



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, JUNE 26, 2018
7:00 PM
1011 KERR AVE.
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

- I. Call to Order – Introductions**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. New Business**
 - A. “What’s In Your Square” Visioning Exercise - Lorrie Pearson, Facilitator
 - B. Crystal Lake Update – UPD Planning Staff
- IV. Questions and Answers – Answer any questions as follow up from last month’s meeting**
- V. Reports**
 - A. UPDAC Chair
 - B. Director
 - C. Board Representative
 - D. UPDAC Committees – no reports
- VI. Approval of the Minutes of the April 24, 2018 and May 22, 2018 meetings**
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments and open discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

*July - no meeting
August 28, 2018
September 25, 2018
October 23, 2018
November 27, 2018*

*****This month’s secretary is Ellen Kirsanoff*****

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.

April 24, 2018 Minutes

Urbana Park District Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendance

Attending Members: Roger Digges, Marianne Downey, Jen Hardesty, Brad Hudson, Vanessa Lane, Melissa Logsdon, Karen Powell, Amita Sinha, Andy Wszalek

UPD Commissioners: Nancy Delcomyn

Attending UPD Staff: Ellen Kirsanoff

Guests: Savannah Donovan (UPD), Judy Miller (UPD), Heidi Vasal (UPD)

Call to Order

Roger Digges called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Public Comment

No members of the public were in attendance.

New Business

Heidi Vasal, Environmental Education Specialist, led a tour of the Busey Woods Gateway Trail and presented on environmental educational programs and activities. Judy Miller, Environmental Program Manager, led a tour of the Anita Purves Nature Center and presented on the history of the center, educational programs, new features (e.g., the Friendship Grove Nature Playscape), and planned updates (e.g., a habitat garden for attracting birds).

Savannah Donovan, Environmental Public Program Coordinator, presented on current programs and accomplishments. Handouts were provided that outline the UPD's environmental stewardship statement and environmentally responsible practices. These materials have been made available to the public.

About 14-15 months ago, UPD began the Green Team as an effort to lead the community in green practices. Each UPD department has a Green Team representative. Internal Green Team Challenges in Fall 2017 (green purchasing) and Spring 2018 (green driving) are meant to encourage UPD employees to take small steps to make a difference. There is a Green Team page on the website (still under development).

A lot has been accomplished in sustainable initiatives. For example, the STEP program was completed and there are now recycling bins at all facilities. They are installing energy efficient thermostats, transitioning to LED lights, and exploring adding solar panels to the Nature Center. The most used parks have recycling cans next to trashcans. A challenging aspect for staff is managing recycling pickup.

Other efforts have included bringing in staff from the Recycling Center to do a workshop on what can be recycled and working to make sure part-time staff understand expectations for recycling and other green practices. In general, there are efforts to be green across the board and there is buy in across the UPD.

The UPD invites all ideas for programs. A handout was provided of fee-based programs offered to the community throughout the summer. Because the UPD program guide is planned 9 months in advance,

UPD they have started “pop-up programs” for things happening in nature that cannot be planned. These programs are advertised mostly on social media.

Questions and Answers

None.

Reports

UPDAC Chair: The new Chair will begin in August 2018. Please nominate or let Ellen know if you are interested.

Director: Ellen reported for Tim because he and Corky are at a legislative conference in Springfield, IL. They are speaking with legislators about advocating for the park district at the state level (e.g., supporting legislation that helps the park district, understanding park district needs and potential ramifications of legislation that could harm district). Ellen and UPDAC member, Melissa Logsdon, attended earlier on Tuesday and had an UPD table with outreach and wellness information about the park district. They also met with legislators. The following day, Wednesday, discussions were planned on legal issues with park districts. Not all districts send a delegation but it is important that UPD and UPDAC members have a visible representation to communicate what the district means to the community. Melissa shared her perspective that a key benefit of attending was the networking that goes on between park districts and the opportunity to learn what each other is doing.

Board Representative: Nancy shared her positive experience at the annual UPD banquet last Thursday. Tim and Corky presented on the UPD strategic plan at the banquet. Many in attendance were former UPDAC members. Nancy encouraged everyone to attend the CU Special Rec banquet held every year. Cost of tickets is \$5. The banquet is a chance for families to celebrate their child’s success and deserves community support.

UPDAC Committees: None.

UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Marianne Downey asked about strategic planning and opportunities related to the KRT Trail. Ellen noted that UPDAC is going to have lots of opportunity for input into upcoming UPD strategic planning efforts, which will focus on the next 10 years.

Approval of the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting passed upon motion by Brad Hudson and seconded by Jen Hardesty.

Meeting adjourned by Roger Digges at 8:45pm.

Secretary: Jen Hardesty

UPDAC Meeting minutes for May 22, 2018

Attending: Roger Digges, Marianne Downey, Jennifer Hardesty, Kay Holley, Brad Hudson, Sue Kim, Vanessa Lane, Karen Powell, Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Derek Liebert, Kara Dudek, Andy Rousseau, Ben Kaap, Heath Isome, Jean Paley.

Strategic Planning was introduced again at the next level of what the community wants and what the Park District has planned.

Kara Dudek presented a slide presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

Points presented from her presentation were questions that we should ask ourselves when thinking of measurable and achievable goals.

- What do we have
- What do we want
- How are we going to get it

David Micheal Moore, an illustrator, took notes using illustration to keep the conversations focused.

The projects that were discussed are:

- The Crystal Lake Project
- Reaching the part of the community that is not represented (all age groups, different nationalities and gender)
- Kickapoo Rail Trail Development
- Health and Wellness Center

Ideas for Crystal Lake

- A better play structure for children
- A better walking path
- Porta potties or restroom facility with running water
- Weekly events
- Exercise along the walking path as one of the upcoming events
- Green loop all parks in Urbana
- Improve shoreline and add more plants

Ideas for Community Awareness

- Have more representation on the UPDAC staff of groups that speak other languages
 1. Break the language barrier
- Picnics and events that are near the communities of concern
- Teen advisory team
- Booth at events with information about the Park District and what is available. More information on the Website and how to use it.

Ideas for Kickapoo Trail Development

- Bike riding events
- Collaborate with Walmart, Aldi and Carle to be present at the events
- Information along the trail with information like how long the trail is and where to find help if needed

Health and Wellness Facility

- Childcare
- Gym
- Services on well being
- Cooking classes
- Would like a model similar to the YMCA but accessible