



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, NOVEMBER 19, 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 October 22, 2024 Meeting**

**IV. New Business**

A. Intergovernmental Cooperation

**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:***

***December – NO MEETING***

***January 28, 2025***

***February 25, 2025***

***March 25, 2025***

***April 22, 2025***

***May 27, 2025***

**\*\*\*This month's secretary is Martha McSims\*\*\***

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, OCTOBER 22, 2024  
 7:00 PM  
 HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER  
 2002 E. WASHINGTON STREET  
 URBANA, IL 61801**

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at the Urbana Park District Health & Wellness Center 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
Hannah Sheets, Chair	x	
Eusebio Briseno	x	
Lauren Chambers		x
Lori Choquette	x	
Kanittha Fay	x	
Sylena Harper	x	
Lauren Karplus	x	
Lucia Maldonado	x	
Martha McSims		x
Darrell Price		x
Rachel Spencer		x
Ashley Sims	x	
Michael Stevenson	x	
Myra Stevens		x
Brittany Tammen	x	
Gretchen Madsen Webb		x
Darius White		x

Others Present:

- Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;
- Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
- Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
- Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
- Jameel Jones, Outreach & Wellness Manager;
- Andy Rousseau, Project Manager;

Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

**I. Call to Order**

UPDAC Chair, Hannah Sheets, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

**II. Public Comment**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**III. Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2024 Meeting**

The minutes of the September 24, 2024 UPDAC Meeting were presented for approval.

*Lori Choquette made a motion with a second from Mike Stevenson to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed.*

**IV. New Business**

**A. Outreach & Wellness Programming**

The meeting was held in the Health & Wellness Center (HAWC) Community Room, which Corky noted was named the Reichard Family Community Room because of a significant gift from the Reichard Family. He elaborated that the Reichards place a strong emphasis on community. He also shared that there was a major fundraising campaign to help provide additional funding for construction, and many of the spaces within the building are named to recognize donors. Over \$1.8 million was raised for construction – the most in Urbana Park District history. HAWC is much larger than Brookens gym, and will offer much more to the community.

Next, Jameel presented information on anticipated programming for the HAWC. The planned operating hours for the facility are Monday-Friday, 7am-8pm, Saturday 8am-5pm, and Sunday 12pm-5pm. There will also be opportunities for private events, just as there were at Brookens. Kanittha Fay asks if the facility is open yet. Jameel responded that it is not yet open to the public. Jameel then shared which programs would likely be moved to the HAWC, and commented that UPD is working to become a Silver Sneakers approved facility. Silver Sneakers is an insurance program for seniors which covers up to 10 visits per month. Ideas for future programming include:

- 3 vs. 3 men's basketball
- Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation (CUSR) Special Olympics weight training
- Pickleball leagues, classes, and tournaments
- Youth volleyball (with Prime Time)
  - Lauren Karplus inquired about what Prime Time is, and Jameel responded that it's a big travel volleyball program in the area.

Other ideas for the facility include tech help services, Safe Sitter and Safe at Home classes, birthday parties, volleyball clinics, CPR/First Aid classes, and computer programs with the University of Illinois Community Compact.

Jameel further shared information on the district's external outreach initiatives including Play Days in the Park, which are held a minimum of five times per summer and had excellent turnout this year. Over 300 came to the Play Day at Crestview Park. He also reviewed the first ever Skate Fest, which was held in the Dr. Williams school parking lot and attracted about 140 people of all ages. Older adults were teaching younger kids how to skate. Kanittha remarked that she attended the Skate Fest and found it diverse and inclusive.

Next, Jameel presented on HAWC membership ideas, including monthly member appreciation days, visits from the U of I therapy dog, themed swag packets, healthy snack giveaways, special volunteer opportunities, bring-a-guest days, mindfulness days, and reduce and reuse craft nights. Hannah asked if payment plans were available for memberships. Jameel responded that those are not currently available, but that they are exploring punch pass and day pass options. Corky commented that OSF Healthcare has made a significant donation of \$30,000 per year for the next five years specifically for memberships to the HAWC. UPD intends to target neighborhoods to ensure these funds get used and people have access to the facility. Kanittha asked if there would be a youth price for additional family members, and it was noted that there is no difference in youth vs. adult pricing for additional family members. Lucia asked if people who live outside of Urbana, in Ivanhoe Estates, for example, would be considered residents. Corky responded that they wouldn't be, but that non-residents are still eligible to apply for scholarships. It was discussed that Champaign Park District residents are also considered Urbana Park District residents, due to a reciprocal agreement. It was noted that membership information will be presented in Spanish and French, and that membership includes access to the space, but not classes. Jameel commented that UPD does a lot of outreach with Ivanhoe Estates. Lauren Karplus asked if the district has thought about a young children discount to match the Martens Center in Champaign for the day pass or to match the senior pricing. Jameel responded that we have not because the district finds the planned rates reasonable.

Information about the district's partnerships was presented next including:

- Wild Style Designs – they do a variety of events with the park district including Bat Festival and recent FRESH Teen Hangout Zone programming on movie-style make-up.
- Dick's House of Sport – they have sponsored events (committed to 2 years of Turkey Trot) and sports camp (\$1,000 in free equipment from store) last year and 2025.
- U of I Community Compact – they have provided computer programs and assistance, and UPD will keep pushing for their involvement.

