



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, OCTOBER 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 September 26, 2023 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Fall Tree Color in Urbana Parks with Gary Stensland
- B. Crystal Lake Park Updates

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:

***November 21, 2023
December – no meeting
January 23, 2024
February 27, 2024***

*****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, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
 6:00 PM
 UPDAC OUTDOOR LEARNING PAVILION
 1505 N. BROADWAY
 URBANA, IL 61801**

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at the Urbana Park District UPDAC Outdoor Learning Pavilion at 6:00 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	
Lauren Chambers	X	
Lori Choquette	X	
Reba Daniels	X	
Amy Delahanty		X
David Dorman	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Lucia Maldonado		X
Hannah Sheets	X	
Ashley Sims	X	
Rachel Spencer	X	
Gary Stensland	X	
Michael Stevenson	X	
Brittany Tammen	X	
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	
Karl Weingartner		X
Darius White	X	

Others Present:
 Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;
 Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
 Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager
 Larry Boone, Urbana Police Chief

VIII. Call to Order – Welcome New Members and Introductions

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Everyone in at the meeting introduced themselves. Guest and new Urbana Police Chief, Larry Boone, introduced himself to UPDAC members, gave background on his career and vision for Urbana, and highlighted the importance of community engagement with groups like UPDAC.

UPDAC members voiced concerns and questions for Chief Boone that included topics like addressing youth violence, policing command structures, and recruitment of diverse officers.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Approval of the Minutes of the August 22, 2023 Meeting

Reba Daniels made a motion with a second from Lauren Chambers to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

XI. New Business

C. UPDAC Year-in-Review

Kelsey Beccue guided UPDAC members through a review of many of the topics studied and discussed over the past year, noting that some would likely continue into the current year. One significant topic discussed last year was UPD’s SPLASH after school program. SPLASH is a free after school program, but grants that fund certain sites have not been renewed, meaning the district needs to consider how it moves forward with after school programming in partnership with the school district.

Kelsey also shared another significant area of focus, which was the park district’s negotiation with the school district regarding the operation of the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center. UPDAC was kept apprised of the process, which ultimately resulted in a new, five-year agreement for continued operation of UIAC.

There were also several multi-year projects that reached their conclusions during last year’s UPDAC term, including the district’s work with the University of Illinois Diversity Lab and the campaign for the Health & Wellness Facility. Some new, multi-year topics were also launched: with the Health & Wellness Facility coming to Prairie Park, UPDAC studied and helped to inform the master planning process for both Prairie and Weaver parks, and that topic is expected to return to UPDAC as the process unfolds.

Derek Liebert also mentioned significant UPDAC contributions to other district projects including the Blair Park redevelopment and planning for the new playground at Meadowbrook Park.

D. Upcoming Programs and Projects

Kelsey also highlighted some key topics that UPDAC would likely study over the course of this year, noting that topics are always subject to change based on circumstances and the district's scope of work. The main theme emerging for this year's topics are very future-focused. What is the future of the parks and rec industry generally? As funds are cut, what is the future of after school programming at UPD? What is the future of UPD park development? Some planned topics include discussions of emerging parks and recreation trends, SPLASH and afterschool programming at UPD, future parks and land acquisition, and Prairie and Weaver Park master planning updates, and the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT).

Regarding afterschool programming, Darius asked whether the school district or the park district applies for the grants, and Corky responded that typically the school district does. Ashley asked if further rail could be acquired for the KRT, and Tim responded that acquiring rail corridor is always a challenge, but that the future plan is to extend the KRT into downtown Urbana. Kanittha commented that UPDAC should take a role in helping with public education regarding UPD initiatives, and that communications from the district should be simplified. Information should be transparent to avoid misinformation being shared. Ashley noted the utility of UPDAC as a community liaison. Darius asked about how the Phillips Recreation Center (PRC) will be used after the Health & Wellness Center is open. Corky said that staff are still looking at which programs will be moved to the Health & Wellness Center and which ones will stay at PRC, but that PRC will certainly still be utilized.

XII. Reports

E. UPDAC Chair

Ashley commented that she volunteered at the Wandell Sculpture Garden Rededication and Jazz Walk, noting that both were great events.

F. Board Representative

Cedric shared that there has been public comment on the Weaver and Prairie Park master plan concepts, and commented on UPD's willingness to hear and consider it.

G. Director's Report

Tim observed UPDAC's importance to the district over the years. He also recognized seasonal staff for their excellent work this summer, commented on the success of this year's Jazz Walk, and provided an update on the Local Government Efficiency Report that is required by state law.

H. Capital Projects Report

Derek gave updates on the new bridges installed at Crystal Lake Park and said that construction design for the new PrairiePlay at Meadowbrook is about 30% complete. The Health & Wellness Center is currently under construction. Derek also shared that the district is working with a stakeholder group from many different interest areas (natural areas, trails, athletics, wildlife, etc.) on the master planning for Prairie and Weaver parks.

XIII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Lori shared that the windmill at Meadowbrook Park needs oiling, as it is squeaking in the wind. Gary commented that he would be presenting on some of his favorite trees at Crystal Lake Park at next month's UPDAC meeting. Brittany asked about who the main users for the softball fields are, and staff responded that it is primarily rental use.

XIV. Adjourn

Ashley Withers adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.