



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 25, 2024
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 May 28, 2024 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Delcomyn Park

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:

***July – No meeting
August 27, 2024
September 24, 2024
October 22, 2024
November 19, 2024*
*Third Tuesday***

*****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.

**MEETING MINUTES
 URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
 TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024
 7:00 PM
 PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
 1011 E. KERR AVENUE
 URBANA, IL 61802**

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at the Urbana Park District Planning & Operations Facility at 7:00 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	
David Dorman	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Lucia Maldonado	X	
Hannah Sheets	X	
Ashley Sims	X	
Rachel Spencer		X
Gary Stensland		X
Myra Stevens	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;
- Keenan Portis, Park Planner;

I. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Noting that there was a new member in attendance, Ashley invited everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the April 23, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the April 23, 2024 UPDAC Meeting were presented for approval.

Karl Weingartner made a motion with a second from Hannah Sheets to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2024 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Urbana Park District ADA Plan

Tim Bartlett introduced some background on UPD's ADA Plan, noting that this is the second time the plan has been evaluated and updated. He commented that accessibility is an important value in Urbana, and it is important that the district make efforts to be accessible and inclusive. He then turned it over to UPD Park Planner, Keenan Portis, who introduced himself and provided information the recent updates the district's ADA Plan as a result of the district's work with ADA Consultant, Jennifer Skulski. The outcome is an ADA Transition Plan that identifies barriers and solutions to physical and programmatic access. Some identified deficiencies to be addressed by the plan include:

- Website and communications accessibility
- Policies surrounding e-bikes and other power-driven mobility devices
- The number of accessible picnic tables in parks with grills and other convening amenities
- Water fountain replacements at Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center and an Easy Ladder for lifting at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center
- Replenishing and maintaining playground surfacing
- ADA barriers at Blair Park Pavilion
- ADA barriers at Meadowbrook Park playground and pavilion

He further shared that there are 442 deficiencies, which is down from the 745 deficiencies noted in the 2011 Accessibility Assessment. Jennifer Skulski said that UPD is further along than many peer agencies in regard to planning and implementing solutions for physical and programmatic access.

Keenan also shared information on the new ADA database which catalogs ADA deficiencies, identifies the solution, and prioritizes them for remediation. This database will significantly help with addressing the district's ADA deficiencies in an organized and thoughtful way. Keenan commented that there was already an update to the district's

Turkey Trot route as a result of the ADA Transition Plan to increase accessibility for participants. Derek Liebert noted that UPDAC had significant input in the plan for the new playground at Meadowbrook Park, which is going to be significantly more accessible and inclusive than the previous structure.

Cedric Stratton inquired about the schedule for ADA improvements, and Keenan responded that the critical infractions identified in the database will be the highest priority. Karl Weingartner asked why there were so many deficiencies in the 2011 assessment, and Tim responded that much of the existing infrastructure at the time was already built. He also noted that with ADA planning there is an element of continuous improvement, as the standards are always evolving. David Dorman commented that it sometimes seems as though graphic designers are not aware of vision disabilities, and UPD should be cognizant of that in their design work. There was some further conversation regarding technology and website accessibility. Derek said that Jennifer Skulski has been excellent to work with. Cedric drew a contrast between ADA compliance and the concept of universal design.

B. Prairie and Weaver Park Master Plan Review

Tim gave background on the ongoing work with Prairie and Weaver Park master planning, noting that the goal is to have a master plan ready for board approval in August. Derek reviewed the community surveys completed on athletics fields and outdoor amenities. He also shared information on work that has been done with various focus groups, the interest-specific steering committees, and with Dr. Williams Elementary School. Overall feedback illustrated that softball is falling in popularity, so it was proposed to relocate softball from Weaver Park to AMBUCS Park. There is already a second field present at AMBUCS Park that could be rehabbed to create further opportunity for softball. Corky Emberson mentioned that he met with the Tom Jones Challenger League, and they said they love playing at AMBUCS. They feel a strong connection there, and if we can offer them additional fields, there is a base of support there.

Derek then reviewed the three new master plan concepts for Prairie and Weaver Parks. Plan Concept #3 proposes the removal of the sled hill at Prairie Park to make space for more of the active recreation amenities. In the various steering committee groups, Plan #3 is gaining traction. Lauren Chambers noted her support for Plan #3, and Gretchen Webb commented that Plan #3 feels like a true destination experience. Kanittha Fay suggested signage to tie both Prairie and Weaver Parks together, and Lucia commented that it is important to be welcoming of people from other cultures. She shared an experience she had at a park pavilion in Atlanta that had many countries' flags on the ceiling. Doing something like that to celebrate the many cultures we have in our community can really help people feel welcome in our parks.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Ashley noted that next month would be the last meeting for several third-year UPDAC members, including herself. She also commented that Neighborhood Nights is beginning soon.

B. Board Representative

There was no Board Report.

C. Director's Report

Tim commented on Jettie Rhodes Day coming up on June 22 at King Park.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek shared updates on several capital projects including the Health & Wellness Center and PrairiePlay. He also shared that the district is working with State Senator Paul Faraci on replacing the bridge near the Anita Purves Nature Center. Finally, he noted that the district is still waiting to hear back about a grant to improve the loop trail at South Ridge Park.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Kanittha shared that the South Urbana Neighborhood Association (SUNA) is hosting its Annual Meeting using a table/vendor format this year. She also suggested that tax season is a good time for UPD to demonstrate its value to the public.

Tim urged UPDAC to be vigilant about vandalism in the parks.

VII. Adjourn

Ashley Withers adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM.