



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 28, 2019
7:00 PM
PLANNING AND OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 KERR AVE.
URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802**

- I. Call to Order - Introductions**
- II. Public Comment**
- III. New Business**
 - A. Discussion of Planning for Blair Park – Kara Dudek, Park Planner
 - B. Update on Strategic Planning – UPD 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. UPD Projects Update
- VI. Approval of the Minutes of the April 23, 2019 Meeting**
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Upcoming meetings:

***June 25, 2019
July – no meeting
August 27, 2019***

*****This month’s secretary is Travis Schiess*****

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.

UPDAC Minutes

April 23, 2019

Attending: UPDAC members: Kelly Boeger, Tomas Delgado, Marianne Downey, Kay Holley, Heath Isome, Ben Kaap, Vanessa Lane, Mellissa Logsdon, Sarah Roper, Howard Schein, Tim Stephens, Andy Wszalek

Staff: Tim Bartlett, Corky Emberson, Derek Liebert, Ellen Kirsanoff

UPD Commissioner: Not present

Guest Presenters: Tracy Parsons, **Champaign County Community Coalition;** Ashley Dennis and Elsie Hedgspeth, **UPD**

I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Melissa Logsdon

II. Public Comment: None

III. New Business:

First Presentation: Tracy Parsons, from the Champaign County Community Coalitions was introduced. Parsons gave a brief history of the Coalition, from its inception in response to a police killing in Champaign. It has grown steadily (250 people attended the last meeting), and the Coalition is looking for new meeting space. Parsons described the 2019 strategic priorities for the Coalition as including: Police-Community relations; Community engagement; Youth Development; Community Violence and Mutual Advocacy. Noted that UPD is a part of the coalition and that parks are places for non-threatening community events, e.g., play days, etc. Funding is from the Mental Health Board and was \$107,000.00 last year. Parsons then described some of the Initiatives that were carried out in 2018, including in Arts and Culture, Recreation, Academic Enrichment and Leadership, and Community Engagement. 623 youth participated in various activities. He cited activities in the Silver/Vawter area of Urbana, which has a high incidence of shots-fired, etc. This neighborhood had NO shootings in the summer of 2018. Some of the programs include: Midnight Basketball program (cosponsored with Youth for Christ), Above the Rim (in the Garden Hills neighborhood), the Summer Employment program (including UPD outreach to high schools to recruit summer employees). The Coalition is working to overcome the “race taboo” by creating space for “safe” conversations, citing “Race Talks with Youth,” “Walk as One” Events, and “Goal Getters.”

Point of Information: Coalitions Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3:30-5:00 PM in the Robeson Pavilion Rooms A & B at the Champaign Public Library. Parsons discussed trainings to increase “Trauma Informed” practice in dealing with Community violence. The goal is to stop neighborhoods from “normalizing” violence (which is mostly one on one (including Domestic Violence) as opposed to gang-related.

Second Presentation: UPD’s own Elsie Hedgspeth and Ashley Dennis presented an account of the various initiatives that UPD has been involved in as part of an effort to reach out to underserved communities (as revealed by the study on Underserved Populations) and bring more people into active engagement with UPD and with each other.

Programs (so far) have included:

- **Lierman Neighborhood Action Committee and UPD Movie Night at Brookens Gym** (47 participants)
- **Presentations by UPD staff at state conference on Outreach and Wellness.**
 - **Note:** UPD's engagement with the "Underrepresented populations" study is gaining national recognition. UPD has gained attention for the way we have moved to respond to the information gained in the study.
- **"Move MS"** classes attracted participants and this summer will add Zumba and Pilates. (14)
- **Cooking/Nutrition Program** (9)
- **LNAC Open Gym** at Brookens (52)
- Improvements in the **UPD program guide**—including Spanish Language prompts and various discounts for programs
- **Community Pool-ooza** (55)

Upcoming events include:

- **Dual Language Children's Day/Book Day** at AMBUCS on 4/30
- **May Bike Month Celebration**
- **Unveiling of our fancy new mobile stage**
- **Dual language Picnic** cosponsored with USD 116
- **LNAC Garden Cookout** at the Community Garden at Lierman and Washington
- **Expansion of FREE outdoor fitness classes**, such as Yoga, Zumba and Pound
- **Expanded Play Days in the Park** (with the Community Coalition), including collaborative art projects.
- **Welcoming Week** including both native-born citizens and Immigrants and Refugees, co-sponsored with C-U Friends and Allies of Immigrants and Refugees (C-U FAIR), including an open house at Phillips (especially to show off the new kitchen facility).
- **Mobile P.A.R.K.** –an activity van that will move around the community starting in Fall 2019.

IV. Q & A from last month: There was a question about the costs and fees that might come with any new Recreation Facility. Corky answered that every attempt will be made to reduce financial barriers.

V. Reports:

UPDAC Chair--Melissa:

1. Discussed the Volunteer application form, asking current members to recruit and invite Urbana residents to apply for next year. We need 7 new people for the incoming "class."
2. Melissa reported on her participation in the trip to Plainfield facility, along with Jean.

Director--Tim:

Tim reported on meetings with the Champaign County Community Coalitions in the ongoing job of "work that is never done." Meetings involved getting organizations in concert in 3 years. UPD is always looking for new strategies to bring people together. The work takes the commitment of all community entities. He also reminded us that the upcoming Friday would be Arbor day and would include events at Yankee Ridge school.

Board: None

UPD Projects Update (replaces the “UPDAC Committees” category)

Brief report on the early work on the new all-purpose path at CLP: Lake edge work proceeds apace. Next will be phased restoration of lake edge to be followed by other improvements.

VI. Approval of the March 26, 2019 minutes.

 Tim Stephens moved for approval,

 Howard Schein seconded. Approved by all.

VII UPDAC Member Comments and discussion:

1. Brief discussion of the question of jobs for graduates of Leadership Training
- 2 Discussion about connecting CLP trail near the County Fair Grounds
3. UPD will be loading up the vans for the Mobile Play program

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kay Holley