

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 MINUTES – BOARD STUDY SESSION
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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, October 3, 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;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning and Operations;
 Laura Orcutt, Finance Manager;
 Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;
 Shawn Ajazi, Progressive Business Solutions;
 Allison Jones served as Recorder.

I. Call to Order

President Walker called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

A. Remote Attendance

There was no remote attendance requested.

II. Accept Agenda

COMMISSIONER STRATTON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HASTINGS TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

III. Public Comment

Eight community members commented on the Weaver Park Master Plan.

IV. Discussion

A. Prairie and Weaver Park Master Plan-Updates

Director Bartlett reviewed next steps for the Weaver Park Master Planning process, including putting together a new Community Discussion Group to review important issues and aspects of the plan. He also noted additional outreach efforts, including more signage, and discussions with the neighborhood, USD #116, the City of Urbana, UPDAC, and other local stakeholders.

Derek Liebert noted the first Community Discussion Group meeting will be held on October 23, 2023. He also stated that staff have put out fliers in the neighborhood to reach as many local residents as possible. Next, he reviewed the history of Weaver Park and Prairie Park, including the grant funding, survey work, the 2005 Master Plan, history of the wetland/stormwater management project, planting decisions through the years, Baker Lane trail, the new Health & Wellness Center, community input, and the current planning process. He noted important aspects being considered in this process are joint use of active recreation and natural area, stormwater management, habitat consideration, dark sky protection, and community feedback.

Board and staff discussed other important elements to consider, including amount of land owned by the District, parking, bird populations within the park, and possible skateboarding and pickleball amenities within the parks. Staff noted next steps of getting further community input and making revisions to the current proposals in order to try to meet as many needs as possible.

B. Solar Plan

Derek Liebert introduced Shawn Ajazi with Progressive Business Solutions to provide updates on solar options for Urbana Park District facilities. He noted that there is interest in having solar capabilities at the new Health & Wellness facility, as well as the Planning and Operations facility, additional solar at the Anita Purves Nature Center, and possibly at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center as well.

Shawn Ajazi presented background on his company Progressive Business Solutions, state and federal funding subsidies/incentives for solar projects, and multiple options for Urbana Park District facilities. He noted that purchase, lease, and rental options are all available for solar projects currently depending on the facility and budget. He reviewed the options, upfront costs for each option, and reimbursement/credits available. He also reviewed the potential timeline for getting any solar project off the ground, utility savings, and other benefits such as any green marketing messaging to the community.

The Board and staff asked questions, discussed options, and requested additional options from Shaw for further review.

V. Comments from Commissioners

There were no further comments from Commissioners.

VI. Adjourn

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Michael W. Walker, President

Timothy A. Bartlett, Secretary

(Seal)

Date Approved: 11/14/23_____