## V. Health & Wellness Center Tour

Next, UPDAC members took a tour of the new facility which included:

- Community Room
  - The Reichard Family Community Room is where Rec Camp will take place over the summer. It can also be used as a staff meeting room and for birthday parties.
  - Various technological features of the room were shared, including the sound system. Hannah commented that the sound system could be used for camp transition times. Brittany asked if the access to the sound system is limited, and staff responded that it is. Corky remarked that there is a keyboard that will allow them to access the network on the screen and has the capability to present four screens at once. The room also has a camera and microphone for group Zoom meetings.
  - There was some conversation about the use of the room. Kanittha asked if it could be rented, and Corky responded that, yes, it will be available for rental. Wifi will also be available. Corky also said that our community partners, such as DREAAM Academy, will be able to use this room. The intention is that it be in frequent use. Cedric remarked that it could have good uses for the school district, and Corky commented that it will be a good space for the prairie education programs and any outdoor/indoor programs.
  - There was further discussion of membership with Kanittha asking how many members they are looking for. Corky answered that the goal right now is 800 members. Kanittha suggested offering membership options, such as quarterly memberships. Corky said that UPD is looking for people to purchase the full membership to meet the financial goals of the facility. Essentially people will need to buy a whole year, but we may be able to offer flexible payment options. Tim suggested that there are always new opportunities, but UPD needs to earn enough revenue.
  - Other facility features were discussed including the key-fob access for campers. Kanittha asked if there is any feature of HAWC that sets it apart from others, and Corky noted that our weight room is unique. Lauren commented that students are starting to use off-campus facilities because the U of I facilities are too crowded. Tim said this facility is unique because of its campus including over 80 acres of outdoor space, and planned future amenities including a playground, trails, Kickapoo Rail Trail access, skate park, and splash pad.
- Gymnasium
  - Mural and Art – the gym has a mural by Langston Alston, which was paid for in part by a grant from Experience CU. Other facility artwork was also discussed including the exterior sculpture, donated by artist Peter Michel, and the donor-funded lobby installation by artist Binky Donley. The circles on the wall are sound barriers.
  - Elevated Track – Hannah asked about the distance on the track and Corky said it's 10 laps on the outside and 11 on the inside for a mile.

- Courts, Scoreboards, and Basketball Hoops – the scoreboards can be run in multiple configurations. The gym has 2 high-school sized courts and four junior high sized courts. There are many different gym layout options depending on your programming. The basketball hoops are all automated and adjustable.
- Storage and Maintenance – there are two large storage room for equipment, and one will contain a lift to get to the ceiling if needed. There is also a special floor cleaning machine that looks similar to a Zamboni. There are phone and wallet lockers available for people to bring their own padlock to lock their belongings. Kanittha asked if there are charging stations in the lockers. Jameel said there aren't, but that there are a lot of outlets available. There was a question about how well the fans cool, and Corky answered that they cool very well.
- Lobby and Offices
  - Corky showed UPDAC the entryway, branded carpets and office space, noting that the Health & Wellness Facility and Membership Coordinator, Bethany, and another part-time staff would be at the front desk.
  - Hannah asked about how membership access would work, and Corky responded that it would be a card scan system.
  - Kanittha asked about the lobby installation. Corky said there is a meaning, and that a sign will be mounted with the Artist's Statement. The installation will likely be in the lobby for a long time.
  - One UPDAC member asked if the glass was bulletproof, and Corky responded that it is not.
- Restrooms and Lactation/Sensory Space
  - Corky showed the restrooms and lactation/sensory space. Luran asked if there would be a sign telling lactating mothers where to put their milk for storage, or if a mini fridge would be placed in the room. Corky said that a sign would be placed.
- Cardio and Weight Room and Group Fitness Space
  - Corky shows the group the cardio and weight rooms and adds that the YMCA has been hosting their CUSR powerlifting program, which will return to Urbana in January.
  - Corky shows the group fitness rooms, noting that the windows are marked to prevent bird strikes. Lauren asked if Phillips Recreation Center fitness class participants will willingly move, particularly the lunchtime programs given distance. Jameel says some informal polling indicates some classes will stay at Phillips. The Group Fitness Room will be the only one locked when there is no active class.
  - Tim asked about orientation for new members, and Jameel responded that some of the instructors are also personal trainers. UPD's goal is for everyone to have an equipment orientation. 14 and 15 year-olds can use the space with an adult. Hannah remarked on the importance of gym etiquette. Brittany asked about cleaning supplies, and Jameel noted that wipes would be

available for people to wipe down equipment. Lori remarked that members should be required to bring towels, and Lauren said that wipes before and after equipment use is sanitary.

- Kanittha asked about food options, such as healthy pre-packaged snacks from Common Ground. Tim said they looked at a lot of facilities that had kitchens, and the feedback was generally that they are challenging and costly. UPD tries to avoid food other than vending machines and collaborating with food trucks for events. UPD has never found a really effective concessions arrangement, and feedback regarding the salad bars/healthy vending machines you see up north, are that a lot of food is wasted. One members asked what would happen if staff saw someone eating, and Tim said that generally there would be no eating or drinking in activity areas.
- Regarding healthy food programming, the kitchen at the Phillips Recreation Center is the best option.
- One member asked if there would be an option to check out items like roller skates, and Corky said no.

## VI. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair  
No report.

B. Board Representative  
No report.

C. Director's Report  
No report.

D. Capital Projects  
No report.

## VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Kanittha asks if we have a date for PrairiePlay opening for kids. Staff responded that it would be open soon, and that a grand opening is scheduled for May 3. A save-the-date will be included in the January-April Program Guide. Tim remarked that both facilities (HAWC and PrairiePlay) still have things that need finishing even though they look done. A lot of people are anticipating the playground. Kanittha asked if there will be a marketing piece for the playground to explain the features and selling points.

## VI. Adjourn

Hannah Sheets adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Karplus