kanittha suggested trash grabbers be available at facilities for people who might wish to help while they walk the park. Darius suggested an "Adopt-a-Park" concept, which might be even more enticing than the typical "Adopt-a-Street" programs that are quite common. He suggested that collaborations with sororities and fraternities might be good for this sort of program. Kanittha commented that UPD should think about ways to visually communicate the impacts of litter and the necessity of climate action.

XII. Reports

E. UPDAC Chair

The UPDAC Chair had no information to report.

F. Board Representative

The Board Representatives had no information to report.

G. Director's Report

While Director Bartlett was unable to attend the meeting, UPD staff gave an update on their follow-up with Tomas Delgado, who had attended a prior UPDAC meeting to share the concept of food forests and their potential application at Weaver Park. Director Bartlett and Kelsey Beccue had a follow up meeting with Tomas to discuss the idea further, and based on the district's focus on reshoring athletics fields and engagement with other methods of battling food insecurity, such as our community gardens partnerships, the food forest concept isn't feasible at this time. Other concerns include maintenance and liability. Nancy mentioned that she thought Weaver was too small of a site for a food forest, and Cedric commented that he hopes we continue to work with Tomas.

H. Capital Projects Report

Derek presented the Capital Projects Report which included updates on:

- Crystal Lake: the new multi-use path project along Broadway Avenue is underway with funding from an ITEP grant, along with the new stone wall by the lower Lake House parking lot
- Meadowbrook Playground: UPD has been awarded an OSLAD grant for the playground replacement, and has just gone under contract with Upland Design for construction design services
- Health & Wellness Center: the project schedule is being finalized with groundbreaking scheduled for May 6
 - Nancy commented on the generosity of Urbana citizens which has carried UPD to this point

XIII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Ashley shared information with UPDAC members about the upcoming Urbana Parks Foundation Barn Bash at Hudson Farm. Kanittha share that the Mayoral Recognition Ceremony would be May 10 at Urbana High School, and the UPD would be there as part of the Resource Fair. She also suggested looking for ways to support small businesses in Urbana.

XIV. Adjourn

Ashley adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM.