

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
6:30 PM-8:00 PM
PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

The study session meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the Planning and Operations Facility, 1011 E. Kerr Avenue, Urbana, IL at 6:30 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 commissioner of the district 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.

COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Michael Walker		X
Vice-President Meredith Blumthal		X
Commissioner Cedric Stratton	X	
Commissioner Roger Digges	X	
Commissioner Laura Hastings		X

Also present were Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
Laura Orcutt, Business Manager;
Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Digges called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Accept Agenda

No vote was taken due to lack of quorum.

III. Public Comment

Ten members of the public commented on the Weaver Park planning process.

IV. Discussion

A. Weaver and Prairie Park Updates

Derek Liebert presented detailed information on the Weaver and Prairie Park planning process and history, including the acquisition process, development of the natural areas, master planning already completed, maintaining the land until development, current planning proposals at the park, and soliciting community feedback throughout the process. He noted multiple community concerns over the planning process and proposed development, therefore changes to the timeline and feedback process have occurred. The Board and staff discussed next steps for the park and best approaches for reaching more community members through the planning process. They also answered additional questions from stakeholders present.

B. New Legislation: Liability Fund and Police Fund

Director Bartlett noted that new legislative action on the Liability and Police Fund now allows for additional types of spending from this previously extremely tightly controlled fund. Laura Orcutt noted that this broader use of the fund includes options like event security, safety training, security cameras, building alarms, etc. and noted that this was a very positive change for the UPD.

V. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Stratton commented that he appreciates the public feedback on the Weaver Park planning process and that it is useful to hear both the critical and positive feedback.

Commissioner Digges commented on the constructiveness of the public feedback, and he is pleased to see so many community members interested.

VI. Adjourn

Commissioner Digges adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Roger Digges, Commissioner

Timothy A. Bartlett, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: 10/10/23