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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, JANUARY 28, 2025  
7:00 PM**

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SPECIAL RECREATION (CUSR) CENTER**  
2212 SANGAMON DRIVE  
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
- 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. Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation Center Tour
- IV. Discussion
  - A. Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation
- V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Meeting
- VI. Reports
  - A. UPDAC Chair
  - B. Board Representative
  - C. Director's Report
  - D. Capital Projects Report
- VII. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion
- VIII. Adjourn  
*The UPDAC Chair will adjourn the meeting.*

**\*\*\*This month's secretary is Lori Choquette\*\*\***

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, NOVEMBER 19, 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, November 19, 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
Hannah Sheets, Chair	X	
Eusebio Briseno	X	
Lauren Chambers	X	
Lori Choquette	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Sylena Harper	X	
Lauren Karplus		
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:

Laura Hastings, Commissioner;  
Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;  
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;  
Jameel Jones, Derek Liebert;  
Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

**IX. Call to Order**

UPDAC Chair, Hannah Sheets, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**X. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**XI. Approval of the Minutes of the October 22, 2024 Meeting**

Hannah presented the minutes of the October 22, 2024 UPDAC Meeting for approval.

*Lori Choquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024 UPDAC Meeting with a second from Brittany Tammen. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.*

**XII. New Business**

**A. Intergovernmental Cooperation**

Kelsey shared information with UPDAC on the park district's history of intergovernmental cooperation. She introduced the concept of intergovernmental cooperation, defining it as a collaborative effort between two or more units of government to address shared challenges, achieve common goals, and/or solve mutual problems. Reasons to engage in intergovernmental cooperation include efficiency, resource sharing, addressing complex issues, and leveraging strengths.

Two key examples of Urbana Park District projects completed because of extensive intergovernmental cooperation were the Weaver Park Wetland and the Kickapoo Rail Trail. The Weaver Park Wetland project had several agency partners: the park district, township, Champaign County, City of Urbana, Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD), Urbana School District #116 (USD #116), and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The goals of the project were to establish native habitat and create recreational use options for Weaver Park, alleviate flooding in Scottswood and adjacent residential and government properties, increase property values by eliminating flood conditions, and neighborhood improvement and crime reduction. Outcomes of the project were an award-winning wetland habitat with high diversity of bird species, significantly reduced flooding in Scottswood, improved neighborhood conditions, and new recreational opportunity for Urbana residents.

The Kickapoo Rail Trail was presented as another project brought about because of intergovernmental cooperation. Lead project partners are the park district, Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD), Vermilion County Conservation District (VCCD), Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and IDNR. Other partners include the City of Urbana, City of Danville, the "trails towns" of St. Joseph, Ogden, Fithian, Muncie, and Oakwood, as well as nonprofit partner, Friends of the Grand Prairie. Goals of the project are to construct a 24.5-mile multiuse trail connecting Urbana to Kickapoo State Park, economic improvement to

encourage rural development, improved recreation opportunities for trail towns, improved environmental conditions and habitat, and establishment of interpretation and wayfinding information on East Central Illinois. Project outcomes so far are construction of 8.2 miles of trail in Champaign County and 3.1 in Vermilion County. Construction for the remaining trail sections is scheduled for 2025-2026. Increased economic activity has been observed in St. Joseph and other small towns on the trail. Future opportunity for trail expansion west to Monticello.

Kelsey also shared information on a key intergovernmental partner to the park district: UCSD. UCSD has worked cooperatively with UPD in many ways. UPD has several long-term leases with UCSD for AMBUCS Park, Hickory Street Storage Site, Perkins Road/Dog Park. UPD also offers UCSD right of way access for current and future UCSD infrastructure needs in and near parks.

Derek presented some information on the collaboration of UCSD and UPD on the Perkins Road Park Site, noting the site's previous history and uses, and UCSD's efforts to provide funding to develop and restore the site's natural habitat. Tim gave background on UPD's work with UCSD on the replacement of a sanitary district bridge in Crystal Lake Park. It was a joint effort to improve park connectivity and the flow of effluent to the UCSD treatment plant. Costs were shared, reducing burden to each individual agency and increasing value to the taxpayer.

Challenges of intergovernmental cooperation were also discussed. These challenges include changing priorities, limited flexibility, mismatching timelines, difference in grant access between agencies, strategic changes over time due to board/staff changes, and imbalance in the partnership. Two UPD examples of an intergovernmental partnerships that became challenged over time are Brookens Gym (intergovernmental partner, Champaign County) and the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center (intergovernmental partner, USD #116).

Future intergovernmental collaborations include working with the Urbana Free Library, CCFPD, and USD #116 on recreation programming in Urbana, working with the University of Illinois as a Community Compact partner, and continuing to work with CUSR to advance our shared initiatives.

Intergovernmental cooperation has been an important part of UPD's success, and UPD will continue to seek ways to work with governmental partners moving forward.

There were a few questions from UPDAC members about the topic of intergovernmental cooperation. Lucia asked about UPD's plans as it relates to the possibility of mass deportations of local immigrants. Tim responded that we would likely work with the school district and city to determine how best to work together to manage the impacts to families in our community. Eusebio inquired if the new

Health & Wellness Center would function as a warming center, and staff responded that it would be considered a warming center during our regular open hours.

**XIII. Reports**

A. UPDAC Chair

Hannah noted that there isn't an UPDAC meeting in December.

B. Board Representative

Laura thanked UPDAC for their thoughtful comments.

C. Director's Report

Tim announced that the Health & Wellness Center Grand Opening would be on January 4 at noon, and encouraged UPDAC to attend. He also invited everyone to the annual Turkey Trot at Crystal Lake Park on Thanksgiving.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek gave updates on the Southridge Loop Trail and the King Park Master Plan.

**XIV. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**

Sylena asked about UPD involvement with various holiday celebrations, and staff responded that UPD hosts several holiday themed events during this season.

**XV. Adjourn**

Hannah adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Beccue